

Everyone Is in Need of a Mentor

Every day we hear stories about athletes, actors, and other public figures who have made bad decisions. Being athletically gifted, talented at acting, or financially well off doesn't mean a person has it together when it comes to life choices. Being rich or famous makes you rich or famous, but has no correlation with having a rich spiritual life.

Just think how much better off the rich and famous would be if they had a personal advisor who was more concerned with the Bible instead of the balance sheet. Instead of telling someone what they want to hear, a spiritual mentor would tell them on what they need to hear.

Few of us can be categorized as rich and famous, but we all face issues: ethical decisions, relationship issues, or other personal issues. We may also question our self-esteem. That certainly is the case with young people trying to establish their own identities. The quest for self-esteem based on the world often drives our life decisions.

Compared to the models and actors featured in advertisements, we don't all have slim bodies and full heads of hair. We may wish we looked like someone else and go to extreme measures seeking to be what we aren't. We don't realize it is OK to be the person God made us to be. Scripture tells us we are wonderfully made (*Psalms 139:14*).

People need a mentor, especially with the pressures of today's world. A mentor helps you:

- Seek examples of others living by Godly principles -- people who can best lead by example if they are living by Christ's example (*Titus 2:6*).
- Hear the right answers to your issues, not just what others think you want to hear (*Proverbs 27:17*).
- Talk with others who have experienced pain and overcome the issues of life (*Psalms 145:4*).
- Know, in spite of your own shortcomings, that others believe in you (*2 Thessalonians 5:11*).
- Have confidence to go on in life and not give in to easy solutions that actually bring more pain (*Philippians 4:13*).
- Be an example for others to follow once you have risen above your issues (*1 Peter 5:2-3*). With Godly wisdom, you can be a mentor for others.

Seek the friendship of someone you admire that exhibits faith in their daily life, and let them be a light to guide you. Keep in mind human mentors are just that – human. Understand their answers are not perfect, but if they are based on the Bible, Godly advice is perfect. The apostle Paul said, *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)*.

As you grow, seek opportunities to share your spiritual growth with others. When you do, be a good example yourself: *In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us (Titus 2:7-8)*.

The voice of our earthly culture is not biblical. Instead, choose the voice of a Christian mentor. They share God's answer to the issues of your life. Mentors help people reach the potential God had intended for them.

Question: How can you be a mentor to someone else?

Prayer: Lord, you gave us the answers in the Bible and the life of Jesus. Let us follow Jesus as we help others to find their way. Amen.

Mentoring Scripture References from the Story:

- *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:14).*
- *Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled (Titus 2:6).*
- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:22-24).*
- *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17).*
- *One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts (Proverbs 145:4).*
- *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (2 Thessalonians 5:11).*
- *I can do all this through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).*
- *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:2-3).*