

**EMPLOYING YOUR EXPERIENCE**  
**Finding Your Fit In Ministry – Part 6**  
**March 9, 2014**

**Job 10:8 (NIV)** *“Your hands shaped me and made me...”*

**Genesis 50:20 (NIV)** *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*

**John 13:7 (NIV)** *“Jesus replied, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’”*

**GOD WILL USE YOUR EXPERIENCES...**

**1. To teach you to TRUST Him.**

**2 Corinthians 1:9 (NCV)** *“Truly, in our own hearts we believed we would die. But this happened so we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises people from the dead.”*

**You're never going to know that God is all you need UNTIL He's all you've got.**

**2. To build your CHARACTER.**

**Romans 5:3b-4 (NIV)** *“...we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

**Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)** *“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”*

**3. To accomplish His PURPOSES.**

**Philippians 1:12 (CEV)** *“My dear friends, I want you to know that what has happened to me has helped to spread the good news.”*

**HOW TO USE THE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE**

**1. EXAMINE your experiences.**

**Galatians 3:4 (GNT)** *“Did all your experience mean nothing at all? Surely it meant something!”*

**It's especially important for you to examine your failures.**

**Galatians 3:4 (Phillips)** *“Has all your painful experience brought you nowhere?”*

**2. EXTRACT the lessons you learned.**

**In The School Of Experience...**

- If you FLUNK the test the first time, keep taking it until you pass.
- When you come to GRADUATION, you find there is more to learn.

**Deuteronomy 11:2a (GNT)** *“Remember today what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with Him.”*

**Maturity is the ability to remember and apply the lessons you've already learned from your experiences.**

**3. EXPLORE the experiences of others.**

**Proverbs 27:17 (GNT)** *“People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.”*

**Proverbs 25:12 (GNT)** *“A warning given by an experienced person to someone willing to listen is more valuable than gold rings or jewelry made of the finest gold.”*

**4. EMPLOY your experiences to encourage and help other people.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GNT)** *“...Encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.”*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (GNT)** *“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! <sup>4</sup>He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.”*

**Use your Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences to help and encourage other people.**

## EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

**Romans 8:28 (NIV)** *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experiences, particularly my hurts and problems I've overcome with God's help.

Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the *“school of hard knocks.”*

### God never wastes a hurt!

God wants you to be open to ministering to people who are going through what you've already been through.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT)** *“...God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”*

### Please write down some of your...

#### Spiritual Experiences...

List some of your most meaningful decisions or times with God...

#### Painful Experiences...

List some of your trials or problems or hurts that could help you relate to and encourage another believer who is facing a similar situation...

#### Educational Experiences...

List your favorite subjects in school. What seminars or training have you taken that have been meaningful to you?

#### Ministry Experiences...

List where and how you have served in the past...