

Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Topic: The Value of Experience

INTRODUCTION: The phrase, "Experience is a great _____" has been around for a long time, but that statement can be misleading if one does not _____ the concept.

I. WHAT IS EXPERIENCE?

A. Dictionary:

1. The dictionary defines experience as, "practical contact with and observation of facts or _____", in other words it means the things that you have personally _____, seen and felt.
2. Another dictionary definition expresses experience as, "the knowledge or _____ obtained through direct impressions," which in other words means the things that one has _____ through in life.
3. A third definition of the word experience is, "the skill or judgment _____ by practice of something.

B. Experience – Everyone:

1. Everyone has experience from the time that they are _____ - one experiences discomfort, pain, the cold and the heat, _____ and thirst, and so much more.
2. When we are very young, the _____ is not yet fully developed and memories of early childhood experiences are unlikely to be imprinted in the _____, but as one grows and matures, experiences are engrained in the memory bank to be recalled during thinking times.

II. IS EXPERIENCE A TEACHER?

A. Learning or No?

1. One wise individual has stated that the old proverb, "Experience is a great _____," is only true if you _____ from it.
2. Some people have experiences that should _____ them, but it doesn't and so the individuals make the same _____ over and over again.
3. Animals eventually can be trained and learn from experience, but unfortunately some _____ never learn and in the Word of God they are called _____. Pr. 26:3
4. The Children of Israel had some very difficult experiences, and yet also saw the _____ of God work on their behalf, but unfortunately many of them did not _____ from experience. I Cor. 10:1-5,11

B. Be Wise & Learn:

1. When we pass through certain experiences in _____, especially as a child of God, may we be wise and realize that _____ thing that God permits in our lives is for our benefit and development. Rom. 8:28
2. We can choose either to allow what we are going through to be a _____ experience, or to make us angry and _____, not aware of a possible valuable tool for future use. Ps. 119:71
3. The Word of God exhorts us to _____ to appreciate difficult times because those problems and trials are giving us _____ that will develop in us both patience and _____. Rom. 5:3,4
4. The Word of God then states that the _____ that we have gained will produce another great virtue in us called _____, which is what keeps us moving forward in God!

III. GETTING EXPERIENCE:

A. From The Experienced:

1. One thing that will help anyone who is needing _____ is to find another who has had some years of _____ and they can share things that speed up the process. Jer. 5:4,5
2. Humility is a required _____ when choosing to learn from the _____ of others, as it requires setting aside both pride and independence and accepting the _____ and advice of someone else.
3. The benefit of drawing from the _____ of others is that one can avoid the mistakes and pitfalls that they had to go through, thus giving a head start in the _____ process.

B. Examples:

1. Elisha became a _____ prophet than Elijah but before that happened, he was the _____ of Elijah, following him and observing and _____ from him. 2 Kings 3:11
2. Paul the Apostle had much _____ during his life and _____, and he trained and mentored other young men who learned from his experience before having their own ministry – Silas, Timothy, Titus, Mark, and others who became pastors and elders in the work of God.
3. The list of some of Apostle Paul's experiences is in the epistle to the _____ at Corinth. 2 Cor. 11: 23-28

C. Your Own Personal Experience:

1. As you walk with God and become involved in _____ for Him, you will have _____ of your own – some _____ and some difficult, all permitted by God for your learning and benefit.
2. In turn, you are going to _____ and pass on those experiences to others who are in the _____ process, and you will help them to grow and develop their spiritual lives for God. 2 Tim. 2:2
3. Be willing to _____ in any capacity that the Lord _____ for you, and do it as the servant of Jesus Christ to gain both experience and _____ for future work in God's kingdom.

CONCLUSION: Many work places that _____ people are looking for people with _____ but how does one get the _____ if no one gives you the opportunity? In the work of God doors of opportunity to serve will open, so even if it's not exactly what you think you want, take the opportunity and gain the _____ which will be valuable to you in the future.