

## Four Pillars of Leadership - Four "T"s 033 Teachable

To be teachable is to have an attitude of humility - to surrender your thinking, your reactions and responses to God. It is to submit yourself and your future to Him. It is to watch and listen to what He is trying to teach you in every situation in which you find yourself. You are hungry be transformed into all God designed you to be. It is to be completely touchable in the hands of the Divine Potter.

***(Isaiah 64:8 NKJV) "But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and you our potter; and all we are the work of your hand."***

***(Proverbs 4:18 NIV) "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."***

Everything you learn gives you greater understanding (light shining brighter) and takes you further down the path God has set out for you. For every one of us, this means we can have progressively greater influence on our worlds as we grow.

Before we talk more about being teachable, we must be aware that there are people who are **not** teachable.

***(Proverbs 12:1 ICB) "Anyone who loves learning accepts being corrected. But a person who hates being corrected is stupid."***

***(Proverbs 12:1 NKJV) "...he who hates correction is stupid."***

***(Proverbs 12:1 KJV) "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish."***

The King James Version of Proverbs 12:1 translates the original Hebrew word, "ba-ar" as "brutish or stupid." →

It says exactly what it means.

Here are two challenging questions for all of us. First, what do we know about ourselves that makes us teachable? Second, what do we know about ourselves that might keep us from being teachable? In Fiji, one of my elders was a Nigerian professor. He taught in the MBA program of the University of the South Pacific. On Sunday mornings, the elders would take turns teaching before the service started and he would often use what he called "Spiritual Mathematics." He has gone to be with the Lord, but his "Spiritual Mathematics" remains a great way to see things.

## Spiritual Mathematics

### Simple Addition

To be aware of, and understand your shortcomings, weaknesses and limitations, and to be motivated to do something about them.

*PLUS:* To realize that God can give you the power for significant, lasting change within yourself.

*PLUS:* To become determined that “who you are” must retreat - and “who you could become” must advance.

*PLUS:* To understand how vital it is to grow into the solidly balanced maturity of being in Christ. (Notice: “balanced”)

*PLUS:* To hunger for, and become fully surrendered to God... to seek His transforming power... to become *all* He wants you to be.

**ADDS UP TO... SOMEONE WHO IS TEACHABLE!**

If you find value in these “Spiritual Mathematics,” you must ask yourself how desperately you want to grow and change.

***Proverbs 1:5 GWT) “...a wise person will listen and continue to learn, and an understanding person will gain direction - ”***

### **What keeps people from being teachable?**

- Arrogance?
- Think too highly of yourself?
- Not enough respect for your teachers? (who and what teaches you)
- Bad attitude?
- Not enough respect for the Word?
- Not understanding the call of God?

### **PRIDE IS THE STRONGEST BARRIER.**

The power of pride is its ability to convince us to trust in our own thinking and abilities, even as we ignore or disregard God.

The most destructive characteristic of pride is that it distorts or manufactures its own concept of truth.

Pride does the following:

- It destroys a leader’s judgment.
- It denies God’s truth.

Colossians 1:9-10  
 “Filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and  
 “**spiritual understanding...**”

- ☑ It blocks the Holy Spirit's efforts to teach us and guide us into truth. Pride conforms us to what our emotions, circumstances, experiences and the voices of others have taught us. Pride convinces us these things are accurate and the only truth.
  - Pride does not want to submit to God. Pride resists God and submits to "self." Pride has no fear of the Lord.
  - Pride embraces *"vain imaginations and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God."* (2 Corinthians 10:5)
  - Pride is the chief characteristic of a fool, because a fool chooses to be blind to the truth. Pride hinders discernment and understanding. It brings destruction!

*(Proverbs 16:18 NKJV) "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."*

## **POINT 1. Fear God and Humble yourself. You will learn from Him.**

### **Is a barrier to personal growth the way we think?**

Should there be a change in our thinking?

*(Romans 8:5-6 NKJV) "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. {6} For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*

*(Romans 8:13-14 NKJV) "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. {14} For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*

Win the battle for your mind!

*(Romans 12:2 NKJV) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

*(J.B. Philips Translation) "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed. Then you will prove in practice that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect."*

1 Corinthians  
10:3-6

As a Christian, you have the potential to spiritually communicate with and learn from the Holy Spirit. He wants to teach you. You want to learn. What a combination! Your mind is no longer under carnal destruction. It is under spiritual construction.

## The Anointing

*(1 John 2:20 NIV) "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth."*

There is a vital connection between being anointed with God's wisdom and knowledge, and the willingness to be teachable. Being teachable under the anointing requires four things.

1. A born-again experience
  2. Recognizing when revelation from God is at hand
  3. A willingness to receive what God reveals
  4. The ability to judge whether it is from God or some source from which you do not want to learn
- = **TEACHABLE**

Learning from God is a spiritually controlled process, even though it involves natural thinking. The wisdom we seek is not natural, but supernatural in origin. Absolute truth comes only from an omniscient, always truthful source (The Word and the Holy Spirit).

*(1 John 2:27 NKJV) "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."*

Being teachable in the things of God requires the ability to communicate with Him in the spirit. Pride wants to deny this.

### **POINT 2: When God can touch you, He will teach you.**

God can move sovereignly, but most of the time He chooses to work through His people... and often through His leaders, who allow themselves to be touched and led by Him. (Is this because they are open to, and aware of His presence?)

- How close is your relationship with God? Is it close and personal... or are you too distant for Him to teach you?
- You can learn facts. You can memorize Scriptures. You certainly can be teachable in many natural things, but you may still not be teachable in the things of God.
- You can know things about God, yes ... but will you know the things of God? → What is the difference?

*(James 4:8a NKJV) "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."*

**Again: It's spiritual mathematics.**

*Does 1 John 2:27 really mean that you do not need anyone to disciple you or teach you?*

*If so, why do we disciple people?*

*If not, explain what the Holy Spirit is trying to show us here.*

*(The context refers to truth about Christ as opposed to false teaching. See verse 26.*

## There is no distance learning in the Kingdom of God.

You have to show up in class. It is the school of the Holy Spirit and He wants your close, personal proximity and attention. Have an abiding reverence for Him. Have a humble heart and an honest hunger to learn. He will be accessible and will communicate with you. He will correct and direct you. You will have the opportunity to listen to Him with spiritual ears. His anointing will teach you. The anointing of God and the fear of the Lord are a great beginning! The result should be godly wisdom in our lives.

*(Proverbs 1:7 NKJV) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

### What is Wisdom?

A Simple Definition of Wisdom: Wisdom is seeing life God's way and living it according to what you have learned from what you have seen. If you begin with a reverential awe for God...

- Add the anointing.
  - Purpose in your heart to see it God's way.
  - Then do it His way! Act on your decision!
- = You are on your way to being even more teachable.

**Again: It's spiritual mathematics.**

### **POINT 3. A divine perspective will make you effective!**

(See things the way God sees them.)

### A Change of Heart

Keeping our affections centered on God must dominate our daily lives. This may require us to change the primary object of our affections. This takes a constant, vigilant exercise of our will. Loving Jesus will take away our love for what used to attract and even seduce us. Being born-again is an invitation to have a change of heart. You must be able to say: *"I am who I am, because I have loved the great "I Am."*

*(1 John 4:19 NKJV) "We love Him because He first loved us."*

### **POINT 4. Learn to love your Divine Teacher (the Holy Spirit.) This kind of love will change your life.**

If you still have trouble with habitual sins in your life, and loving God does not seem to help, then you may not have enough fear of

the Lord. The two combined are unstoppable, completely powerful enough to destroy any stronghold.

### **What are the Characteristics of God's Kind of Love?**

- ☑ His kind of love is a choice, not a feeling.
- ☑ Although God's kind of love is not a feeling, you can feel it.
- ☑ Love has direction. It is an advance toward a Christ-like life.
- ☑ Love is an act of surrender. You will surrender to what you love. Never confuse dominance for love.
- ☑ Love for God ought to be an act of total surrender to God.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8**

You will never love the teachings unless you first love the Divine Teacher! This is not only true of loving the Holy Spirit, but of with spiritual matters, loving your human teachers too.

### **Some Final Spiritual Mathematics**

If you are teachable, you will:

**Die to self. (Live to Christ.)**

- + **Have a hungry heart for more of Him.**
- + **Have a humble spirit before Him.**
- + **Have a praying heart.**
- + **Have a pure heart.**
- + **Try your best to love God 100% of the time... in 100% of the things that life will challenge you with.**
- = **A vessel fit for the Master's use... a vessel of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.**

**It adds up to once conclusion - You are teachable!**

**Let us review the definitions of the first three lessons.**

**TRUTHFUL:** Truth is the clear, complete and pure expression of the way things are. It is found in the words you speak.

Nowhere in God's Word is lying recommended or approved. Lying is always a failure to trust God.

*(Ephesians 4:22-25 NKJV) "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, {23} and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, {24} and that you put on the new man which was*

***created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. {25} Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another."***

***(Ephesians 4:29 NKJV) "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."***

***What you say is what they get!***

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TRANSPARENT: Transparency is the clearly accurate, undefiled, pure and complete expression of who you are in Christ.

Our goal in being transparent is to have nothing evil or offensive hidden inside of us that would stop others from seeing God.

***Who you are is who they get!***

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TEACHABLE: To be teachable is to have an attitude of pure and complete humility - to surrender your thinking, your reactions and responses to God... to submit yourself and your future to Him. You are hungry to hear from God, so you can be transformed into all He designed you to be. To be teachable is to be completely touchable in the hands of the Divine Potter.

***Teachable people become confident, mature, loving vessels, fit for the Master's use.***