

The Telephone Idea

Alexander Graham Bell spent five frustrating, financially draining years experimenting with a variety of materials in hopes of making a metal disc that would vibrate in response to sound, and could reproduce those sounds and send them over an electrified wire.

During a visit to Washington, D.C., Bell called on Joseph Henry, a scientist who was a pioneer in electronics. Bell presented his ideas to Henry and asked his advice. He wondered if he should pursue his “telephone” idea, given that he lacked the necessary knowledge of electricity. Henry’s advice was simple and direct: “If you don’t have the know-how, get it.”

So, with a steadfast fervor, Bell studied electricity. A year later, when he earned a patent for the telephone, patent-office officials credited him for knowing more about electricity than all the other inventors of his day combined.

Diligence. Studiousness. Hard work. Hope. Perseverance. They are common words, but they are the keys to gaining the skills to do anything uncommonly well.

It’s an old saying, but true: An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men. Proverbs 22:29

--Beecher Hunter