

How do we learn and change?

There are multiple ways we can learn and change. Many have believed that the only way we learn is through experience, hence the phrase "Experience is the best teacher." Nothing can be further from the truth! I will show you multiple ways I believe through which we can learn, and experience change which will include experience.

There are two primary ways we learn and experience change. We have a choice as to how we want to learn.

- a) Light—Light is in reference to revelation. This revelation comes through a few ways:
 - i) The Word—Psalm 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."
 - ii) The Holy Spirit
- b) Heat—This is the school of hard knocks or hardships. This is bush university (Moses' University) or Desert school of Apostle (Apostle's school).

I remember President Ronald Regan said that "When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat." Heat is an option to learn and change although it is not the best option. The best option is light.

- i) God does not use this to teach us.

Light

1. The Word

When God teaches His children, it is always one on one and always involves His Word, not a sickness, disease, natural disaster, or tragedy.

If you want to learn and change in another way outside God's Word, good luck! You will come crumbling down. It is a very painful process.

Here are scriptures that show us how God teaches His children, and it is throughout His Word:

- a) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- b) 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- c) John 15:1-3 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- d) Psalms 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- e) Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law.
- f) Psalms 119:9-11, 105, 133 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. 133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. 169 Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

g) "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."—Joshua 1:8

i) The book of the law is another way of saying the Word of God.

ii) This Scripture teaches that it is through the Word of God that we make our ways prosperous and have good success. Like many other passages of Scripture, this one also clearly emphasizes that the Word of God is the key to prospering, maturing, and increase.

iii) As we begin to meditate on God's Word, we begin to develop and experience success, increase, and maturity.

h) Romans 12:1-2

2. Fivefold Ministry office Gifts

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

a) The Lord Jesus gave the fivefold ministry gifts and the purpose for them is also given. They are to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry and for edifying the body of Christ. The fivefold office gifts do so by pointing people and training them through the Word—not through pain and hardships, or sufferings. All forms of teaching lead back to the Word of God.

3. Revelation knowledge.

We can also learn and change by receiving revelation knowledge from God and the Word.

a) Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

b) 1 Samuel 3:21 And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

4. Holy Spirit

We have plenty of scriptures that show us that the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. The Scriptures also teach that the Holy Spirit is the teacher—our Teacher. He would teach us all things.

- a) John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
 - i) Who shall teach us all things? The Holy Spirit teaches us, not tragedy or problems.
 - ii) No tragedy can teach you all things.
- b) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.—John 16:13
- c) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. —1 John 2:27
 - i) This is saying that we are not limited to a human teacher. If we were alone on the earth or even in jail with had no human teacher, we could be taught of the Lord through the Holy Spirit who lives on the inside of us.
 - ii) This is not saying that no one will teach you ANYTHING.
 - iii) In context, “all things” is talking about those who deny that Jesus is the Christ and were seducing other to believe the same.
 - iv) Paul was not taught of man but of the Lord (Galatians 1:11-12).
- d) 1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
 - i) Holy ghost teaches. It is not man.

Heat

5. Experience

Although some have believed that experience is the best teacher, it is the most expensive, and it is not always the best teacher. I am not trying to disregard experience, but I am rather trying to put it in the right perspective. Experience has to be evaluated for us to learn from it. Experience alone is not the best teacher. The Holy Spirit is the best teacher.

In life, sometimes we win and sometimes we learn—not lose. We need to learn from the bad experiences and let them go. You can either focus on the loss, lesson, and/or the cross.

There are many people that have experience, yet they did not learn or change a thing, and some learn only the negative things such as not to trust, not to have high expectations, and so forth.

Not all experiences teach as some have believed, but if they do, for one to learn and change through his experience, they have to want to learn and they should believe and trust God in that process as He is the best teacher.

We do not automatically learn just because we have experienced something.

A. Personal Experience

Every past success or failure we experience can be a valuable source of direction, information, and wisdom. Success teaches us what we can do and give us confidence.

Genesis 30:27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favor in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.

- a) Laban mentions that he learned that the Lord had blessed him because of Jacob. This learning was by experience. He learned by experience.

B. Experience of others

- a) 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

- i) We can learn and change through and by the example and the experience of others. The Word of God lists many examples, both good and bad of those who walked before us. One of the reasons it lists those examples is so we can learn from them and change.
- ii) We should not disregard other people's experiences in order to experience things ourselves. That is a sick mindset. If we look at things this way, many of us will not be around to see the fruit of those experiences.
- iii) We do not have to make the mistakes ourselves to learn from them. Wisdom teaches us to avoid those mistakes by observing and learning the right lessons gleaned from other people.