

Relationships that Empower - Part 4

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Introduction:

A. Mentors will play a critical role as we go through the stages of life.

B. Intimacy with Christ is crucial. (John 15:5)

1. We need the power of Christ.

2. Abiding is the key to Christ's power.

I. What kind of relationships do you think of in the Bible?

A. Paul and Timothy

B. Elijah and Elisha.

C. Moses and Joshua.

D. Paul and Barnabas.

1. The disciples were afraid of Paul. (Acts 9:26)

2. Barnabas brought Paul to the disciples, vouching for him.

3. Mentors bridge us into opportunities.

4. Barnabas saw something in Paul.

5. Barnabas went to Antioch and brought Paul to teach, giving him training. (Acts 11:22)

6. Mentoring relationships often become partnerships. (Acts 13:2)

7. Eventually Paul moved out on his own.

E. What is important for a mentor to develop others?

1. Time.

2. Personal experience.

3. Teaching ability.

4. Patience.

5. Flexibility.

6. Tolerance.
7. Perspective.
8. Praying and seeing potential.

F. Mentoring is a relational experience.

1. Mentors empower others by sharing God given resources.
 - a. Share experience or opportunities.
 - b. Pass these resources on in an appropriate manner.
2. We all need some mentors in our lives.
 - a. Intentional.
 - b. Occasional.
 - c. Intensive.

G. Intensive mentors are disciplers.

1. They enable others to follow Christ.
2. Discipleship is not a course we attend but a relationship.
3. How do we know when we finish intensive discipleship?
 - a. We begin discipling others.
 - b. We begin to do things on our own.
 - c. Some mature people have not been disciplined.
4. What are the essentials we need to build into others?
 - a. Love for others (John 13:34-35)
 - b. Quite time with God, building the intimacy with Christ.
 - c. Knowledge of the word. (John 8:31)
 - d. One on one interaction for accountability.
 1. 42% of Americans claim to be born again yet there is little difference in their lives.
 2. My discipler prayed for me and therefore I prayed for others.

3. My discipler had confidence in the word so I developed confidence in the word.

4. Mutual challenge is exciting.

e. Being a spiritual guide, which means the following:

1. Walking in the Spirit.

2. Maturity—wisdom, experience, with a mind overruling the emotions. (Romans 12:2)

3. We need spiritual guides all through life.

4. In times of difficulty spiritual guides are essential.

i. I am going through a difficulty.

ii. My spiritual guide reminds me that I don't have to win; Christ must win.

iii. I went for a spiritual checkup.

iv. After Gordon MacDonald fell morally he began writing and admitted he needed a spiritual guide.

v. He had been feeling prideful and needed a spiritual guide to gain perspective.

5. A coach is another intensive mentor.

a. A coach is a good teacher and motivator.

b. A good coach shows you how to apply knowledge.

c. We need coaching when we are doing something new.

1. Starting a Bible study.

2. Mentoring others.

3. Starting a new job.

4. In Austria we had four kids and needed help with the kids' school.

i. Some friends told us they had the same problem.

ii. They emboldened us to hang in there.

iii. We needed coaching with family devotions.

d. We need coaching with teenagers.

H. Occasional mentors give timely advice and correct perspective.

1. Sometimes we get lost in our difficulty.

a. We need time with a counselor.

b. In Europe the charismatic impacted our work so I counseled with a theologian to evaluate the charismatic movement.

2. Sponsors are like Barnabas, seeing potential in others.

I. Passive mentors.

1. Contemporary modelers model demonstrate the values we hold dear.

2. Historical models are the heroes we read about in biographies.

3. Who are some historic models?

a. Abraham Lincoln because he led America through difficulty.

b. The apostle Paul because he endured,

c. Jesus because he did God's will.

d. We get information about these historic models by reading.

1. George Muller is one of my heroes.

2. I identify with some of the difficulty he endured.

3. He decided to not take up offerings but trust God.

4. God tested him by allowing his wife to need medication.

5. He prayed and it took weeks for the money to come.

J. A new Bible study needs a coach.

K. Personal struggles with intimacy with Christ need a spiritual guide or a discipler.

L. Gender issues require a teacher.

M. A couple with teenagers needs a counselor or a model or a coach.

N. Satan wants us to keep our struggles to ourselves.

1. Remember that someone else has worked through your problem.
2. We need help from those who have weathered the storms.

O. We also need to mentor others.

1. We get blessed by encouragement.
2. We grow.
3. We get mutual accountability.
4. We learn about how younger people grow.

II. Initiating a mentoring relationship.

A. Identify your contribution areas.

1. How has God blessed you?
2. Look and pray for possible mentors you can share with.
3. Initiate a relationship where you may be able to help others.
4. Set realistic goals.
5. Set a time.
6. I met a man at a meeting who had a bad dad and now needed help being a husband and a dad.
 - a. I thought someone in the group would embrace him.
 - b. I asked a man I know who has a great family if he thought he could help this young man.
 - c. He felt inferior.
 - d. I found a book on the Christian family and encouraged him to read the book with the young guy and just talk.
 - e. They began meeting and developed a great, helpful relationship.
 - f. You don't need to be an expert to disciple another.