



## Outer Growth - Experience

**With the ancient is wisdom, and in the length of days understanding.**

*Job 12:12*

**Experiment** - 2 Corinthians 9:13

**Xray** - 1 Samuel 16:7

**Practice** - Phillippians 4:9

**Eyes** - Luke 24:16

**Resilient** - 2 Corinthians 4:8

**improvement** - 1 Timothy 6:6

**Ears** - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

**Network** - 1 Timothy 6:18

**Contrary** - Leviticus 26:21

**Endurance** - 1 Timothy 4:15

Is experience good? Or is it too good?

Experience signals competence, growth, and stability. While on the other hand, it seems there is a downside where it is limiting, implies stale ideas, narrow vision, and tired habits of thought. However, experience sometimes is prone to a lack of energy and originality, the inability to see new avenues, and minds that are susceptible to seeing dead ends.

Experience from a Christian perspective should be more private and humble toward God and not boastful among others because that behavior could turn out to be prideful, not of God but of the devil. In Matthew seven, verses twenty-two through twenty-three give an example of how God responds to people with experience. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity."

Experience is the knowledge of how to do something that requires consistent involvement, a sense of understanding, and continuous practice that translates to skill through patience. However, the pros and cons of this asset do not always mesh well with society. Employers, businesses, and social and athletic organizations usually welcome experience, but employees, partners, colleagues, and teammates might not. Experience is not bad, but it depends upon the person who possesses it. The difference will be the character of that individual: humble or cocky will affect the other staff in a good or bad way.

Experience from a Biblical perspective is quite different from the world. Tradition, church activities, and other social environments do not influence our relationship with God. He sees the heart and knows if it is clean before Him, living for Him or not, or in sin. God sees right through us, and no experience will help us or determine if we will be in heaven with Him for all eternity. Experience is earthly, not spiritual.

Experience is to investigate or test. To apply what we know into action to discover the results. Translating our discovery into practice. After finding out the outcome, we can make adjustments to make it better the next time around by repeating similar steps. The repetitive activity allows a person to get familiar with what they are doing.

For believers, the experience God requires is daily abiding by His Word, which is the Holy Bible. To read and obey because He honors His Word above His name. Other things God expects us to do every day are to pray to Him through prayer, give thanks daily, praise Him regularly, worship Him often, and express love to others.

Experience is having an understanding of the situation in every area of life. Utilizing the opportunity to change each circumstance for the better. Even though we attempt to do good for ourselves, there will be unexpected challenges when pursuing to make things different. Especially the people around us that have an idea of what we are attempting. However, we should not stop trying until something happens.

Experience is not the priority among the people of God, but a humble heart and love for God from the start will enable a person to rise above the rest. Matthew twenty, verse sixteen, declares, "But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first." God does the same with us. He sees us from the inside out without operating on us from the outside.

God told Samuel in First Samuel sixteen, verse seven, in looking to anoint a new king, not to look at countenance or height of stature but the heart.

Experience comes through exercise. The old saying, "Practice to perfection." However, experience does not mean through a daily routine that everyone comes out on top of the opposition. Other requirements may need to be in place to overcome challenges. However, practice does get people comfortable with making a step forward toward better results. Experience does not benefit believers unless in the form of obedience: God blesses those who obey, especially leaders He has ordained and approved. Jericho was a city of high antiquity where no one went out, and none came inside. In the book of Joshua, chapter six depicts how Joshua leads the children of Israel through the instruction of the Mighty God. The men of war Israelites encompassed Jericho and marched around the city for six consecutive days. Through obedience to their leader Joshua, their daily practice enabled them to gain favor with God and defeat Jericho.

The experience begins with the eyes. The old saying, "seeing is believing," helps give knowledge to the person to pursue in the direction they believe they should go. Every day we get familiar with things that enable us to navigate from various areas to another. The eyes are the door to the soul, which involves the heart and mind.

In the spiritual realm, the physical eye cannot comprehend what is from God. The Lord, by His providence, restrained their eyes so that though they saw a man, they could not discern who he was. We may learn from hence that the form of the body of Christ did not change after his resurrection. His body had similar dimensions, the same quantity, color, and figure, and was a proper object for human

eyes. Otherwise, there had been no need for their eyes to grasp.

Experience is the course of being flexible. The person can adapt to the expectations to overcome challenges and opposition. Most people that perform well and take care of their responsibilities efficiently are regularly the ones that have unexpectedly received instruction to make changes to the demand by the leader. However, the pliable ones often rise to the accusation to cater to the new approach of an assignment. The results exude confidence in those who can bend but not break.

The believer's perspective is quite different when it involves experience. Spiritually, God encourages participation in repetitive prayer, Bible study, worship, praise, thanksgiving, obedience, and consistently loving those around us. God is a spirit. The activities in the areas previously mentioned attract His attention. The objective for the believer is to connect in spirit and truth.

Experience is something better which is the advancement from the previous level. The old saying, "getting better each day," or "getting better with age," still stands out. The quest for continuous improvement is the common goal for athletes, leaders, teachers, or any profession. Particularly for older people looking for alternatives to sustain or get ahead. Still, to advance in anything requires time to do it.

On the other hand, spiritually, the development of believers depends upon the amount of time they give to God. Devotion, worship, and asking for the spiritual gifts He has to offer are the things believers need to advance. The first and foremost goal for followers of God should be to allow the spirit to lead, not the flesh. However, Christians today still have it the opposite way. Still, asking God for things instead of Him: should be vice versa.

One way to achieve experience is through listening. In our society, some people are millionaires, and a few billionaires that we may hear about at some point. Most of them were not born into it, but somewhere along the journey, they had to listen to reach that plateau. The encounter of many speakers, teachers, trainers, family, friends, and other business associates that the ears had to listen

to for the rest of the body to follow to enjoy the fruits of their labor today. Experience through listening does not come easy because we have to filter out between the advice that will advance and not fall behind.

Believers must listen to sound teaching that will help them develop spiritually. To avoid the false teachers that would arise and turn potential converts into Christ from the true faith into error and myths. The problem with experience in this area is that people could divert to compromise, grow tired of the true gospel, and reject it. Instead, they would turn in other directions, looking to replace sound or healthy teaching.

Experience listeners expect when the gospel message begins with a humbling thought: we are imperfect and in need of saving. Instead of following godly teachers, these people would follow teachers who told them what they liked to hear rather than what was true. The idea of "itching ears" may be twitching or moving ears that seek something different from the traditional gospel message. Instead of experiencing an advantage, it becomes a disadvantage.

Experience is to attract others by helping them with the skills we have already acquired or attaining from those who have what we require. The inside track is to capitalize on the opportunity when it presents itself: The capability of reaching out to get more. To boost our status from different channels to reach other people who may need our services while getting theirs in return. However, this is all from the physical perspective.

Believers, the experience of reaching out to others depends upon our relationship with God, which is internal. Those led by the Holy Spirit are the Sons of God, His people. Where God's Spirit is, there is liberty. The people who connect with His servants look for answers only God can provide through His vessels, with the Holy Spirit leading the way. The people either accept or reject Him: it is that simple.

Experience does not always attract others but could turn people away. Sometimes a person with a solid background may completely demotivate others by how they behave and make the atmosphere seem unpleasant. Too much knowledge may intimidate others by

having no room to change or improve. The old saying, "Can't teach an old dog new tricks." When the person knows too much would make it hard to receive anything from others.

Spiritually, a believer will experience indifference to others. The light of God will be on those who serve God in spirit and truth, where some people we meet will not understand. The difference is God in their lives, and the world will have difficulty embracing it. However, some wrongheaded people have good motives to serve God but are attached to society carnally. There are church leaders, members, and gospel singers that find themselves that way even though they initially were not that way.

Experience requires durability. There will be days when stamina is needed, perseverance, tolerance, and patience. The tasks we face will not always be easy to overcome. There will be struggles, doubt, and worry that tries to creep in for us to quit. However, if we stay the course and hold on, things will eventually work in our favor.

On the other hand, true Christians will undergo tests ranging from mild to severe. We do not make our road of trials because everyone that serves God knows we have to go through it when it comes. Why do we go through them? Only God knows why. The difference is we go through them to make us better.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who knew no sin, became the carrier of sin for us when He went to the cross for our sins. All the pain and suffering that He experienced is beyond human comprehension. However, Jesus did it because He loves us. First, Peter four, verse eight, says, "Above all things have fervent charity among ourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. He bore them on the cross until the end.

Is experience good? Or is it too good?

Physically, it appears good up to a certain extent. However, does it favor the ones that have it at the end? Not really.

From the spiritual perspective, experience appears good on the outside, but the heart determines where a person stands with God. Good or not, He sees right through, so we cannot fool Him. Experience is irrelevant.