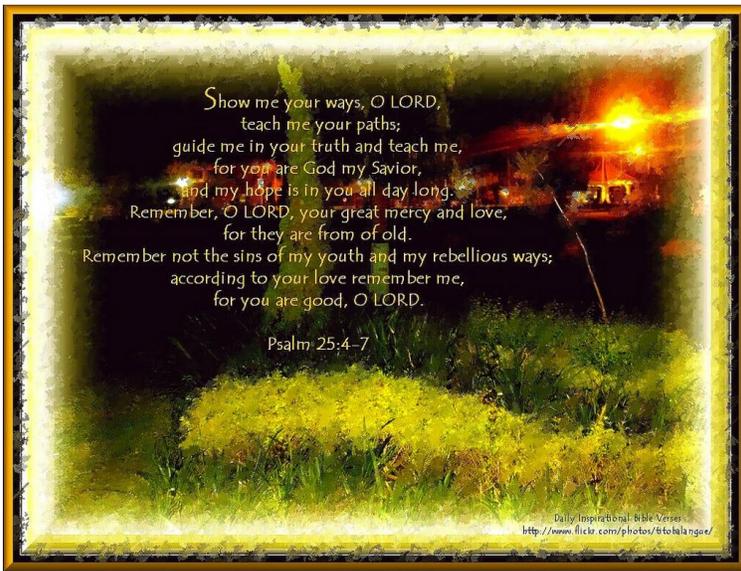


TEACHABLE



Once again, we are learning how to become a FAT HOG for Jesus, and I when I mention that I always feel this need to very quickly explain what I mean by that. We are exploring how to be faithful, available, teachable, holy, obedient and growing so that we might be like Christ. And while the title may be a little off putting, the objective is worthwhile because I don't know anyone who is committed to their faith that doesn't want to be more like Jesus! I feel sorry for those who are stuck in the mud in their Christianity. As we've already seen, any commitment to follow Christ always begins with faithfulness. Once we are faithful, it naturally follows that we will be available to Him for service.

Today I want us to think about what it means to be teachable. Now when I went to the concordance and looked up words such as teach and teacher, I was immediately overwhelmed by how many times the subject occurs in Scripture.

There are at least 235 references to teaching in the Bible beginning with God promising to "teach Moses what he should say" when he went to Pharaoh.

Over and over, the Israelites were instructed to teach God's way and statutes and laws to their children and grandchildren. The word "teach" is used 12 time in the book of Job alone as God and Job dialogue about what's happening in his life. As you would expect, the Psalms are filled with the requests of the Psalmist as he asks God to teach him the way he should live and walk.

In the New Testament focuses on Jesus and his reputation as a Teacher and the power and authority of what He taught. And even outside the gospels, we find numerous mentions of the responsibility to teach the Word of God and the responsibility that carries.

I want to tackle the subject by focusing on Psalm 25. This psalm of David is a prayer for God's presence and leading. It is the cry of a heart that yearns to know more and more of God. A heart that wants to know and follow his truth. A heart whose hope was not in power or strength of arms, but in God.

For David, God was not just an impersonal national deity. He was David's personal Savior, one who had protected him and delivered him through numerous conflicts and battles. And he expected him to continue to save him; his hope was always in God. So, it was natural for David to want to know and follow God.

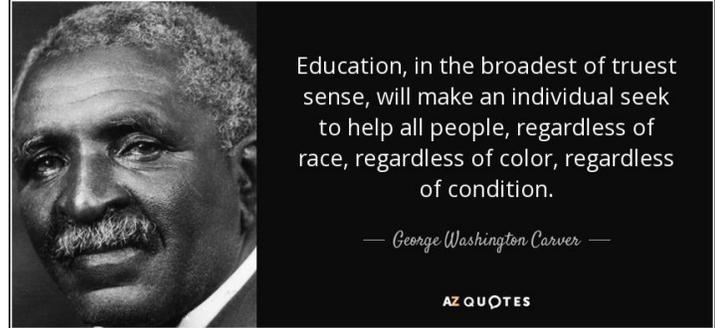
But this prayer of David's should be the prayer of all believers. God is our savior, and our hope is in him. He will deliver us from all the attacks of the evil one, and safely bring us into his kingdom. So, like David, let's seek to follow the Lord's ways rather than the ways of the world. Let's seek after his truth rather than the so-called truth of this world. Let's put our trust in God alone.

Prayer: Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Monday, August 10, 2020 - Psalm 25:4-5: *"Show me Your ways, O LORD; / Teach me Your paths. / Lead me in Your truth and teach me, / For You are the God of my salvation; / On You I wait all the day."*; Job 23:12 - *and I have always treasured his teachings.*

We can't help but notice how strong David's desire was to learn how God wanted him to do things. What we think is important will determine the direction of our lives. David wanted to follow the ways of the Lord, to discover the paths that God wanted him to follow. David requested to be guided into more truth, so he waited on God for instruction. David had what some have called a teachable spirit, the kind of spirit we all need if we are to mature and grow in the Lord.

A teachable person who hungers for God is sure to be fruitful in the Kingdom of God. So, this is a question we all need to ask ourselves: *"Am I teachable?"* It is really a sad day when someone begins to think they have already arrived. Surely one of the reasons Jesus told us we should become like a little child is that a child is *teachable*. George Washington Carver, the scientist who developed hundreds of useful products from the peanut, wrote of humility. "When I was young, I said to God, 'God, tell me the mystery of the universe.' But God answered, 'That knowledge is reserved for me alone.' So, I said, 'God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.' Then God said, 'Well, George, that's more nearly your size.' And he told me."



Prayer: "LORD, teach us Your ways and lead us in Your path this day."

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 & Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – Psalm 25:4-5: *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

Prayer and Study Questions -

Ever present God, thank You for the promise and hope of Your Word. Thank You that You can be counted on to guide me through my day. Today I need to walk in the hope that only You can give. My way is unclear, my path sometimes feels like it twists and turns in confusing and busy ways as I wind my way along my journey.

Show me your ways, Lord. Show me how you would walk in these places. Teach me your paths of grace and mercy and integrity and love. Help me to grasp your ways so I can walk securely in them even in insecure places. I desperately need your perspective today.

Guide me in your truth, Lord. Without your Word being active in my heart and mind I cannot know your truth. Help me to make time to read and study my Bible. Help me to take time to think on it and let it penetrate my heart and mind. Lord, your Word will guide me as a beacon and a brilliant light. I need your Word to lead and guide me. Forgive me when I leave your Word to gather dust on the shelf or simply grabbed a canned verse and run off for the day, quickly forgetting what I read.

Thank You that You promise to guide me and teach me as I let your truth impact my heart and my mind and my spirit. Oh Lord, you are my Lord and Savior, my liberator and my redeemer. You alone are the One who restores and renews my spirit and brings meaning to struggling and hectic life. You richly bless me. May my heart overflow with thanksgiving to you for your unchanging hand in my life.

I will put my hope in you today and always. Remind me through your Holy Spirit - guiding and steering me to a closer relationship with you. Call me into your quiet presence to think on your truths and may I not be distracted. This is the life-giving oxygen of my soul. Thank you for giving me the hope, help, and peace I need today. Thank you that you never cease to call me to Yourself. Help me to respond again to your presence in my life. In Jesus' strong name I pray,
amen.

Questions:

- How would you define hope?
- What is the difference between wishing and hoping?
- Why can we hope in God all day long?

Thursday, August 13, 2020 - Psalm 25:4 - *Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.*



God is our Savior, and our hope is in Him throughout the day and night. How important is it for you to learn the ways of the Lord? How crucial it is for us to discover which paths God would have us follow. And the Word of God is a light to our path and a lamp to light the way that God would have us walk. The Word of God is an instruction manual to teach us his ways, as well as a love-letter to all his children.

We are to separate ourselves from the selfish and anti-biblical ways of the wicked, as we rest in utter dependence in the Lord, Himself, as we yield to the directing and support of the Holy Spirit. We are to commit our way to the LORD; walk in the path that God has ordained and trust in him; knowing that God promise to guide all those that are humble in heart: and will teach then his way and his judgments.

God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his son - Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Let us die to self and live unto the Lord, so that we may know his ways and learn the lessons he would teach us - and follow the path that He would have us take.

Prayer - *Caring God, give me a teachable spirit and a desire to know your ways. Keep me separated from the ways of the sinful humanity and help me to walk daily in the path that you have set before me. Open my eyes to your truth as I study your holy Word and help me to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit day by day - this I ask in Jesus holy name. Amen.*

Friday, August 14, 2020 - Psalms 25 - A psalm of David.

1O Lord, I give my life to you.

2I trust in you, my God!

Do not let me be disgraced,
or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.

3No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive
others.

4Show me the right path, O Lord;
point out the road for me to follow.

5Lead me by your truth and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.

All day long I put my hope in you.

6Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing
love,

which you have shown from long ages past.

7Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.

Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,
for you are merciful, O Lord.

8The Lord is good and does what is right;

he shows the proper path to those who go astray.

9He leads the humble in doing right,
teaching them his way.

10The Lord leads with unfailing love and
faithfulness

all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

11 For the honor of your name, O Lord,
 forgive my many, many sins.
 12 Who are those who fear the Lord?
 He will show them the path they should choose.
 13 They will live in prosperity,
 and their children will inherit the land.
 14 The Lord is a friend to those who fear him.
 He teaches them his covenant.
 15 My eyes are always on the Lord,
 for he rescues me from the traps of my enemies.
 16 Turn to me and have mercy,
 for I am alone and in deep distress.
 17 My problems go from bad to worse.

Oh, save me from them all!
 18 Feel my pain and see my trouble.
 Forgive all my sins.
 19 See how many enemies I have
 and how viciously they hate me!
 20 Protect me! Rescue my life from them!
 Do not let me be disgraced, for in you I take refuge.
 21 May integrity and honesty protect me,
 for I put my hope in you.
 22 O God, ransom Israel
 from all its troubles.

- Who wrote Psalm 25? What do you know about this man and how he demonstrated trust in God in his life? Read 1 Samuel 17:41-45 & 49-50.
- As David affirms his trust in God in verse 2, what does he see as the result of his trust in God?
- What does it mean to be put to shame? Will those who wait and trust in God ever be put to shame?
- How has your trust in God and your ability to wait on him proven to be a source of victory and strength in your life? Read Psalm 25:3 & 21
- What does David say about learning from God and understanding his teachings? Read Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 12, and 21.

What can we learn about the character of God by reading through this psalm?

- Verse 3 – God is _____.
- Verse 4 – God is _____.
- Verse 5 – God is _____.
- Verse 6 – God is _____.
- Verse 10 – God is _____.
- Verse 16 – God is _____.
- Verse 20 – God is _____.
- Based upon what we can know about the character of God, is there any reason to not trust him?
- How does thinking of God’s character give you hope and strength right now as you face the challenges of life?
- What enemies are you facing today? How does your dependence on God help you face your enemies?
- How does this psalm speak to you personally? What new insight into God’s character does this psalm help you to know? Has this psalm led you to a deeper trust in God? If so, how?

Prayer: O mighty God, the only true guide to life, please help me to know your will more completely. I want to live for you and to please you. I want others to know of my allegiance to you – not just because of the words I speak, but also through the character of my conduct. In Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

Saturday, August 15, 2020 – Psalm 25:4-5 - *Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Life can be so confusing. There are so many choices for us as we decide the values that will govern our lives. So how are we going to find the best way, God's way, to live? We will ask God to show us! Our hope is in him. Our salvation is in him. So why not ask him to guide us and teach us his truth? Why not expect that he will make his

will known to us? If our hearts are open to his truth and we are seeking his path, God will make his will known to us.

When we wait on God it shows a spirit of trust and humility, of loving obedience, of hope and confidence, of a most intimate friendship and of the deepest reverence for our Creator. Waiting on God was one of the reasons David was called “a man after God’s own heart”. God was his security and he trusted Him in every aspect of his life. He trusted Him for guidance and instruction (v. 5), for help and defense (Psalm 33:20), for victory over his enemies and vindication (Psalm 37:7-9), for deliverance from trouble and destruction (Psalm 40:1), and so much more. Nothing proves our faith like waiting on God for answers to prayer, because when we wait we are demonstrating our submission to Him.

Prayer: Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day.” Keep me from running after my own wisdom, Father. May I humbly keep my heart firmly upon Your path as You teach me Your truth and embed it into my soul more and more each day. Amen.



Greetings disciples of Christ on this beautiful and awesome First Sunday of August 2020!

How many of us truly understand what it means to walk in the Spirit of God, to live with the passion of Jesus, to trust in God with a faith that is fresh and sincere and powerful? A faith that knows no limits and fears nothing? A faith that can stare Satan in the eyes and say, “Get behind me; I go forward in the promises of God! You have no more control over me! You are weak and powerless!” A faith that can move any mountain, no matter how high or wide or difficult. A faith, the size of a tiny mustard seed! This is the compassionate faith that God demands and the only thing that can activate the true might and authority of the Holy Spirit that dwells in our lives.

If you want to change the world, begin by being **AVAILABLE**, letting God change YOU. By letting the passion of Jesus become your passion. By letting the Holy Spirit be your only guide and teacher every step, every minute of the day. By allowing God to set your heart on fire for Her. What a marvelous gift we have been entrusted with; greater than we could ever imagine or ask for— the gift of the Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit! She lives within each of us, directing us, guiding us, empowering us for great and mighty things. And filling us with faith.

Of this faith, I am a humble and enthusiastic witness! As my birth month begins, yes, chronologically my body is older, but my soul, my passion, my heart is more alive than I ever was at 23. I am more confident, more serene, more joyful and prayerful, more aware of God and more loving of God and neighbor. With awe and surrender, I have seen sins put to death and many new graces and talents come alive. Finding my own affirmation (encouragement) and gratefulness for never-ending commitment, 24/7 AVAILABLE servant-Pastor (call me anytime), immersed with sacrificing hard work and long hours called for to respectfully and

humbly serve and lead God's church and people. I am more alive at this birth month than I have ever been before.

And wait till you see me at 83!

One of the greatest things about following Jesus is that you do not have to be rich or famous or a great speaker or evangelist to walk in faith and make an impact on the world. You just have to be AVAILABLE and willing to let God use you. You just have to be AVAILABLE when God needs a servant to teach or touch or help another person in his name. You just have to be there! And how encouraging it is to know that any one of us can do that!

To God be the glory!

Pastor Clarissa