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# What is God Teaching Me?

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“Joyful are those you discipline, Lord, those you teach with your instructions. You give them relief from troubled times until a pit is dug to capture the wicked.”

Psalms 94:12-13 NLT

### **What is God Teaching Me?**

My top strength according to the Clifton’s Strengths Assessment is Learner. I love to learn. However, I confess that my love for learning is usually directly related to topics or concepts of my own choosing. For example, I’m currently diving in deeply into understanding the various aspects of self-care and even creating a theology of self-care. Far beyond the superficial ways our society often talks about self-care, I’m seeking to understand a spiritual and holistic approach. Who knew that a healthy approach to self-care included overcoming things such as “cognitive distortions,” according to the authors of [A Guide to Ministry Self-Care](#). Engaging in this topic at this point in my life is both relevant and stimulating for me. Ask me to learn more about physics or mathematics and I would not have the same joyful approach to the process of learning.

Can I make a confession? I’m not always excited about the concepts God wants me to learn. Patience? Long-suffering? Self-control? Humility? Thanks God, but I’d rather not.

When I consider what God is trying to teach me right now, I often feel like *“This is more than what I signed up for! God, why?! Isn’t there another way, a less painful, challenging way that I can learn from you?”*

What is God trying to teach you right now? What does He want you to learn? Are you trying to avoid the learning process, or are you leaning into it? If you’re trying to avoid it, what are you most afraid of?

The Psalmist says we will experience joy and relief or rest when we allow God’s Word to instruct us, teach us, and discipline us. This seems difficult to imagine if there’s a particular negative experience or person you’re impatient about and wish that God would throw into a pit.

Dwight L. Moody once wrote, “When I pray, I talk to God but when I read the Bible God is talking to me.”

What I understand from what the Psalmist and Moody are saying is that the degree to which I experience joy is directly related to my willingness to engage in God’s Word so that He may instruct me, and my vulnerability through prayer to express myself honestly in the midst of the sometimes painful process in learning from God.

Do you want to experience joy? Relief? Rest? Take some time today to open the Word of God and ask Him to talk to you. Through prayer, tell Him your reservations to the learning process and ask Him to give you a heart that is surrendered. That you may come to know and understand all the many blessings He has in store for you.

May you find overwhelmingly satisfying joy as you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week.

Challenge:

1. Ask God what He's wanting to teach you in this current season of life. Journal about this.
2. If you're feeling reserved or fearful about the process God is wanting to take you through, pray the words of Psalm 139:23-24 and ask for a surrendered heart.
3. Reach out to a mentor, friend or chaplain and ask for help, "*I feel impressed that God is wanting to teach me \_\_\_\_ right now, but I'm not sure where to start?*"

-Pastor Anna Bennett