

How are we trained by God

We are trained to be like our teacher

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

During my schooling as a child I had many teachers. I was never trained to be like them. In fact, I got terrible grades. I wasn't a very good listener and I didn't do the homework. I ignored instructions and chose to do what I wanted to do instead.

I had many teachers. My parents taught me rules around the house, my friends taught me how to act around each other, and teachers at school taught various subjects. Yet I chose what I was going to accept as direction for me to obey and practice. Many times I would take the information and add a twist of my way into it. So, my teacher was a collection of many people including myself. I was trained very well by those I chose to be around and how I chose to respond.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

I chose evil company and I was trained very well with it. I chose corruption, but to my defense, I had no better knowledge. I was already formed to challenge authority, sabotage the system, and resist hypocrisy. My attitude, thoughts, heart, and spirit were all struggling to keep sane. I felt like I didn't fit in and alone.

Choosing God as our teacher

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

My way wasn't working. I needed a new teacher. I was told to seek God. This took time, effort, and new action. I was instructed to set aside my way of doing things and to do God's will.

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age

I began seeking how to “deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.” I was told to “let go, and let God.” I was taught the serenity prayer and used it often. I was taught how to examine myself for fear, resentment, dishonesty, self-seeking and to humbly pray to God to take them from me. This was the beginning of my training that took much time, effort, and new action.

Taking new action

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Years later I began seeking God to improve my character and inward condition. The Bible became my teacher, because I began doing what it was saying. Instead of being taught by various books, sermons, and theologies, I looked long and carefully at some of the instructions within the Bible and began testing them through experiential participation.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

I was trained to test. Ask any of my teachers and they will be anxious to share how I tested them. So I set out to test the Bible. Jesus said the great commandment is:

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

Prioritizing God’s directions

I interpreted this to be the essence of the Bible. This instruction was the foundation. I went through the Bible to get more detail as how to test this instruction. I needed to know how the Bible described God. I was not interested in theologies of other people. I kept my focus upon what everyone was saying to be the absolute truth and best resource... the Bible. If I was going to test the Bible, I needed to keep my focus on the Bible so the

information did not get mixed by others. The Bible had the answers if only I could only stay with it long enough and put it into practice as if it was real.

Going to the Bible and then to something else and then back to the Bible and then to something else only created confusion. I needed to concentrate on the details to get down to the nuts and bolts of Biblical truth.

I began what turned out to be a decade of concordance searches learning how the Bible described “love,” “God,” “heart,” “soul,” “mind,” “strength,” and much more. I learned how Biblical characters put these into practice and the results they got from doing it. One great concordance search is “[those who](#).” ‘Those who’ separates types of people who obey God and ‘those who’ do not obey God or do what God says.

I began taking gradual new steps to see what happens when I set my mind, heart, soul, and strength more toward God’s instructions, ways, statutes, principles, goodness, and righteousness. The Bible describes God as; love, peace, compassion, patience, mercy, forgiveness, truth, just/impartial, giving/generous, and Spirit. These specific definitions gave me more clear direction how to love God. It’s easier to practice ‘patience’ then it is to practice ‘God’ or ‘Jesus.’ I sought out how to humbly and sincerely practice compassion, patience, and peace. This was a struggle within my mind to convince myself to do it because my mind was trained otherwise.

Over time with continued baby steps I began to see results. I was becoming less anxious and my relationships were improving. I felt more at ease and confident. I also began to realize how what I was doing was rarely done by others. I became convicted to create materials to help others understand this process.

Testing through experience

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Reading, observing, talking, and listening are great ways to learn ideas, but the best way to see how ideas work is to test them. ([See scientific method](#)) I can easily forget and descend into selfish ambition and worldly lusts. This continued effort/strength to give ‘my all’ to God is to be done every day. If I stop seeking God for direction, I stop learning from God. I need to choose

God in my heart, mind, soul, and strength each day to grow and learn with God.

Psalm 143:10 Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Romans 2:21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

1 Corinthians 2:13 1 Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another (let it dwell - richly - experientially)