



TEACHERS FOR LIFE!

Organized for Lessons to Be Learned...by Gerald Cumby

I love teachers. I am married to one. Although retired, she is still teaching at ?? years old (I'll let you guess how old). She teaches me to close doors to cabinets, teaches me to take my medicine every day, to close the garage door if I open it to leave, and to not change channels on the TV when she is watching a Hallmark movie.

When you are a retired teacher, you reflect on what makes a good teacher...or, at least, hope and pray that the good teachers remain teaching and don't seek employment in another field.

What if a teacher came in on the first day of school, welcomed the class, immediately asked them to take out a piece of paper...and get ready for their final exam? No matter how smart a person, teacher, or a professor is, they are not a good teacher at all if they expect one to know the answer to the final exam without first being taught. It's one thing to be a teacher in practice, and another to be a teacher at heart. Good teachers see possibilities in people. They are hopeful that others can learn and grow. They don't assume people are what they are and will never change. Rather, teachers want to influence, to shape, to guide. They want to inform, and present facts, and provide motivation. They want to *teach* and *through words* change people.

Christianity is a teaching movement. We are people of a Book — and what's in the Book? Teaching. Content to be learned, welcomed, and taught. Which means that, as we're called to teach others in whatever forms, we're called together to a kind of patience — the patience that doesn't hear someone say one wrong or suspect word and give up on them. Rather, we take a deep breath, pray for patience, and begin the hard work of teaching. Perhaps the more important truth to reflect on is how God has been *the good teacher* with us. We have a God who loves to teach. Aren't you glad that God has handled you as any good teacher would?

Oh, the patience, and teaching, of our God! We have the Book we do because he is inclined to teach. Over centuries. What patience. We have the lives we do, the faith we do, and the shared calling we do, because our God is patient, with such a proneness and proclivity to teach. Our God is a teacher at heart.

He taught Adam in the garden, and taught Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Through Moses, he taught the people. *Torah*, the name for the first five books of the Old Testament, means *instruction* or *teaching*. Through prophets and kings and sages as his mouthpieces, God taught his people, and is still teaching.

And when he came and lived among us in the person of his Son, he taught. His miraculous works (including signs/miracles) made the people marvel, but these “signs” were performed because they served his teaching. They pointed to his person, and his words of instruction — his parables, his Sermon on the Mount, his Olivet Discourse. Jesus is the single greatest teacher the world has ever known, and it is no accident. Because our God loves to teach. He is a teacher at heart.

Make no mistake, the final exam is coming. Our lives here will end, if Christ doesn’t first return to take us home. But in the meantime, he continues to teach. Through the teachings of his apostles. Through the faithful, patient, careful teaching of his word through pastor-teachers in the church .

How different is our world and history, and our own lives, and our hope for days to come, because our God is a teacher at heart.

Some of this material came from **David Mathis (@davidcmathis)**. ***He is executive editor for desiringGod.org and pastor at [Cities Church](https://citieschurch.com). He is a husband, father of four, and author of *Workers for Your Joy: The Call of Christ on Christian Leaders* (2022).***

Father God, thank you for being the good teacher. Thank you for life, especially the teaching of eternal life through your Son...who has taught us well through the Book of Life. In Jesus name, Amen!