

A PASSION FOR TEACHING

Teacher Tips by Brent Amato

IN ANY TEACHER TRAINING, should we not consider inspiration before implementation, motivation before methodology, passion before presentation? Think about teachers who have captivated you. I suspect one characteristic of those teachers was their sincere enthusiasm that flowed from hearts passionate about their role.

There are three major sources of passion for Christian teaching. These three are available to all who aspire to be excellent teachers.

Who Is Teaching: You in Christ!

Realize in the truest and best sense that it is not *just you* who is teaching, but rather *you in Christ*. This “you” is filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 2:20). Always keep in mind your spiritual resources for teaching. This means moving beyond secular, human-based credentials to spiritual, God-based power (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3-5; Colossians 3:16). This enables you to identify your insecurities and anxieties about teaching so you can give them over to the Lord (1 Peter 5:7). When you do, you can move beyond Moses’ self-doubting responses to God’s call (Exodus 3:11; 4:10, 13) to confident acceptance of that call.

Realize that your role is more than a teacher—you are nothing less than a steward of the gospel (compare 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2; 1 Timothy 1:11, 12)! Be faithful and teach, looking forward to the day you will hear the commendation of our Lord: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21, 23).

Realize also that we cannot fully comprehend the impact of a Spirit-filled, spiritually gifted teacher (John 14:12). *Passionately teach!*

What You Are Teaching: God’s Word!

Realize that you are teaching nothing less than the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13)! When you hold your Bible in your hand, think of yourself as Moses holding the tablets at Mount Sinai.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16a). The Word of God identifies and meets your students’ deepest needs (Hebrews 4:12).

Realize that the Bible is profitable for all whom you teach (2 Timothy 3:16b, 17); it will not fail to accomplish God’s purpose for them (Isaiah 55:11). *Passionately teach!*

Whom You Are Teaching: Your Students!

Realize that you are influencing your students individually and corporately in your church. Realize also that your students may change from week to week in the ways they respond and react to the sown Word. Like Peter, one student may walk into class as a coward in the courtyard one week (Matthew 26:69-75) but as a bold preacher in a public forum the next (Acts 2:14-36). Like Thomas, another student may come as a person of great courage one week (John 11:16), as a doubter the next (20:24, 25), and as a devout worshipper the third (20:26-28).

Realize the truth in the observation, “Everyone is a potential winner. Some people are disguised as losers; don’t let their appearance fool you.” God knows which students will yield that hundredfold crop (Matthew 13:8, 23), so let him worry about that. Your goal as a teacher should be that every lesson will promote spiritual maturity for the building of the body of Christ as you sow the Word (Ephesians 4:11-16). *Passionately teach!*

Teaching as a Passion

Realize how awesome it is for a Christian to be privileged to teach the Bible to others! Make it your goal to be like Apollos, who not only “spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately” (Acts 18:25) but also was open to being taught “the way of God more adequately” (18:26). The old cliché “leaders are readers” includes the idea that teachers never stop learning. This too is part of your passion to teach.