

Volume 1, Day 20: Transformation: Active Learning

Here is an example of active learning. I wanted to learn to fly airplanes. So at 16 years of age, I worked until I had enough money saved up to actually take my first flying lesson. When I got on the plane with my instructor, we each took our seat. He looked over at me and he said, "I'm going to teach you everything you need to know about flying." And I thought, "Wow. This is great!"

It's absolutely quiet, and I kept looking at him waiting for him to tell me what I should do, but he didn't. I kept looking at him. He kept smiling at me. Finally I got frustrated and said, "What are we doing?" He said, "What would you like to do?" I said, "I'd like to learn to fly." He said, "I'm an instructor. I could teach you." And then he was silent again. Finally it dawned on me that he wanted me to take an active role in my own education.

Instead of my instructor just telling me what I needed to know, he wanted me to ask what specific thing I wanted to know. So I asked him, "Well, what do we want to do first?" He said, "What would you like to do?" I asked, "Do I want to start the plane?" He said, "Every good pilot will pre-flight the aircraft before he starts the plane." And then he was quiet again. He was guiding me to the order of the specific answers, not just the answers.

So when we want to learn this way with God, a great first question would be, "God, what do you have for me today?" Others might be, "What do you want to show me today?" If you have trouble, ask Him about that. "God, I don't understand what's going on here." Don't expect the answer to come immediately. Eventually something will drop into your heart and mind, a thought that's bigger than you, better than you, and you'll realize, oh, that's God showing me something. "How do I walk in that?"