

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Experience

"A new broom sweeps clean, but the old brush knows the corners." – Irish Proverb

"One thorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warning." – James Russell Lowell

"He who has not tasted bitter does not know what sweet is." – German Proverb

"Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other." – Benjamin Franklin

"If we could sell our experiences for what they cost us, we'd all be millionaires." – Pauline Phillips

"And Laban said to him, 'Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake'" (Gen. 30:27). Experience can be quite a teacher, as Laban learned being near Jacob.

No matter what we face in life, through experience we learn a great deal. Many people are "book smart," but to them much of it is simply theory. Until they are in the trenches, what they have learned in books will not be fully realized.

When in school, learning about the preacher and his work was a fascinating study. But living it firsthand it is not quite what one expected. Personal experiences make all of the learning and preparation come alive. It is not to say that learning and study have no benefit, for they do! They help to prepare us for what is ahead. But then experiencing those things makes one better understand what it was that was studied. Perhaps one could say it gives new insights into life.

Experiences, as we well know, can be both good and bad. When a child, we are told not to touch the hot stove. Some may have accepted what they were taught. For others, the experience of touching it was a painful teacher to say the least. It is a shame that some of us have lived our lives in "the school of hard knocks." It is not enough to be told something; one must experience it for themselves.

There is no way to adequately express the joy of immersing a lost soul into Christ. You are an instrument of God's will that gives you an experience that is hard to put into words. One can read of occasions such as the conversion of the Ethiopian in Acts 8, and surmise that Philip must have felt blessed to have been an instrument of doing God's will. But to actually have had the firsthand experience, is a joy that is so profound.

Be thankful for your experiences. It has helped make you the person that you are!