

BE A BARNABAS • PURSUE A PAUL • TRAIN A TIMOTHY

THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF DISCIPLING OR MENTORING OTHERS!

1. Make it a priority to assist someone else in their spiritual journey. Schedule it!
2. We can only mentor a 1 or 2 people per year. Focus on people who have the same passion to grow in the Word and in their discipleship with Jesus.
3. Always encourage and enhance their relationship with Christ. Will they still serve Him and grow without you?
4. As Barnabas eventually gave way to Paul's leadership, people you are mentoring may excel you in other areas. Encourage them to seek someone to impart what they've learned.

IMPORTANT STEPS ...

1. **Initiate the relationship.**
 - A. When seeking a mentor look for solid, Biblical qualities that you admire and would like to grow.
 - B. Never be angry when the possible mentor cannot do it. Keep going!
2. **Jointly agree on the purpose.**
 - A. Clarify it in writing if necessary.
3. **Determine the frequency and length of time for each interaction.**
 - A. People are usually busy and may not always be able to be impromptu.
4. **Set the life cycle.**
 - A. Mutually establish the length of time for the mentoring relationship and avoid open ended mentoring.
 - B. Life cycles require a beginning and a closure.
5. **Periodically evaluate the relationship.**
 - A. Is the relationship accomplishing its purpose?
 - B. There should be honest mutual feedback.
6. **Modify to fit the purpose.**
 - A. Sometimes mentoring drifts so modify where expectations are not being met.
 - B. Change it to accomplish a mutual purpose.
7. **Bring closure.**
 - A. When the life cycle is finished and expectations have been met, bring closure, or set a new life cycle.

NOW BEGIN TO FILL OUT THE MENTORING CHART

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The following chart represents the important relationships of accountability we have with more mature Christians (**Paul**), with people our own age and spiritual development (**Barnabas**), and with emerging Christians (**Timothy**). Many who finish their life victoriously have these types relationships in place throughout the years. Write the names of people who fit those descriptions at this time in your life.

1. A "PAUL" is an older person (chronologically or spiritually) who is willing to help you build character. They have been "down the road of life," and are willing to share their successes and failures. They can also be a contemporary model (alive) and a historical model (deceased). (1 Timothy 1:18-19)
2. A "BARNABAS" is someone who is a peer and will hold you accountable. It is good to have those involved in your church -- "inside" -- and those outside the church -- "outside". (Acts 9:26-30)
3. A "TIMOTHY" is someone you are discipling in their Christian life. Your responsibility is to be a model of mature discipleship, encourage, teach, gently correct as needed, and to pray for their spiritual formation. (Acts 16:1-5)

