

**The Spiritual Journey to Excellence
In Adventist Education -
5 Key Learnings**

Every student in Adventist schools is to experience competency in the following :

1. They will know by experience that they are a son/daughter of God:

Think about this: The Creator, the One who is in control of this whole universe, when it comes to you relationship with Him says to each one of us, “Child, you are in charge of this one. You decide. ” Then with a depth of love that we will never know, He pleads with us, “Child, please accept Me as your Abba – as your heavenly Daddy. Please, child.”

2. They will now by experience that Jesus, their “Big Brother” has paid the price of their admission into heaven.

Everybody needs a big brother. Education, p.25 says, “Christ is our Brother”, The Biblical metaphor – Hen gathers her chicks.

3. They will know by experience God’s purpose for their lives.

They are here to:

- 1) Warm the heart of God each day
- 2) Become more and more like Jesus
- 3) be tools in God’s hands to accomplish His will each day

We do not, as followers of Christ, realize our true position. We do not have correct views of our responsibilities as hired servants of Christ. He has advanced us the wages in His suffering life and spilled blood, to bind us in willing servitude to Himself. **All the good things we have are a loan from our Saviour. He has made us stewards.** Our smallest offerings, our humblest services, presented in faith and love, may be consecrated gifts to win souls to the service of the Master and to promote His glory. The interest and prosperity of Christ's kingdom should be paramount to every other consideration. Those who make their pleasure and selfish interest the chief objects of their lives are not faithful stewards. {3T 397.1}

Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God, and seeking to make a savior of our activity. **We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the work.** While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good. **No other life was ever so crowded with labor and responsibility as was that of Jesus; yet how often**

He was found in prayer! How constant was His communion with God!
{DA 362}

It was Christ who gave to the builders of the tabernacle wisdom to execute the most skillful and beautiful workmanship. He said, "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and **I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.** . . . And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and **in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee.**" Ex. 31:2-6.
{COL 349.1}

God desires that His workers in every line shall look to Him as the Giver of all they possess. All right inventions and improvements have their source in Him who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. The skillful touch of the physician's hand, his power over nerve and muscle, his knowledge of the delicate organism of the body, is the wisdom of divine power, to be used in behalf of the suffering. The skill with which the carpenter uses the hammer, the strength with which the blacksmith makes the anvil ring, comes from God. He has entrusted men with talents, and He expects them to look to Him for counsel. Whatever we do, in whatever department of the work we are placed, He desires to control our minds that we may do perfect work. {COL 349.2}

4. **They will know that all of their skills, abilities and talents do not belong to them:**
 - a. "We have been bought by a price. We are not our own."
 - b. "All of our gifts are a loan from Christ ... We are His stewards."
5. **They will know their importance to Christ through out eternity:**

They are His "trophies", they are His "jewels", and they are His "chief glory".

Support Material:

Introduction: From Alcoholics Anonymous, "Hi, I'm your name here and I'm special."
Response: "Hi your name here." Satan works to damage each person emotionally. To make us feel inferior, inadequate, less than. His intent is, that by doing this, we will spend our lives in search of significance rather than in search of God. The two driving needs is our lives will be: 1) the need for acceptance and recognition - look at me, everybody, look at me. Look at the car I drive and the cloths I wear. See how good I am. See how smart I am. See how musical I am. See how athletic I am. And 2) the need to control – I've been hurt so much by things I have not been able to control now I'm going to control everything around me. I will use friendliness, and helpfulness as collateral. I will give up these things that I might manipulate others to come under my control because when I'm in control, no one can hurt me.

Conclusion: We are tempted to forget who we are and what we are here for. Steps to Christ, p. 71 says this “is Satan’s constant effort ...”. That is where Seventh-day Adventist educators come on the scene. Our teacher’s are called to go up against “principalities and powers in high places.” They are called to “stand in the gap” –Malachi 3:3 with one hand building a relationship with their students and with the other hand building their own relationship with God. They are, through the power of “Christ in them”, called to bring those two hands together and attach the hand of each student with the omnipotent hand of God.

That word Omnipotent – do you know what that means? It means unlimited power.

Now look at this: “When the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes OMNIPOTANT. All of His biddings are enabling. What ever is to be done at His command may be accomplished through His strength.” –

It’s time to get very serious about our priorities, educator friend. A few minutes with Jesus in the morning then quickly out the door to race through the rest of the day is like trying to survive on a few deep breaths at the beginning of the day and then an occasional breath every few hours from that point on for the remainder of the day. That will not work. And friends, a lot of what we have been doing has not really worked either. Oh, we’ve gone through the motions and we’ve given the students some understanding of who they are and what they are here for; but we haven’t gone after our students the way our Father and our Big Brother, and our dear friend – The Holy Spirit have gone after us. It’s time to get serious friends. It’s time that we truly understand our Father’s estimate of what we do. We are not just teachers, we are not just educators, we are Ambassadors of Christ and we are CALLED to be His leaders in child and youth evangelism. Amen! And don’t let Satan tell you otherwise. Are you special? Is the work we are doing important! You had better believe it! And it’s not important because we are helping students to become competent in reaching the “national standards,” It’s important because our Father has called us to the mission of telling His little ones who He is – their heavenly Daddy,
Telling them what their Big Brother has done for them – He gave His life for them
Telling them God’s purpose for their lives.
Telling them that those skills and abilities they have are on loan to them to draw others to God.
And telling them how special they will be to Christ for eternity.

The Bible enjoins courtesy, and it presents many illustrations of the unselfish spirit, the gentle grace, the winsome temper, that characterize true politeness. **These are but reflections of the character of Christ. All the real tenderness and courtesy in the world, even among those who do not acknowledge His name, is from Him. And He desires these characteristics to be perfectly reflected in His children. It is His purpose that in us men shall behold His beauty.** {Ed 241.5}

Illustration: Then Peter, turning around saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following ... Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about Him? ... And Jesus answered him, “What is that to you? You must follow me.” Jesus assigned Peter and John to walk two

different paths, but both Peter and John have enriched our lives. Jesus knew how dangerous it is when a servant takes his eyes off the master to focus on a fellow servant. Where is your focus? Have you become more concerned with how God is treating someone else that you are with how he is relating to you? This is the 'what about him/her' complex. Keep your eyes on the prize. Just as Martin Luther King gave a dream speech, I have a dream that one-day teachers will truly see themselves as God's evangelists to His children. I have a dream that soon pastors and teachers will join forces as member of the church vision for evangelism. I have a dream that one day children, and youth, and church members will become a God empowered unit to reach out to the lost in their community. I have a dream that our young people will be filled with God's Spirit and understand that they are part of God's counter culture in this world.

Christ prays a final prayer for his disciples in John 17. He prayed that there would be unity amongst them and that His church of the future would purposefully evangelize the world.

(Note: if sharing this as a presentation/worship, give the participants something they can do right now and a challenge – maybe a silent one while an appropriate song is playing.)

1) It was in hours of solitary prayer that Jesus in His earth life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow His example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with their Father in heaven. And throughout the day let them lift up their hearts to God. At every step of our way 2) He says, "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, . . . Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:13. Could our children learn these lessons in the morning of their years, what freshness and power, what joy and sweetness, would be brought into their lives! {Ed 259.1}

Note: We need to be teaching students to commune with God in their quiet place (Ps: 91:1) He who dwells in the secret place of the most High, (Matt 6:18) pray and fast alone so that you do not appear to men to be fasting; but to you Father who is in the secret place. He sees in secret will reward you openly.

An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10. {Ed 260.2}

Our great need: Revival and reform in the church and in the church school. Paradigm shift.

Note: we give our children the head knowledge of this text; but to remember it, they must experience it. That is where Giraffe University (sticking your neck out) has it right.

These are lessons that only he who himself has learned can teach. It is because so many parents and teachers profess to believe the word of God while their lives deny its power, that the teaching of Scripture has no greater effect upon the youth. At times the youth are brought

to feel the power of the word. They see the preciousness of the love of Christ. They see the beauty of His character, the possibilities of a life given to His service. But in contrast they see the life of those who profess to revere God's precepts. Of how many are the words true that were spoken to the prophet Ezekiel: {Ed 259.2}

Thy people "speak one to another, everyone to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not." Ezekiel 33:30-32. {Ed 259.3}

It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is--the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God's word as anything less than this is to reject it. And this rejection by those who profess to believe it, is foremost among the causes of skepticism and infidelity in the youth. {Ed 260.1}