

Perspectives

Being Teachable

Maybe you have heard the saying, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” This idiom points to the person who is so set in his/her ways for so long that it is hard for that person to learn something new. Have you ever encountered people who were so entrenched in their way of doing things that nothing you said or did would convince him/her that there was a new way to accomplish a task or something new to learn?

During Jesus’ time, the Pharisees were a religious group who were known for their piety and close adherence to all the laws (600 plus) of the Torah. Time after time, when Jesus had a run in with these people, there was a moment when He spoke (taught) truth to them, but they refused to listen. They closed their eyes, ears, and hearts, believing they knew it all.

There is a danger of getting to a place on our spiritual journey where we feel there is nothing more to learn and/or no more room to grow. However, we are called to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord” (2 Peter 3:18) and “go on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1), continuing to live our “lives in him, rooted and built up in him” (Colossians 2:6-7a). This means that as believers we are to never stop learning, we are to never stop growing.

A good way for our knowledge, understanding, and faith to increase is by fostering a teachable mindset. Being teachable simply means a willingness to learn and grow. Here are a few keys:

- **Realize there is always more to learn.** Even if you have heard the same Bible story numerous times, open yourself up to hear the story in a fresh, new way. Ask: *What is God saying to me through His Word today?*
- **Understand the need for growth.** Consider where you’ve been, where you are, and where you want to go in terms of your spiritual journey. Ask: *In what ways, with God’s help, can I develop a more mature faith?*
- **Open yourself up to the Holy Spirit’s leading.** Each day, be sensitive to the Spirit’s guidance in your life. Ask: *Where is God leading me today?*

As you read and reflect on each passage, be teachable—seeking to become more mature in your faith, “attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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