

Who was the teacher that influenced you the most?
Colossians 1:9-10

Most of us were influenced by a teacher. Because we are in the “education business”, typically we can point to one or two people that made such a profound difference in our lives that we said “hmmmm, I wonder if God is calling me to the teaching ministry?”

My story is unique. Not growing up as a Christian, my worldview was quite different in high school and college. Some teachers’ influence was not necessarily the best. Further, I was a Business and Accounting major so teaching really didn’t cross my mind.

Becoming a Christian for me was an evolutionary process. The more I was exposed to the Word and Christian friends, the more my faith began to take root and grow. A key turning point in my life happened when a teacher (actually a Director of Christian Education)¹ challenged me to an in depth Bible Study. That sounded interesting, but really, 6:00 AM every week for two years. Really?

I agreed to give it a try. I was fascinated. The teacher opened up the scriptures to me in ways I had never heard or considered. I found myself devouring the Word of God wanting to know more and more and more. Years before, I had given up the resistance of the Holy Spirit and accepted the unconditional love of Jesus. But getting into the Word is what caused my faith to grow. More than a dozen years after beginning this class, the process one teacher started caused me to walk away from a very successful business career into full time ministry.

In just a few verses, Colossians 1 talks a lot about being in the Word. “... be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” (emphasis mine)

Who was the teacher who influenced you the most? Who encouraged you to dig deep into the Scriptures? Who caused you to follow God’s calling in your life? More importantly, who are you teaching, guiding and influencing?

To God the glory!
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1 - In gratitude and thanksgiving to Timothy J. Hetzner, DCE