

Back To Basics

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SPECIAL ISSUE:

"YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS" #1

Johnie Edwards

Teaching has always been required by God, that people may know His will. "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God" (Jn. 6:45). This special issue of *Back To Basics* takes a look at some of the things the Bible has to say about teaching:

1) TEACHING IS AN OLD COMMAND.

The fifth book of Moses required parents to teach their children God's law. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Dt. 6:7).

2) TEACHING IS FOR ALL. The Lord told the apostles, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" (Mt. 28:19). Since we are what we have been taught, all must be taught.

3) TEACHING HAS DRAWING POWER. John wrote, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (Jn. 6:44-45).

4) TEACHING FOLLOWS CHRIST'S EXAMPLE. Jesus was the Master Teacher. Nicodemus observed that Jesus was "a teacher come from God" (Jn. 3:2). Luke wrote, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1). To be like Jesus, we must be teachers.

5) TEACHING REQUIRES RESPONSIBILITY. James penned, "My brethren, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater damnation" (Jas. 3:1). Teachers will be judged for their teaching! So, we must not take our teaching lightly.

6) TEACHING REQUIRES SELF APPLICATION. Paul taught the Romans, "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery?" (Rom. 2:21-22). To be effective teachers, it is imperative that teachers practice what they teach.

May we get back to the basics in our teaching.

EXODUS 18:20: “And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:7: “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

EZRA 7:10: “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”

PSALM 32:8: “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”

EZEKIEL 44:23: “And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

JOHN 6:45: “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

ACTS 1:1: “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.”

ACTS 5:42: “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

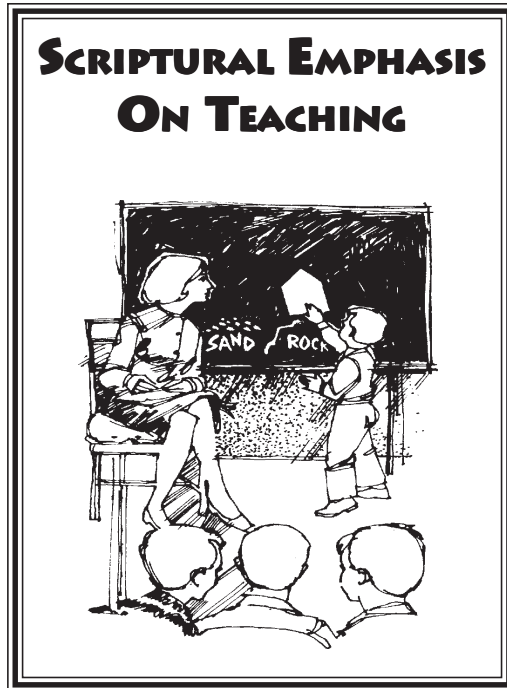
EPHESIANS 4:11-12: “And he gave some...teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:2: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be

able to teach others also.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:24: “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be...apt to teach, patient.”

HEBREWS 5:12: “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God...”



Back To Basics

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THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER\LEARNER

John Isaac Edwards

The husband and wife of education are the teacher and the learner. In the 4:1 and 5:1 companion passages of Deuteronomy, both are emphasized. “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I *teach* you...” (Dt. 4:1). “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may *learn* them...” (Dt. 5:1). Both teacher and learner must know their roles.

1) **THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER.** Teaching, in the broadest sense of the term, involves all the steps and processes by which an infant is gradually transformed into a full-grown, intelligent man.

To “teach” is to impart knowledge or skill to; to provide knowledge of, or instruct in; to condition to a certain action or frame of mind; to cause to learn by example or experience; to advocate or preach. Other verbs synonymous with “teach” include: instruct, educate, train, school, discipline, drill. *Instruct* usually suggests orderly teaching. *Educate* often implies formal instruction but especially stresses the development of innate capacities that leads to wide cultivation. *Train* suggests concentration on particular skills intended to fit a person for a desired role. *School* often implies a burdensome learning process. *Discipline* usually refers to the teaching of control, especially self-control. *Drill* implies rigorous instruction or training, often by repetition of a routine.

To teach the Bible is to instruct, educate, train, school, discipline, drill others in the word of God. It involves imparting to others the knowledge one has obtained from a thorough investigation of the Scriptures.

The role of the Bible teacher is to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be. This role may be likened to that of a *guide on an expedition*. The teacher leads, directs, and gives information about points of interest encountered as his students discover for themselves the treasures of the word of God.

“I love to teach as a painter loves to paint, as a musician loves to play, as a singer loves to sing, as a strong man rejoices to run a race. Teaching is an art - an art so great and so difficult to master that a man or a woman can spend a long life at it, without realizing much more than his limitations and mistakes, is his distance from the ideal.”

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THE SERIOUSNESS OF TEACHING

David McPherson

By inspiration James warns, “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment” (Jas. 3:1). By this verse alone, it should be apparent that teaching is serious business. But just how serious is it?

1) A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR THE TEACHER. Much of a teacher’s responsibility is to warn the wicked. If he fails to do this, he will lose his soul. Long ago Ezekiel was told, “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, You shall surely die, and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand” (Ezek. 3:17-18). Those who assume the role of teaching have a responsibility to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). When teachers forgo any warning of the wicked, they are committing spiritual suicide. This is serious!

2) A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR THE STUDENT. The seriousness of teaching is also seen in that it can mean the difference of life or death for the one taught. Paul encouraged Timothy, “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:16). Like Timothy, teachers today greatly influence others. Truth, sound doctrine, the gospel of Christ is that which brings about salvation (Rom. 1:16), and is what others need to hear. Too many today are attending “church services” and hearing everything but the

truth. Unfortunately, some will go a lifetime and never hear the soul saving message of Christ and thus be eternally lost. Precious souls doomed to a devil’s hell because someone failed to respect the seriousness of teaching. Tragic indeed!

3) FALSE TEACHERS MUST BE OPPOSED. The matter of teaching is so serious that those who are not faithful in it are to be marked and avoided. Paul warned, “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17). Why mark? Why avoid? Why warn others of false teachings? Because souls are at stake! Error will lead folks astray and therefore must not be tolerated. Remember what Jesus said about such? “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” (Mt. 18:6-7).

4) STUDY IS A MUST. How are teachers going to teach accurately? How are learners going to know whether or not what they are being taught is right? How will any of us know the difference in a false teacher and a teacher of truth? Study, study, study! (2 Tim. 2:15). Like those noble Bereans, we must search the Scriptures daily to find out what things are so (Acts 17:11).

Teaching is serious business. May God help us be serious about it!

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REASONS FOR TEACHING

Phillip A. Owens

This article points out eight reasons for teaching others the gospel.

1) **TO OBEY A COMMAND OF GOD.** Hebrews 5:12 states, “For when by reason of the time ye *ought* to be teachers...” “Ought” does not mean you can take it or leave it like, “I ought to clean out our garage.” Rather, the word means a “binding as necessary; must; obligated to.” Teaching another the truth is a command of God.

2) **TO EXERCISE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT, DEVELOP SPIRITUAL MATURITY, AND GRASP DEEPER SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS.** The Hebrew Christians failed to grow as they should (Heb. 5:11-14). They had become “dull of hearing.” As a result, they could not teach, were in need of spiritual milk and could not discern good and evil. Studying to teach helps develop our senses, gives us a better grasp of the whole of the Bible, and enables us to appreciate deeper truths (such as the Melchizedek priesthood). This makes our faith “rooted and builded up in him” (Col. 2:6). The study required to teach has by-products that pay eternal dividends.

3) **TO BECOME GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.** Jesus said, “...whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:19). God will eternally bless the Christian who does and teaches everything He says in His word.

4) **TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.** Numerous examples show Jesus teaching (Mt. 11:1; Mk. 4:1; 6:2, 34; 8:31). Molding our will into God’s will demands that we share the truth with those who do not know it. By doing this, we follow Jesus’ example (1 Pet. 2:21).

5) **TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLES.** The Great Commission was specifically directed to the apostles (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16), yet people today are saved the same way they were saved then - through being taught the gospel. We follow their example in teaching that others may be saved.

6) **TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF EARLY CHRISTIANS.** At Stephen’s stoning, disciples in Jerusalem were scattered. Those displaced Christians taught people within their sphere of influence (Acts 8:4), and so must we.

7) **TO GROW TO BECOME ELDERS AND DEACONS.** An elder is to be “apt to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2). This means he is able and willing. A deacon gains “great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:13), which indicates he is to grow sufficiently to stand for truth - to teach Bible truths. Becoming an elder or deacon in the local church should grow naturally out of one’s desire for his own spiritual development.

8) **TO DEMONSTRATE OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS.** Jesus said a second commandment like the first is, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Mt. 22:29). If we really want the best for someone, really believe there are only two eternal destinies for every person (Mt. 22:45), really believe the gospel is God’s power to save (Rom. 1:16) and without it people are lost and bound for a devil’s hell (2 Th. 1:8), we will not be able to keep from teaching that person the truth.

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TEACHERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Don Wright

In Old Testament times, God relied on teachers to communicate His will to man and propagate His principles to His people. Consider the following with me:

1) **EMPHASIS PLACED ON TEACHERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.** God has always sent forth teachers to persuade men. He sent Noah, a preacher of righteousness, to persuade people to repent (2 Pet. 2:5). He sent prophets to Israel to plead with her to turn from her sins (Heb. 1:1). God even sent Jonah to the wicked city of Nineveh to encourage their repentance (Jonah 3:1-10). When one studies the Old Testament, he will clearly see the emphasis upon teaching and thus the importance of faithful teachers.

2) **NO SHORTAGE OF GREAT TEACHERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.** The Old Testament is full of outstanding people who taught God's word diligently, even in the midst of opposition. From Moses to Malachi, men of the Old Testament stood boldly and taught the will of God. In a day of soft preaching and compromised positions, we need to rekindle the spirit seen in the prophets of old.

We need the spirit of Moses. Moses set before the people both blessings and curses (Dt. chapters 28-30). Moses wasn't concerned with pleasing the people, he wanted them to know the importance of obedience and the perils of turning away from God. Stressing the positive is fine, as long as we are willing to stress the negative as well. It's good to tell people how much God wants to bless them, but we better be telling people of the curses and consequences of disobedience too.

We need the spirit of Micaiah. Micaiah was a prophet when Ahab was king of Israel. His story is told in 1 Kings 22. Micaiah was one who was willing to speak the truth, even when others wouldn't. When a servant of the king encouraged Micaiah to lie and give the king a good report, Micaiah said, "what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (1 Ki. 22:14). Every person today who has a desire to teach should have this same attitude. Man may at times want his ears tickled, but faithful teachers must ignore this and remain faithful to God's revelation (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

We need the spirit of Enoch. Enoch stood ready to warn ungodly people about their deeds (Jude 14-15). He warned the wicked people of his day that the Lord was coming to execute judgment. In this ungodly society, people must be warned of the approaching judgment. And we should note that Enoch not only talked the talk, he walked the walk. Enoch walked with God and thus was translated to heaven (Gen. 5:22-24; Heb. 11:5). Enoch pleased God by his life and faithful teachers today will do the same.

Let all teachers of truth today learn from those we read of in the Old Testament. We should be willing to emphasize the negative like Moses, speak all that God says like Micaiah, and warn the ungodly of judgment to come like Enoch. The New Testament message is different from the old, but the spirit that God expects us to have is the same as the teachers back then.

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PREPARING TO TEACH

Marc W. Gibson

Teaching is the means by which man is instructed in righteousness for the salvation of his soul (Mt. 28:20; Acts 5:42; Col. 1:28). Such a vital task demands careful preparation. Ezra is an example of one who prepared himself to teach: “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10). Consider some things that are essential in preparing to teach.

1) **PREPARING THE HEART.** One cannot teach what he has not prepared himself to teach, and such preparation begins in the heart. Effective teachers love what they teach, and the Bible teacher should love the word of God. “Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold!” (Ps. 119:127). If one is not willing to embrace all of God’s word, he should not presume to teach it. The teacher must be ready to declare “the whole counsel of God” on any subject (Acts 20:27).

A prepared heart will seek the word of God in order to learn. One cannot teach others what he has not first learned himself. This is why the “ground” that receives the seed (word) must be good and cultivated (Lk. 8:11-15). We need to have ears ready to hear so that we “may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ” (Eph. 4:15). Successful teachers are continually learning. Those who ought to be teachers, but continually fail to learn and grow, ought to be ashamed of their immaturity and uselessness to the Lord (Heb. 5:12-14). They have not prepared their heart to seek the word of God.

2) **DILIGENT PRACTICE.** Teachers who have experience in the things that they teach are of the most help to those they instruct. The spiri-

tually mature are those “who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14). Such brethren can instruct others about truth and error. Too many times novices are forced into positions of teaching before they understand how to teach or what they are teaching. This is why it is so important to allow time for growth, understanding, and experience. Someone who desires to teach should sit at the feet of experienced, knowledgeable, and faithful Christians in order to study how and what they should teach. Could it be that we have too many older brethren today who are themselves immature, ignorant, and undiscerning of truth and error? To prepare to teach, we must know the word and practice it! Brethren, let us wake up to the growing danger of untrained and unprepared brethren handling the word of God. Satan is devouring many into error as a result.

3) **KNOWING THE AUDIENCE.** Any teacher who wants to be successful will know the audience that he seeks to teach, from small children to adults. He must communicate the divine message to the needs and abilities of the students for their maximum spiritual benefit. Such foresight and preparation should not be taken lightly.

4) **PRAYER.** What faithful teacher of God’s word would prepare without prayer? “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (Jas. 1:5). Let us plead for guidance from the Master Teacher as we prepare to instruct souls in His truth.

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QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS

Raymond E. Harris

The New Testament has much to say regarding teachers and their teaching. The word “teach” is found in 33 verses, “teaching” in 24 verses, “teachers” in 9 verses, and “teacher” in 4 verses.

Jesus, the great Master Teacher, was recognized by Nicodemus as “a teacher come from God” (Jn. 3:1-2). Obviously, Jesus was a qualified teacher - He was deity!

When the time was right, Jesus sent His twelve Apostles out to teach in what is known as the Limited Commission, to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt. 10:5-7). Later, Jesus appointed another 70 of His disciples to go before Him into the cities of Palestine preaching, “The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you” (Lk. 10:1, 9). Jesus also gave them great power to cast out demons, heal the sick, and raise the dead. They were qualified teachers.

Then, just before His ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission, to the Apostles. This was a charge to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt. 28:19-20). They were qualified teachers as they were baptized with the Holy Spirit and guided into all truth (Jn. 16:13; Acts 2).

At first, it seems the Apostles did the teaching, but when the Apostles laid hands on others, they too began to teach. Then, when the church was scattered by a great persecution, it

seems all Christians were motivated to do their share of teaching also (Acts 8:1, 4). “And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord” (Acts 11:19-21). By this time, many were qualified to teach. Some had gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they all had as much as eight to ten years to learn the word of God.

Now, what are the qualifications for teachers today? Notice Paul instructed Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). First and foremost a Christian must be FAITHFUL. Then, as he prepares to teach by developing the qualities of a good teacher, he or she will be able to teach others also!

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QUALITIES OF A GOOD TEACHER

Donnie V. Rader

All teachers are not the same. Some are more skillful than others. Some are more effective than others. Those of us who teach should always strive to be the best teachers we can be. That means we will always seek to improve our teaching abilities and methods.

No two teachers are alike. No teacher should be a clone of another. However, there are some common qualities of good teachers.

1) **GODLY.** Teachers, like all Christians, should live godly (Ti. 2:12). If a teacher is godly, he will be devout, devoted and fear God. Thus, a godly teacher will study and be prepared to teach. A godly teacher will set an example of the principles he teaches.

2) **ENTHUSIASTIC.** All of God's people, including teachers, should be zealous for good works (Ti. 2:14). A good teacher is excited about what he is teaching. Such zeal will cause the students to be excited about learning.

3) **CREATIVE.** To be effective, teachers must be creative with *how* they present their lessons. The illustrations, visuals and material must be interesting and helpful to the goal of the class.

4) **INSTRUCTS.** It should not have to be said that a good teacher teaches. But, at times, a teacher may not be doing much teaching. Our charge is to speak as the oracles (sayings) of God (1 Pet. 4:11). A good teacher will point his students to the Bible. The *text* will be the focal point and not what the author of a workbook has written. An effective teacher believes in the power of the word (Rom. 1:16; Acts 20:32). He trusts more in the power of

the gospel than his own skills and methods to change the lives of his students. Those who sit at the feet of a good teacher leave the class having learned about the word of God!

5) **PRACTICAL.** Ezra and other teachers in his day read from the law and gave the sense (meaning) to help them understand (Neh. 8:8). No study is practical unless we understand what we are reading and studying. Also, application needs to be made to present day. The Old Testament was written for our learning (Rom. 15:4). We must do more than merely retell the stories of the Bible, there are practical applications to be made. Often Jesus would quote some prophet of the Old Testament and apply those words to what He saw in the Pharisees (Mt. 13:14; 15:7).

6) **HELPS OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES.** A good teacher shows his students *how* to study and learn themselves. There is an old proverb that says, "Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime."

7) **CONTROLS THE CLASS.** This is true whether the teacher is handling pre-schoolers or adults. Small students often "size up" the teacher and try him to see how far they can go. Sometimes older students will "toy" with the teacher seeing where they can lead him with their comments and questions. Even adults can "take over" a class and get the teacher way off track. A teacher must maintain control of the class and keep it on target. Every teacher must remember that he is in the class to *teach* the word of God (2 Tim. 4:2).

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Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: *“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God” (Hebrews 5:12).*

A Teacher Must...

Fill in the blanks below to show what it takes to be a good teacher. You will reveal a hidden word.

_____		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	the word (2 Timothy 2:15).	
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Scripture (Ephesians 3:4).	
Be		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	(1 Corinthians 4:2).
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2).
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	for men (Matthew 4:19).
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
Be		_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	to give an answer (1 Peter 3:15).

Matching

Match the teacher on the left with the student on the right.

_____ **Lois and Eunice**

_____ **Peter**

_____ **Phillip**

_____ **Aquila and Priscilla**

_____ **Ananias**

A. Apollos

B. Ethiopian Eunuch

C. Timothy

D. Saul

E. Cornelius

*“Suffer the little children to come unto me,
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).*

2) **THE ROLE OF THE LEARNER.** Learning is to gain knowledge or understanding of, or skill in, by study, instruction or investigation.

True learning is not memorization and repetition of the words and ideas of the teacher. New ideas, new facts, new experiences lead to a rearrangement of previously held opinions and attitudes. This process of revision is learning.

To “learn” is to gain knowledge, comprehension, or mastery through experience or study; to fix in the mind or memory - memorize; to acquire experience of or an ability or a skill in; to become aware; to become informed of; find out.

The role of the learner may be compared to that of a *private investigator*. The learner is an independent researcher seeking new facts and principles with the aim of gaining a clear and distinct conception of them.

Every teacher and learner should be aware of how we learn and the three levels of learning. There are basically five ways we learn: *By association* - coupling the known with the unknown. *By experience* - the past is a key to the future. *By problem solving* - working through difficulties to a solution. *By involvement* - what one does he learns best. *By example* - seeing how others do it.

The three levels of learning are knowledge (rote level), understanding (restatement level), and wisdom (realization level). *Knowledge* is acquaintance with facts. If your students know the Ten Commandments, they should be able to tell you the Ten Commandments. *Understanding* is discernment, insight, to grasp, comprehend. If your students understand the Parable of the Sower, they should be able to put it in their own words. *Wisdom* is the ability to apply knowledge. If your students have wisdom,

they will apply what they have learned to real situations. A good example is when the treasurer of Ethiopia applied the preaching of Philip saying, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36). The aim and purpose of the teacher is to lead the student from one level to another. However, most students never get through the first level of learning!

Teaching and learning go hand-in-hand. When the Bible emphasizes the need for teaching, it also teaches the need for learning. True teaching does not take place unless the student has learned.

*“I took a piece of plastic clay
And gently fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still
It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when day had passed;
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.*”

*I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art
A young child’s soft and yielding heart.
I came again when days were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress wore,
And I could change it nevermore.”*

“How Readest Thou?”

Test Your Bible Knowledge

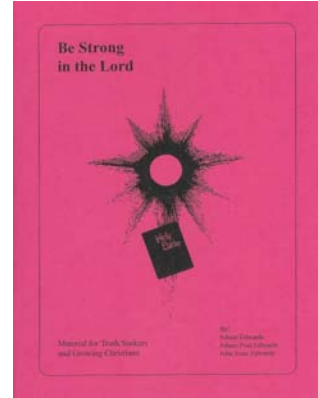
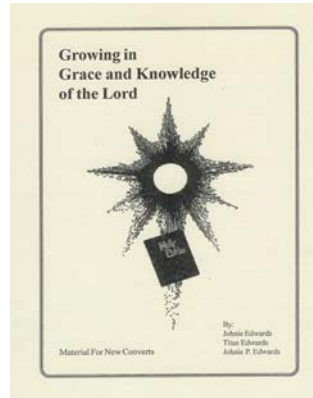
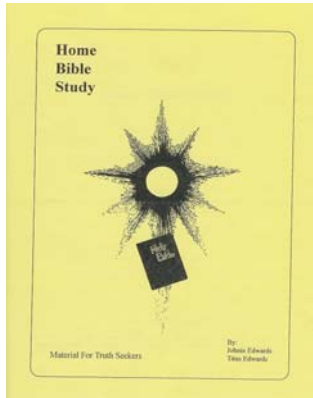
What was the difference between Ezra and Rehoboam.

The difference was in prepared hearts (Ezra 7:10; 2 Chr. 12:14).

Answer:

Three Areas Of Concern

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