

III. PASS THE KNOWLEDGE

A. Ensure a Strong Foundation

1. Possess the knowledge.
 - a. One must possess before passing.
 - (1) Generally speaking, one cannot offer someone else something which he does not first have in possession.
 - (2) Before a teacher can pass knowledge to a student, the teacher must first be in possession of that knowledge.
 - a) Consider some basic truths from God's word.
 - i) Nicodemus was a master of Israel and yet he lacked pertinent knowledge of God's word. Christ rebuked him for his lack of knowledge, saying, "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:9-10).
 - ii) Speaking of the Pharisees, the Lord Jesus warned that blind leaders leading blind people would land all of them in a ditch (Matthew 15:14). In other words, a man who lacks sight (physically or spiritually) is not an adequate guide for one who lacks sight.
 - iii) The apostle Paul, under the leadership of the Lord, warned of Jewish people who desired "to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm" (1 Timothy 1:7).
 - b) Consider some examples from God's word.
 - i) Consider the example of the disciples.
 - (a) Jesus called disciples to come and follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22).
 - (b) He took them with Him as He taught the word of God to the masses (Matthew 4:23-25).
 - (c) He took time to teach His disciples (and others) the truths of God's word (Matthew 5:1-48; Matthew 6:1-34; Matthew 7:1-29; Matthew 9:14-17).
 - (d) He allowed His disciples to see His ministry and what would soon be their own (Matthew 8:1-17, 28-34; Matthew 9:18-34).
 - (e) He put the disciples in situations where they could see His power working in their lives (Matthew 8:23-27).
 - (f) He made an appeal for pray for additional labourers to be sent forth (Matthew 9:35-38).
 - (g) He called the disciples unto Himself, gave them power and purpose, and sent them forth to teach and preach (Matthew 10:1-42).
 - ii) Consider the example of Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2).

- (3) On a more directed and specific level, a teacher of God's word must first possess knowledge of God's word.
 - a) People are most excited and therefore ambassadors for a subject or product when they newly learn of it. This means the most zealous of promoters commonly lack the full information needed to be accurate in an assessment.
 - b) Sadly, the most desirous of teaching God's word typically lack the knowledge necessary to be effective teachers.
 - c) Before teaching God's word, one should possess a working knowledge of:
 - i) The doctrines of God
 - (a) One should know that the Godhead is made up of a Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.
 - (b) One should know the differences between the ministries and actions of the persons of the Godhead.
 - ii) The doctrines of creation
 - (a) One needs to know the basic details of God's creative work and how the word of God rejects the tenants of evolution in every way.
 - (b) One needs an understanding the makeup of man and the doctrine of sin.
 - iii) The doctrines of revelation
 - (a) One should know the veracity and identity of the word of God.
 - (b) One should have a basic grasp of the differences in God's dealings with man both in the past and in the coming days.
 - iv) The doctrines of redemption
 - (a) One should be saved and have a grasp on what salvation is and likewise be able to communicate how to be saved.
 - (b) One should know the difference between Israel and the church as well as knowing the distinctions in God's plan and provisions for the two.
- b. One must avoid the hindrances to knowledge. For example,
 - (1) Erring in spirit (Isaiah 29:24)
 - (2) Pride (1 Timothy 6:3-4)
 - (3) Preconceived ideas
 - a) Getting the cart before the horse—People commonly determine what they believe then venture to the scriptures to find evidence to back what they have determined to believe. This is erroneous.
 - b) Closed-mindedness to the Bible—Once people deem themselves masters of a subject, they shut down the possibility of new and perhaps corrective learning.

2. Perfect the knowledge
 - a. Consider the advice of wise counsel.
 - (1) From Pastor Cornelius Elven to Pastor Charles Spurgeon— Charles Spurgeon accepted his first pastorate in Waterbeach Baptist Church at the age of seventeen. On his first anniversary at the church, Pastor Cornelius Elven said to him, “Lad, study hard; keep abreast of your foremost Christians; for if they outstrip you in knowledge of Scripture or power to edify, they will be dissatisfied with your ministry.” Taken from *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers* by Lewis Drummond (page 165).
 - (2) From Pastor David F. Reagan to us—“Remember what you have been taught. Always be seeking more understanding and wisdom from the Lord. Determine in your heart to never stop growing in the things of the Lord and in your service to Him. You cannot lead people where you have not gone. If you want your people to continue to grow in the things of the Lord, then you must continue to grow spiritually.”
 - b. Consider the biblical validation of the advice.
 - (1) The example of Christ with the disciples
 - a) The Lord’s earthly ministry began about the age 30 and He spent several years drawing disciples unto Himself and teaching them His doctrine.
 - b) Both during and at the end of His earthly ministry, Christ commissioned His disciples to go forth and preach and teach what they had learned to others.
 - c) In order to continue their learning, He promised, after His departure, to send them a Comforter who would TEACH them (John 14:26; John 16:13).
 - (2) The example of Paul with Timothy
 - a) Paul taught Timothy and encouraged him to pass the teaching received to others (2 Timothy 2:2).
 - b) Yet, in the same chapter, Paul admonished Timothy to “Study to shew THYSELF approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

B. Build in the Right Direction

1. Start at the base.
 - a. Personally—A good teacher will not START with the latest bit of knowledge that he/she has learned. Rather, the teacher would begin with knowledge possessed and understood.
 - b. Provisionally—One should start with what a student already knows.
2. Build up. As a teacher, it is your responsibility to start with what your students know and leave them with everything that you know (Acts 20:20-21, 27).