

Christian Learner  
Wisdom and Gaining Knowledge Equals Joy

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## **Introduction**

### **Christian Learner: Find Joy in Learning by Gaining Wisdom and Gaining Knowledge**

When a Christian learner gains insight that learning is needed and takes the appropriate action to learn the knowledge and apply it, there will be joy and satisfaction with learning. The premise for this paper is in the Bible verse Ecclesiastes 2:26: (NASB) “For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy...” The Christian learner is given wisdom (insight), knowledge and joy (learning satisfaction).

### **Wisdom**

Wisdom is the starting point for the learner to gain knowledge. Wisdom will allow the learner to recognize with their senses to discern when a learning event is needed based on prior experiences or lack of prior experiences. It is important to note for a Christian learner, they will recognize that God is the source of wisdom (Proverbs 2:6, NASB.)

Experiences either present or absent, can allow the learner to be wise about initiating learning event. Albu states that a learning event is introduced because the learner can't always count on past experience. He also notes that the learner will always have something to discover, to understand, to (re)structure, to rearrange, to show, to (re)brief, to (re)conquer (2009.) When there is a deficiency in knowledge based on an experience, learning will need to be started to eliminate the shortage. Proverbs 18:15 (NASB) states that the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. A Christian learner will need to be wise and discern, based on their past experiences, when to start a learning event to either discover or re-discover knowledge.

Wisdom can be gathered through different experiences. Sutherland (2012) states that wisdom is gathered cognitive events, through the senses, the learner's experience (implicit forces) and instruction or observation (explicit forces.) Based on this information, the learner can learn through sight, sound, touch, taste, hearing and external instruction or observing others for cultural cues. Proverbs 1:5 (NASB) says "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance." In this proverb, in order to increase in learning, the Christian learner needs to use their wisdom to discern that the message is worthy and then to listen to the information.

Wisdom can be described in two different processes. One explores the mystery of being, and the other provides a foundation for becoming (Jarvis 2011.) For learners, wisdom is the foundation for becoming more experienced or more self-directed in their learning process. Jarvis also states the wisdom is cultivating intelligence in order to enhance the common good, and is acquired as an element in our learning from our own lives, often incidentally and unconsciously (2011.) Jarvis notes that we build up a store of tacit knowledge that expands with age and experience. Ideally, as the Christian learner grows in age and experience, their knowledge will also increase. Job 12:12 (NASB) states that "Wisdom is with aged men." Wisdom will increase in age; however, the Christian learner should also acknowledge that the instructor, who may be older or have more experience, may be wiser.

When the Christian learner can gain wisdom, through the senses, experience or as a process, they will be able to determine when a learning event is required to gain knowledge or instruction. The learner will also need to recognize that wisdom is also based on experience and will need to reply on the instruction of others to increase their knowledge.

### **Gaining Knowledge & Instruction**

In order to be successful with gaining knowledge and instruction, the Christian learner should support self-direct learning, inquiry based learning or active learning. Once the learner is able to discern that they need to learn, they need to look for ways to obtain this learning, either through self-direct learning or through an instructor. Matthew 7:7 (NASB) states “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find...” For a Christian learner, they should be in the habit of asking and seeking knowledge for growth.

As a whole, the process for seeking knowledge (learning) can be divided into two parts. Albu states that the learning process, there are two big periods: the period of climbing (learning) and the one of joy - of self-learning (2009.) The instructor will need to design the instruction that will be under the learners’ abilities, so that the learner can feel the satisfaction of the success and joy (2009.) With every victory, the instructor can adjust the learning to be more and more self-directed. Proverbs 9:9 (NASB) states “Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.” When the instructor can provide a progressive instruction, the Christian learner will be able to increase in the learning and become more self-directed. The learner will need to be accountable to hear and process the new information in order to become effective.

Part of gaining knowledge and instruction is preparing the learner for future learning experiences. Instructors will need to prepare the learners for the complex world in which they will live and work. The instructor should develop interactive, inquiry-based, technology-rich curriculum (Berger 2010.) Berger also states that active learners, rather than passive, learners are better able to understand complex material and can more effectively transfer information. For the Christian learner, they will need to inquire with the correct motives. James 4:3 (NASB) states “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on

your pleasures.” When they inquire with the wrong motives, effective learning may not take place.

By gaining knowledge through the period of climbing and being inquisitive, the Christian learner will be able to absorb the new information. The Christian learner should also be prepared, through instruction, for the complex world and unexpected questions.

### **Joy & Learning Satisfaction**

Joy can be found in reflection, with feeling of being useful and within a successful self-directed learning environment. Warner cites The Random House College Dictionary to define joy as "the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something good or satisfying; keen pleasure." Warner also states that one emotional response that is perhaps pivotal to the success of the learning process is joy (2006.) For the Christian learner, they will know that “in God’s presence there will be fullness of joy” (Psalms 16:11, NASB.) When there is joy and satisfaction in learning, it should lead to an increase in learning events.

Joy in learning can be found in reflection. With reflection, the learner can relate their present action and engage with the Christian vision to making meaning of the world and combine together events, persons, and experiences that would otherwise be fragmented (Quezada 2011.) By combining together persons and events into a whole picture, there will be joy. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NASB) states two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. When combining people and events, the joy will be a reaction to a good reward for their work.

When the learner can feel useful, joy can be taking place. Parker states that when a Christian learner is able to embody the ideals of their faith, they are much more likely to feel a sense of usefulness when involved in learning (2009.) There is a direct correlation between the

effort of the learner and the satisfaction or joy of the completed work or training. Galatians 6:7 (NASB) states "...for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Ideally, when the Christian learner is accountable for their learning and knows that they can apply it, the learning will be more effective and induce a joyful feeling.

As stated before, the learning process can be divided into two processes. Albu states that there are two big periods: the period of climbing (learning) and the one of joy - of self-learning (2009.) He states that if the learner does not go through the first process, then the learner will not be able to see the joy of learning (2009.) When the learner discovers the satisfaction of learning, they should be self-encouraged to create more learning events. Proverbs 128:2 states that "When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you." With effective learning (fruit), the Christian learner will be joyful and happy.

The instructor can also encourage joy in their learning events. Warner states that the teacher should feel joy about what he or she does. The attitude of the teacher about the topic, the classroom environment, the learners, and technology in general will significantly influence the attitude of the learners (2009.) Deuteronomy 16:15 (NASB) states "LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful." When the Christian instructor or learner experiences satisfaction, there will be joy.

### **Summary**

For a Christian learner to find joy in learning, they will need wisdom to know when a learning event is needed and then find knowledge or instruction. With wisdom, the Christian learner can identify when learning needs to take place based on the senses, experiences and cognitive events. Once a decision with wisdom is made, the Christian learner can gain

knowledge and instruction by guided self-directed learning, inquiry based instruction or active participation. Once learning is complete, the Christian learner will be able to be joyful at the outcome based on reflection, feeling useful and by being a self-directed learning.

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