

11-24-2011 EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE....there is no substitute for it. The process of learning through each of our EXPERIENCES in life is daunting. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

I have had vastly different EXPERIENCES in my life. Like most, some have been awesome, some have been awful. Some have been exhilarating, some have been chilling.

The fact is that we learn from Life's EXPERIENCES. Life is a learning EXPERIENCE. One of my favorite lines in any movie came from "The Natural," when the Glenn Close character said this: "I believe we all have two lives--the life we learn with & the life we live with."

When I was young, I did some dumb things. Looking back, I often wonder what in the world I was thinking? Sound familiar? What I discovered was that my EXPERIENCES shaped the way I thought, what I believed, what I have become.

I believe you must EXPERIENCE all aspects of life--the good & the bad. It shapes us & helps us develop character, rather than spending life acting like a character.

Luis Miguel and Steve Sabol combined on a thought which captures the concept of EXPERIENCE very well.

"I think we all wish we could erase some of the dark times in our lives. But all of life's EXPERIENCES, bad & good, make you who you are. Erasing any of life's EXPERIENCES would be a great mistake. Some EXPERIENCES in life are like the gentle shaping of soft clay in the hands of a sculptor. Others feel like the noisy harshness of a stone mason chipping away with hammer & chisel. Both are needed in life, & each should be celebrated for what they make us & teach us. Easier said than done."

Don't we all feel that way! The bad memories, the dark moments, seem to linger. Ultimately, whatever we have EXPERIENCED has benefited us. We are the clay. We must allow the Lord to be the potter, the sculptor. We learn from both the good & the bad.

The EXPERIENCES are essential in making us more dependent on, more committed to Jesus Christ. There will be darkness, there will be light.

Romans 8:28-29 says this about EXPERIENCE. "& we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are

called according to His purpose. For those whom he foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son."

All things are part of the deal. God purposes those things to ultimately serve his greater glory. He knew you before you were born, before you were formed. We are created in His image & He desires that we be more like Jesus.

There is no substitute for EXPERIENCE. When you seek a job, your resume is extremely important. Are you qualified? Do you have the proper EXPERIENCE? At some point, someone has to step out in faith & take a chance on you.

Similarly, we have to take a chance on others, to step out in faith & take a chance on them. You don't become EXPERIENCED until someone is willing to give you EXPERIENCE.

Let me say this--my EXPERIENCES to this point in my life have led me to one undeniable, clear conclusion--I cannot do it alone, I cannot totally avoid sin, I cannot make all good decisions.

I need a Savior. His name is Jesus Christ. He EXPERIENCED the scorn of the very people He came to save. What a shame! We must EXPERIENCE all aspects of life, the good & the bad & then conform to God's way. Romans 12:2 tells us to not conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test & approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing & perfect will."

For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for EXPERIENCE. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I'm Ken Trahan God bless you!