

## Teachability

"I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. Correct me, O Lord, but in just measure; not in thy anger, lest thou bring me to nothing."  
Jeremiah 10:23-24

Correction can only take place if you acknowledge that you have deviated. Sometimes others can see your errors easier than you can see them. Before receiving their correction, you must acknowledge your propensity to error and be teachable. Jeremiah acknowledged that we are incapable of directing our steps. Left to ourselves we will drift into sin and away from God. Using a biblical analogy, we are like sheep that go astray.<sup>1</sup> **If the Lord does not correct us, we will be lost forever.**

Acknowledging the need for correction, Jeremiah further prays that God will be gentle. If God does not mix mercy with correction, we will be "brought to nothing." "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"<sup>2</sup> Scripture testifies that God answers prayers like Jeremiah's. The Holy Spirit, speaking through the Psalmist, promises, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."<sup>3</sup>

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear."<sup>4</sup> The Lord wants you to depend upon Him for both forgiveness and leadership. But the two go together. He will not have mercy on those who do not want His leadership. **In all probability, His correction will come in the form of one of His servants confronting you.** Your only hope of God answering Jeremiah's prayer on your behalf, is if you **maintain an attitude of teachableness toward others and a broken heart and contrite spirit before Him.**

<sup>1</sup> cf. Isaiah 53:6 <sup>2</sup> Psalm 130:3 <sup>3</sup> Psalm 34:18 <sup>4</sup> Isaiah 59:1