

Getting a Sense

We need to do something for a while in order to get a sense or feel of how to do it or what it is about. Whenever we join a new group it takes a couple times to get a sense or feel about it. When we meet someone new we might ask questions to help us understand more about the person. It takes some participation and investigation to get a good sense about things.

This too with each of God's character traits. After reading a series of scripture verses on a given topic we can get a sense of how the Bible defines it. Also, the group sharing about what 'sense' they are getting can help form our own. It is crucially important that each person in the group speaks truthfully about their sense. Truth is very important.

Sometimes, all it takes is a couple of outgoing individuals jumping to a wrong conclusion; then others in the group start nodding their head in agreement without diligently looking at the words and defining their true meanings. For this reason, disagreement is okay and can even be helpful. Each person is responsible for their own assessment and understanding. However, no one is to push, coerce, or convince anyone to agree with their assessment. Such actions can lead to a destructive process called 'Group Think.' We ought to keep an open mind taking new ideas patiently within to see if it agrees with God's character.

Sometimes, one person who has a different opinion can help the whole group see truth they couldn't see before. Instead of operating out of conformity to see what the group believes and follow their lead, we are to think and assess individually in order to develop our own conclusions. Each of us can get a slightly different sense and be able to shape the sense of the group as a whole to a clearer truth.

Throughout the Bible, patterns are developed on Godly character. Each day we ought to begin with "Getting a Sense" of such character within our minds and hearts and how we can carry it out toward others and ourselves. Each day we can have experiences with Godly character which can improve our understanding and help us grow our sense about it. Then we can share our learning during the group to help provide first hand experiences with each other.

Growing our Senses

There are stories of people who are blind using echolocation. They make sounds and have sharpened their skills to be able to detect objects around them by the echoing of sounds. Watch [this link](#) to see a man who is blind ride a bike.

Our senses with God's character can grow and improve to new depths. We can grow in love, peace, mercy, forgiveness, truth, justice, faith, and compassion. Yet, like people using echolocation, we will need to practice each day to utilize such senses and learn from the experience.

Here are some examples of what we can do to begin. We can start with getting on our knees and praying each morning. We can drive the speed limit to increase peace and patience. We can leave earlier so we do not need to rush or even pray for our fear of being late. We can practice empathy asking ourselves how other people might feel. We can speak the truth when we would normally practice dishonesty. We can evaluate ourselves for fear and replace it with faith in God. We can question our conclusions to see where we are biased and seek to be more objective. We can our loved ones how we can improve around God's character while guarding against fear, pride, and selfish ambitions. We can practice serving others with love. We can mediate upon God's love and how we can become more gentle and kind toward others. We can confess our wrongdoings with a mentor and see how we can help make things right. We can practice generosity.

Just as people develop senses with echolocation, we will need to increase our participation and practice with sensing God's invisible and intangible grace. If a person desired the skill of echolocation, but would not put in the effort and practice of the required skill, such a person would not develop the understanding and ability.

A person who is handicapped by anger and resentment will continue to suffer consequences from their anger until they learn how to be more at peace and experience forgiveness. Anger can be coupled with pride and both can deprive people from the humility necessary to experience grace. The Inward Authority process can be helpful to gradually develop our senses to experience God's character if we are willing and humble enough to sincerely practice them.