

The Gift of Understanding

Did you know that *if* we even understand there is a God it's because He chooses to reveal Himself to us? Everything that God reveals, He does it through His Holy Spirit, our teacher who **ENCOURAGES us**. If God had not communicated with us, we would not even be *aware* of Him. **Every act of love and word of encouragement comes from Him**, for He is Good. He introduced Himself to Abraham, in Genesis 17:1 and the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God, walk before me, and be thou perfect(or mature). And I will make a covenant between me and thee, and multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him... And God is still willing to communicate with His Children now.

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.**

But sometimes, we don't think He is able to, and how many times do we cry, "LORD, I don't understand! Please tell me what you want, or what you are saying! What is Your Will? Please give me wisdom!" Even the President is talking about Education this week.

And God does speak. He uses the foolish things to astound those who think they are wise. James 1: 5 says If any of you lack wisdom, let him(her) **ask**, of God, that giveth to all (wo)men liberally...and it shall be given to him(her).vs 19)let every (wo)man be **swift to Hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. Vs 22) be ye DOERS of the Word** and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 3:17 but the wisdom that is from above is first **pure**, then **peaceable, gentle**, and **easy to be entreated. Full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.**

And sometimes God speaks through preachers, friends, strangers, parents, teachers, but oh, yes, He is Still Able to Speak. And it's never the way we think it's going to be. And it's usually not the way we would choose. Oh, yes! God's Holy Spirit, our teacher, He **EDUCATES us.**

Nobody likes school, homework, or desks... but, where would we be without our teachers? If any of us can write our name on a check, count money, or read directions, we have a teacher somewhere to thank. And *spiritually* speaking, if any of us grow, learn or mature, we **also** have a tender, loving teacher to thank; **Our Comforter, God's sweet Holy Spirit.** He refuses to give up on us, when we seem the most hopeless!

There are **so many** responsibilities of a teacher. First, they must finance, study and graduate from college. And then, work long, thankless, grueling days which reward the joy of knowing they make a difference in the lives of others.

Teachers spend more time with the children than their own Mothers. They Mother. They give them medicine. They nurse them. They bandage their booboo's. They feed them when they're hungry. They help them be able to learn. God's Holy Spirit, our teacher, **ENABLES** us.

Once, when Beth was student teaching some homeless children downtown, she made this statement, "Someone would have to love those students very much to be able to teach them anything. They are the laziest, most laid back, procrastinating, ill mannered, hungry, tired and sickly students I have ever met." They did not have learning on their mind. We don't either. Right then and there the Lord started writing this lesson on my heart. Those students remind us of ourselves and how we are students of God's Sweet Holy Spirit. Aren't we are that kind of student most of the time? King Solomon, whose name means peace and wisdom, wrote in [Ecclesiastes 1:17](#) And I gave my **heart to know wisdom...**

[2 Chronicles 1:10](#) Give me now **wisdom and knowledge**, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?
11) And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: **12) Wisdom and knowledge is granted** unto thee; and I will give thee **riches**, and **wealth**, and **honour**, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

If you've seen the Helen Keller movie, her break through turning point or place of understanding was when she and her teacher were at the water pump behind their house. The teacher was teaching her communication, or sign language. Helen fought her tooth and nail. Helen admits in her autobiography she never wanted no teacher. She thought communication was her making everybody to understand what she wanted and them giving it to her. But she went on to say that **her teacher loved her too much to let her go on thinking that way.**

Before the teacher came, Helen used to **drop** to the floor and pitch a rolling fit for what she wanted, and her parents would frantically try to please her. Finally, she received her request and stopped it. Rude awakening when the new teacher ignored her until she quit thrashing around, and sat up. Then they'd talk. They'd communicate.

Helen **learned** that real communication is to *find out what other's want, too, so you can give it to them, too. It's a two-way thing. Quite a different picture of what Helen had I mind. She said if it weren't for her teacher, there's no telling where she might be now. Probably in that same shape all the time.*

But isn't Helen an example also, of us? After all, she *was* born deaf and blind and the world owed her. And don't we feel the same way sometimes? And that's the spiritual story of most of us, isn't it? We're no different from homeless children, Helen Keller, or King

Solomon. We all need wisdom. We learn that real life is finding out what God wants, too, and giving that to Him. And He wants our attention most of all. He wants us to want His Wisdom.

Max Lucado said: *“God knows me, He knows my junk. And He loves me, but He loves me too much to leave me like I am. He is making me more like Jesus.”* Like the saying goes, the teacher loved Helen Keller too much to let her continue to act like that, or think that way. Beth loves her students too much to leave them in complete ignorance. And God’s Holy Spirit loves us too much to leave us like ourselves; He is making us more like Jesus.

We were grading homework, and I discovered the *worst* thing a student can do is turn in a paper without their name on it. Now, I watched in amazement as Beth knowingly scrawled the child’s name on the paper disapprovingly. She said, **“They know BETTER than that!”** I said, “How did you know who it was?” And she said, **“I’d recognize that handwriting anywhere.”** She knows their work. *The Holy Spirit knows everything about us, and knows our work, too.*

Revelation 2:2 God says I KNOW THY WORKS. And He knows that we know better than that. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we don’t show what He taught us. We upset the teacher.

Dennie noticed a mark on a paper and asked if it was a Nazi mark, and Beth said, “No, it’s not a swastika, it’s a fancy F. They are trying to be more grown up. I don’t think they even know what Nazi’s are.” There were other mistakes, extra zeros, misspellings, lazy penmanship, missing punctuation, or superfluous punctuation. Sloppiness. Things that upset the teacher.

Sometime Beth would holler, PLEASE! Or WHAT IN THE WORLD?

FOR REAL! Or ARE YOU KIDDING?

SERIOUSLY! (as she scrawled on their papers and looked for ‘*parents sign here*’ sticker).

WEARS ME OUT! Or “She’s gonna CRY!” (thinking the student would be upset.)

She’d say, “We just reviewed all this right before the TEST, I DON’T UNDERSTAND! THEY ARE GOING TO LEARN THIS IF IT KILLS ME! I ought to throw ALL THESE in the GARBAGE and START OVER! “

If the instructions were “write these numbers from greatest to least,” & they started in the wrong place, it was **impossible** to arrive at the correct answer. DUH!

I said, “How did this happen?” Beth said, “They weren’t paying attention! They were probably playing or whispering. I have to say every day a lot: **MOUTHS CLOSED! EYES ON ME!** They repeat, **MOUTHS CLOSED! EYES ON YOU!**” Then she has their attention.

Isn't that us spiritually? We all need instruction. We all upset the teacher. We must also, have our MOUTHS CLOSED and our EYES ON HIM! He must have our attention!

2 Timothy 3:7 (we are Ever **learning**, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Teachers choose to expose themselves in order to teach. we students are exposed to germs when we are together, learning and loving each other.....but we NEED EACH OTHER. And WE LEARN from each other, too, but we must pay attention. Spiritually, that's why staying pure is SO important; godliness, holiness, purity and reverence.....in **ALL OF US.....our church, our homes, our work places...**

GOD choose to be exposed to the thing that would kill Him.....(for us)
HE CHOOSE to be close to us.....so He could teach us. He wanted to.
like we choose to be close to each other.....
HE THOUGHT OF US.....and CHOOSE to help.....
CHOOSE to suffer in our place.....

That's *why the Father HATES SIN like He does.....* it's SOOOOOOOOOOO contagious. huh?
That's why we must LEARN to stay away from sin....to keep from being exposed. We can all relate to how contagious the flu is. Well, the root of the word **HOLY came from the word WHOLE....as in HEALTHY.....**

God's sweet Holy spirit, our teacher, He was exposed;

and He **EXPOSES** us to the Truth about ourselves and how much we need to learn.

Were it not for Him, there is absolutely no telling where we **might be as well. He loves us too much to let us act like that anymore. Romans 8:29** Those He did foreknow, he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son. He is making us more like Jesus. He is throwing it all in the trashcan and starting us over. He said Behold I make all things new.

Oh, Yes! **He has to love us very much in order to be able to teach us anything, doesn't He? God's Holy Spirit, our teacher, ENERGIZES us with His Power and Wisdom.**

Teacher-107 times in kjv. God told Moses, **Exodus 4:12** Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and **teach** thee what thou shalt say.

Sometimes we don't want a teacher, either, just like Helen.

Isaiah 41:28 For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no **counsellor**, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.

God's Holy Spirit, our teacher, is an **EXAMPLE for us, of How to learn.**

Hulda was the first teacher in the Old Testament. She and the word college is mentioned twice. She influenced Josiah. When He was king, He made a difference in how they worshipped a Holy God. He cleaned out the filth in the temple. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, too. We must clean the filth out, too.

When Jesus was 12 years old, his parents left him, what was he doing? Talking and teaching in the temple. And the dr's and teachers were amazed. Jesus's disciples said, LORD **TEACH** US TO PRAY. And one of the last things Jesus said, "**TEACHING** THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU and LO I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, even to the end of the World." But sometimes we aren't sure we can trust Him. We don't get close to Him because we are unsure.

Miss Shipp was my petite teacher in 4th grade. We didn't want much to do with her, because she was so *strict*. We were afraid of her. She was constantly teaching and that is all she ever did. I remember having a loose front tooth, one day at lunch, we had big shiny, red apples for dessert. I chomped down, and when I did, pain shot through my upper gum like lightning. I threw the apple down, and ran, bleeding, unannounced into the teacher's lounge screaming her name. She jumped up and wiped my bleeding chin with her napkin and asked me what in the world happened. She felt my tooth, the same tooth I would not let my daddy touch last night. But all of a sudden, now, I was will to let Miss Shipp pull it, while all the other eating teachers watched. When it was out, I was so relieved I was bawling and hugging her neck and everybody else who would let me. Why?

My attitude had changed, and things were never the same between us. I respected her profoundly after that. She was able to teach me something after that. Isn't that how we are with God sometimes, too?

Have you ever heard the saying? "**No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care?**" Well, it's the truth.

1 Corinthians 13 say something about we can have the voice like a tinkling cymbal, and even give our bodies to be burned and *if we don't have love, it's no profit to anyone and accomplishes nothing.* And there are a lot of teachers out there who don't care, too. That's why **we have to be careful who we listen to.** We must obey the voice of the True Teacher only.

The bible says for us to be Holy. God is Holy. The word Holy comes from the word WHOLE, or Healthy. He is without sin. Since we cannot make that claim, we need help. We need the Truth. We need instruction. but the Truth is not always what we want to hear. Like meat and veggies nourish us, the truth of God's Word is the spiritual nourishment we need. We need to **learn** .

The word LEARN means "**to get knowledge, be cultivated,**" Ger. lernen "to learn," "I know), with a base sense of "**to follow or find the track,**" Related to Ger. Gleis "track," and to O.E.

læst "**sole of the foot**" or to walk in Truth, Or to Follow Truth. Yes, sometimes we are tempted to listen to lies, or learn from the wrong teachers. *Once I'd skinned both knees off and a neighbor wanted me to ride the bicycle again, just one more time. My Mama said no, let*

your wounds heal, but I thought, what the heck, and jumped back on the bicycle again and tried it, you know what happened? I skinned off the scabs all over again, and had to start over, all because I did not listen to the right voice.

God has the highest good for the most people for the longest time in mind always.

God's Sweet Holy Spirit, our teacher, is PREPARING **ETERNITY** for us.

His Feet have already walked where we will walk. He teaches us what we need to know.

Job said, Thou knowest the way that I take, and when thou hast tried, me, I shall come forth as Gold. Job trusted His teacher to teach Him everything to pass the Test of Time.

Isaiah 40 ²¹Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been **told you** from the beginning? have ye not **understood** from the foundations of the earth? ²⁵To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high, and **behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.**

²⁸Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is **no searching of his understanding.** ²⁹He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

He Gives the **Gift of Understanding.**

He ENCOURAGES us, EDUCATES us, EXPOSES us to the Truth, ENERGIZES us, is an EXAMPLE for us, and He is PREPARING **ETERNITY** for us.

He is our EVERYTHING. He understands us, and gives us the Gift of Understanding.

He loves us so much that His Holy Spirit is teaching us to be more like Jesus. Francine Smith 09-09-09