

## Four T's: 03 TEACHABLE

To be teachable is to have an attitude of pure and complete humility. It means to surrender your thinking, your reactions and responses to God... to submit yourself and your future to Him. To be teachable is to be 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.

*(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."*

Not everyone is teachable. What does the Bible say about those who are unteachable?

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

*(Ephesians 4:17-20 NLT) "With the Lord's authority let me say this: Live no longer as the ungodly do... for they are hopelessly confused. {18} Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. {19} They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed. {20} But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ."*

- What do you know about yourself that makes you teachable?
- What do you know about yourself that might keep you from being teachable?

### SPIRITUAL MATHEMATICS

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

**PLUS:** To realize that only the awesome power and unlimited ability of God can give you the power for significant, lasting change within.

**PLUS:** To become determined that "who you are" must retreat - and "who you could become" must advance. It is not optional!

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

**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!**

**QUESTION:** How desperate are you to learn from God so you can become all He wants you to be?

*(Proverbs 1:5 NKJV) "A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,"*

Learning from wise counsel leads to wise behavior. Wise behavior is disciplined behavior.

- Discipline is the door to great living and great learning.
- Discipline corrects and molds us into mature Christians.
- Discipline brings strength to our moral character.
- Discipline is training by instruction in the application of self-control.

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

### **QUESTIONS:**

- How disciplined are you in your daily habits?
- How strong is your follow-through when you make a commitment?
- How deep is your faith and trust in God when things get difficult or unpredictable?
- How real is your fear of the Lord?

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

- Arrogance?
- Think too highly of themselves?
- Not enough respect for their teachers?
- Bad attitudes?
- Not enough respect for the Word?

### **PRIDE – THE STRONGEST BARRIER**

The power of pride is its ability to convince us to trust in our own thinking and abilities.

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

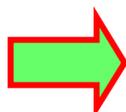
- It destroys a leader's judgment.
- It denies God's truth.
- It blocks the Holy Spirit's efforts to teach us and guide us into truth.

- Pride conforms our thinking to what our emotions, circumstances, experiences and the voices of others have taught us. Pride convinces us these things are accurate and true.

- Pride does not want to submit to God. Pride resists God and submits to “self.” Pride has no fear of the Lord.
- Pride encourages what the Bible calls *“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 that person is blind to the truth. Pride hinders discernment and understanding. It brings destruction!

**STORY:** A turtle wanted to go across a very large, very deep lake. However, it was too far for such a small creature to swim across. So he talked two very large swans into helping him. He asked each of them to hold onto a strong rope that he found on the beach. He would clamp down on the center of it with his strong jaws and they could fly him across the lake. So they began the journey. The flight was going fine until about half way across; another bird flew by and said, *“What a great idea. Who is the genius who thought of that?”* Unable to resist the chance to take credit for this great idea, the turtle opened his mouth and said, *“It was me!”* (Whoops!)

*(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.**

### God wants us to change our thinking.

*(Romans 12:1-2 NKJV) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} 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 it 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.”*

*(Colossians 1:9, 10 NKJV) “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; {10} that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

**Ephesians 4:1**  
God’s Word  
Translation  
*“I, a prisoner in the Lord, encourage you to live the kind of life which proves that God has called you.”*

1. God desires to fill your heart with the knowledge of His will in *all* wisdom and spiritual understanding.
2. He wants you learn to walk worthy of the Lord. (What does **walking worthy of the Lord** mean?)
3. His heart's cry is that you learn to be fully pleasing to Him... and to think and act accordingly!

## THE ANOINTING

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

For Christians (and especially those called to do the work of the ministry), there is a vital connection between the outpouring of God's wisdom and knowledge, and our willingness to be teachable.

Being teachable under the anointing requires three things.

1. A born-again experience
2. Listening to the Holy Spirit to recognize when revelation from God is at hand
3. A willingness to receive

### **QUESTION: Why this combination?**

Answer: 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 absolutely omniscient, always truthful, supernatural God.

*(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 being able to communicate with Him in the spirit. He will teach you what only He can. Do not think He will do so without anointing men and women of God to speak for Him. Such thinking is purely prideful. Thank God for your teachers. They are His gift to you. He will touch you through them.

### **POINT 2.**

**When God can touch you, He will teach you.**

## A Vital Connection

Does this Scripture 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.)

(Later, we will refer to [John 14:23-26](#), below)

In most cases, the anointing depends upon your relationship with God. We understand that God can move sovereignly, but most of the time, He chooses to work through His people... and especially through those who allow themselves to be touched and led by Him. (They are open to, and aware of His presence.)

- Is your relationship with God close and personal... or are you too distant for Him to reach 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 (the things **about** God, yes... but the things **of** God, no.) Meditate on the difference!

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

**There is no distance-learning  
in the kingdom of God.**

God will teach us, but not through distance-learning. You have to show up in class. It is the school of the Holy Spirit. He wants your close personal proximity and attention.

### **The Primary Conditions for being Teachable**

Have an abiding reverence for the Holy Spirit, a humble heart and a close personal relationship with Him. He will be accessible and will communicate with you. He will correct and direct you. You will have the ability, and opportunity to listen to Him with spiritual ears. His anointing will teach you. The fear of the Lord and the anointing of God are a great beginning! The result should be godly wisdom.

Again: *(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**

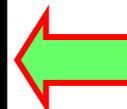
**Wisdom is seeing life God's way and living it according to what you have seen.**

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 by acting on these decisions!
- Result: You are on your way to being teachable.

### **POINT 3.**

**A divine perspective will make you effective!  
(See things the way God sees them.)**



### **A Change of Heart**

What single thing had to change inside us that enabled us to become teachable? For some of us the question is, What *should change* inside of us so we become teachable?

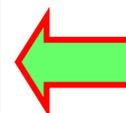
*(John 14:23-26 NKJV) "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. {24} He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. {25} These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. {26} But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

The big change every one of us needs is to change the object of our affections. This must be a constant, vigilant exercise of our will. Loving Jesus will take away our love for the habitual sins, or the complacent attitudes that used to attract and seduce us. When we have a change of heart, we love our Teacher (God). You must be able to say, "*I am who I am, because I have loved the great "I AM."*"

(If you still have trouble with habitual sins, and loving God does not seem to help, then you certainly do **not** have enough fear of the Lord. The two combined are powerful enough to destroy any stronghold.

### **POINT 4.**

**Learn to love your Teacher. It will change your life.**



## What are the Characteristics of Love?

- ☑ Love is a choice, not a feeling.
- ☑ Love is not a feeling, but you can feel it.
- ☑ Love has direction. It is an advance toward a Christ-like life.
- ☑ Love is an act of surrender. Never confuse dominance or love.
- ☑ Love for God ought to be an act of total surrender.

### **QUESTION: Why do we love our Teacher, the Holy Spirit?**

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

(Jesus cannot say the same about us. His love for us was grace, grace and more grace!)

*(1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NKJV) "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; {5} does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; {6} does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. {8} Love never fails...."*

*(Chinese translation: "Love is eternal." It never changes and its power never fails.)*

You will never love His teachings unless you first love the Divine Teacher!

### **Make a choice. Win the battle for your mind!**

**QUESTION:** We have talked about your heart and the object of your affection. What else changed inside you to make you teachable after you gave your life to Christ?

Answer: As you learn to walk with God, something begins to happen to your mind!" It is no longer under carnal destruction. It is under spiritual construction.

*(Romans 12:2 JB Philips translation, again) "...but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed."*

The greatest hindrance to our Christian walk can still be the way we think. There has to 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."*

When you gave your life to God, you gained the potential to spiritually communicate with, and learn from the Holy Spirit. He wants to teach you. You want to learn. What a combination!

### 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 ONE CONCLUSION:  
YOU ARE TEACHABLE!**

**Let us review the definitions of the first three T's.**  
**TRUTHFUL:** The clear, complete and pure expression of the way things are. (Nowhere in God's Word is lying recommended, or approved of. 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.***