

A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

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For anyone to progress steadily in life and godliness he or she needs information. Information is acquired through the process of learning, which involves a teacher / student relationship. Everyone needs a teachable spirit to learn in order to progress. It takes wisdom to succeed. But, it takes a teachable spirit to gather wisdom.

“A fool’s work wearies him; he does not know the way to town.” (Eccl. 10: 15)

“Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.” (Eccl. 9. 18)

“Wisdom calls aloud in the street; she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?” (Prov. 1: 20-22)

No man can acquire wisdom without a teachable Spirit. There must be a willingness to learn before one can learn anything meaningful and useful. Wisdom, which is more important than weapons of war, is calling out to those with a teachable heart to come and receive knowledge that will make them wise. Are you one of them? If you are not, before you finish reading this publication, you will become one.

In relationship, a teachable spirit is important for harmony and peaceful coexistence. Nobody wants to marry a ‘he-goat’ kind of person. No one wants to marry someone who never sees anything wrong with what he or she does. No one wants to marry someone who is stubborn and heady, who never accepts correction, and believes he or she ‘knows it all’. One who is wise in his own eyes always run into troubled waters, and never accepts that he or she is wrong. To marry such a person is like mixing water and oil.

A teachable spirit is an essential quality in life that no one can do without. You need it, I need it. We all need it today and for life. Cultivate it and look for one who has it. Anyone who cannot take a good and godly advice is not teachable. Anyone who never accepts his failures or wrong doings is not teachable. Everyone wants to marry someone who will listen to him or her when he or she speaks or has an advice to give, and one who is always changing for the better (improving him or herself).

Many singles hear the word of God, but do not take them to heart. They despise the word of God and do their own thing. They are not careful to apply what God's word says. Anyone who despises God will not reckon with what you say either. Sometime in future you will learn this. To know one who is teachable, watch his or her life and see how the person treats the word of God that is heard. Be teachable yourself.

Being wayward and rebellious to your parents and even God does not make you mature but immature. It is a sign that your reasoning is faulty. It takes a teachable spirit to mature. Someone knows what you don't know. Someone has experienced what you have not experienced; someone sees what you don't see. So you need knowledge from those around you especially those who have gone ahead of you. Don't forget that when you came into this world, you didn't know anything. What you know today you learnt by direct instruction or education, observation and through the experience of life. And we need to keep learning daily until we leave this world.

MEANING

A teachable spirit is a heart ready to apply what is learnt, abandoning the old. A teachable person is anyone that can be taught – that is willing to receive instruction. Many people hear, but have not heard; hence, Jesus says,

“Let him that have ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”
(Rev. 2:7)

Application of the Word heard proves a teachable spirit. Refusal to abide by the Word heard proves the absence of a teachable spirit, and the presence of a rebellious spirit.

A teachable person is a true disciple. A disciple is a faithful, loyal and obedient student. Christians by their profession are supposed to be Disciples of Christ. The question now is, “How many professed Christians are truly disciples of Jesus Christ in the true sense of the word. A true disciple is teachable, faithful and loyal. You can't be faithful if you are not teachable. You can't be loyal if you are not teachable. You can't be obedient if you are not teachable. You can't be a disciple of Jesus Christ or anybody if you are not teachable. You cannot practice God's principles for a successful marriage if you are not teachable. Today, we have many professed Christians but few Disciples of Christ.

For the Spirit of God to be crying, *“Let him that have ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches,”* shows that the people of God are not giving heed to the word of God. A true disciple should not wait for his master to repeat himself before obeying his instruction. We all need a teachable spirit to follow

Christ faithfully. A teachable spirit is the spirit of a disciple – a true, faithful, loyal and obedient disciple.

A disciple is a diligent student, who daily is following his master and learning from him as he observes him, listens to him and ask questions on issues he does not understand. For you to be called a disciple of Jesus Christ, ask yourself. “Are my teachable?” If you are, then you are a disciple. If not, then you need to become teachable before you can claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

THOSE WHO ARE TEACHABLE

Simple People Are Teachable

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” (Ps. 119: 130)

The simple are those with plain mind, who are not complicated and sophisticated in thoughts. The simple are the open minded who are open to new and better ideas that will improve their lives, career and status.

The simple are those who believe that somebody knows what they don't know, that somebody has what they don't have. The simple believe that what is lacking in them is in somebody out there. The simple believe that the difference between him and those who are succeeding is knowledge that he doesn't have that he must acquire to attain the success he desires.

The simple accepts truth without clauses. Their reception of a proven truth is unconditional. This disposition makes it possible for them to gain understanding each time the word of God is unfolded (interpreted).

Be simple minded. Stop building barriers against the word of God. It will not help you. Only the simple can gain understanding. God is not prepared to struggle with a man.

Humble People Are Teachable.

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves, with humility towards one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble? Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he lift you up in due time.” (1 Peter 5: 5, 6)

God gives grace to the humble, but opposes the proud. God opposes the proud because; the proud are wise in their own eyes. The proud are full of themselves. They consider themselves more highly than they ought to. The proud are unteachable, and God cannot stand unteachable people. The only reasonable thing to do is to frustrate them in order to prove that he is the only true God whose views and instructions must be obeyed to the letter.

Proud people are obstinate and stiff-necked. Anything that cannot bend must break when pressure is applied. And pride goes before a fall. The proud always lean on his own understanding, as a result, become unteachable. The humble on the other hand submits to leadership, mentorship and God's word. The humble recognizes eldership, which speaks of the experienced, those who are familiar with the new terrain about to be journeyed in.

The humble believes he can learn even from his own colleagues and those junior to him. The humble does not allow personal status and attainment to stand in the way. The humble are not bordered about God's instrument. All they are after is the knowledge to be gathered they are willing to learn even from their former students. The great God will always make available the hidden treasures of darkness to the humble. The secrets of success will always be revealed by the grace of God to the humble. Kill the pride in you now. What you are, God made you or permitted you to be. What you have, he gave you. So you are a sum total of God's favour and blessings. Therefore, humble yourself before the Almighty power of God, and in due season, you will become the great man or woman he wants you to be.

People Who Acknowledge Their Inadequacies Are Teachable.

"Teach me, O LORD to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will keep your law and obey it with my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart towards your statutes and not towards selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." (Ps. 119:33- 37)

David asked for insight because he saw that he was inadequate by himself. This kind of spirit is what one needs to gain knowledge and understanding.

Anyone Going Somewhere Must Be Teachable.

"Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him." (Eccl. 8: 5. 6)

Anyone going somewhere should be teachable if he or she must make progress. The passage before us makes it clear, that for everything (matter) under the heaven, there is a proper time and procedure. Except a man follows the right procedure, principle or law, his condition will remain the same. Therefore, anyone going somewhere must be teachable to gather knowledge on how to get there. You need to know the principles and laws of God that will take

you where you are going. You need to know the principles of God that makes for a successful relationship.

EVIDENCE OF A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

1. Ability and readiness to submit to another for instruction or counsel.
2. Hunger for truth – Appetite for the word of God.
3. Regular attendance of Bible studies, seminars and conferences.
4. The volume of books and tapes you have and had read and listened to.
5. The changes you are making in your life based on the knowledge you have received.
6. Application of the principles and truths you have received -- implementation of the new things you have learnt.
7. A willingness to submit to the instrument of God no matter who that person is – his age, level of education, tribe, colour or social status.

CONCLUSION

You need a teachable spirit to make steady progress in life and in godliness. Allow Jesus to change you. Submit totally to him and become his student (disciple) in deed and not in word. If you have not received him, receive him now and let him change you from the inside and not from the outside.

If you want that change, pray this prayer out loud: *“LORD JESUS CHRIST, I thank you for dying for me to save me. I repent of my sins and give my life totally to you. Come into my life right now and become my Saviour and Lord forever. Thank you for saving me in Jesus name. Amen. I am now a child of God.”*

If you have prayed this prayer, please write me and I will send you more materials to help you grow in Christ, or you can come to our church and see me. God bless you. Remain teachable and only marry one who is constantly perfecting him or herself in Christ Jesus.