



Teaching Letter 40

Receiving God's Instruction

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. . . ." (Psalm 32:8 NKJ).

God does not give the gift of life without instructions on how to live it. This verse from Psalm 32 is a promise. As with all God's promises, we can believe it and receive it. As Derek Prince said, "The fulfillment of the promise is contained in the promise."

God Himself backs up His Word, and we need not doubt Him or His promises. If you don't know the way you should go in a particular situation, ask God to instruct you and teach you. Then begin meditating on this Scripture by repeating it either silently or aloud throughout the day and expect to receive some kind of instruction about your situation. Tell God you are looking to Him as your instructor and are trusting in Him.

On the larger scale, God has given His Word, the Bible, to instruct us how we should live. We are to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. We are to be kind to others and to live in peace as much as is possible. We are to work, to pray, to trust God. We are to humble ourselves and to walk in humility. These instructions and so many more are found in Scripture.

Paul wrote: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJ). God intended that as we study Scripture, we will come to lack in no area regarding God's requirements. We will find ourselves becoming "complete and proficient, well-fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work" (AMPLIFIED Bible).

We can also expect God to instruct us about what to do in any area of our everyday lives. God is interested in every detail of our lives. He knows us intimately and will tell us what to do in ordinary things if necessary. I know a woman who had so much trouble with her hair that she was angry all the time about it. She tells that God spoke to her and asked why didn't she let Him teach her how to wear her hair so she wouldn't be angry about it. She did, and He did.

That may sound a little odd, but God is concerned about everything that concerns us. His instruction and help is not restricted to crises. I'm not saying He will give us a parking place right by the main door at the mall every time we would like to have one, but He is interested in teaching us the way we should go—including the small things.

If you are struggling with something right now, why not ask Him to teach you in the way you should go? Why not begin to expect Him to teach you how to order your days, your work, your life? He is the best teacher there is because He is Omniscient God. He knows everything and has unlimited capacity to help you with what you need to know and do. Scripture says: ". . . you do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2 NKJ). So ask!

A very important thing to know about God is how much importance He places on our attitude toward instruction. It's part of His nature to instruct. David wrote: "O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works" (Psalm 71:17 NKJ).

Jesus was a teacher—an amazing one. Matthew recorded: “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:28-29 NKJ). One of the titles by which Jesus was addressed was “Rabbi,” which means teacher.

The nation of Israel often did not regard God’s instruction. Jeremiah wrote: “But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff that they might not hear nor receive instruction” (Jeremiah 17:23 NKJ). God said: “And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction” (Jeremiah 32:33 NKJ).

Proverbs records some very strong words about those who refuse or dislike instruction:

“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates instruction is stupid” (Proverbs 12:1 NKJ). “Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored” (Proverbs 13:18 NKJ). “He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding . . .” (Proverbs 15:32 NKJ). “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7 NKJ).

We see in these verses some of the benefits of loving or receiving instruction, such as knowledge, honor, and understanding. Likewise, many passages in Proverbs encourage us: “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days” (Proverbs 19:20 NKJ). “Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge” (Proverbs 19:27 NKJ). “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23 NKJ).

We often spend much time and money gaining an education at colleges or universities. Much of which is very well and good. How do we buy “truth. . . wisdom and instruction and understanding” from God? These are purchased with time spent listening, seeking, praying, reading, meditating, and so on.

Some of us might say we aren’t the studious type; however, God—who made us—does not exclude the “non-studious” from His instruction. Rather than personality, God looks at our heart attitude. We can either turn our backs or our faces to God’s instruction. Sometimes we are unaware of our attitudes until we examine ourselves closely. More than once God has revealed to me thoughts and intents of my heart that I did not know were there.

God is able to instruct us no matter our personality, but we must pay attention. Can you imagine not paying attention in school and still expecting to learn? We must give attention to the Holy Spirit—our teacher within us. His classroom can be anywhere, anytime—in our car, on the school bus, on an airplane, while doing chores, in our bed at night. You can talk to Him in these times, but also listen for what He might say or teach you.

David prayed: “Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:4-5 NKJ). And in another place he wrote: “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me . . .” (Psalm 119:11-12 NKJ).

Teach us, O Lord! **SH**

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY

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