

## **You Are the Student - You Are the Teacher**

In this era of change and challenge to our belief systems, we are sometimes bewildered by the amount of information available to us as we seek to find our truths. Working our way through this maze can be overwhelming when we think we have so much to learn that we'll be students for life. But the truth is, even though we are perpetual students, we do a great disservice by not acknowledging the great reservoir of knowledge we each have within us, and are, indeed, teachers as well. Whether we're aware of it or not, every time we interact with someone we influence them – which, in turn, has an effect on their life experience.

Sometimes during our conversations we learn so much from the people we intermingle with that we don't realize that they, too, are learning from us. Often times things that seem so ordinary to us are a ray of enlightenment to someone else. In terms of learning and teaching, many of our greatest leaders and educators have said they learned at least as much from their students and associates as they taught.

We all have areas in which we have expertise, be it service, communication, repair, recreation, home-making – the ways are endless. It's through our everyday interactions that we become both student and teacher. That's quite a revelation for those of us who pin medals on people who inspire us because of their wisdom and knowledge, yet fail to see the medals we ourselves have earned. We still have much to learn, but each and every one of us has shared knowledge, wisdom and experience that has positively touched the lives of others.

It's important to have respect for our teachers, but we also need to have respect for our own life experiences and what we have learned and passed on to others, usually without being aware of it. For, in truth, we are our own greatest teachers – and our own greatest students.