

MENTORING

Following are some basic biblical teachings about the concept of Christian based mentoring:

What is mentoring?

From Dallas Theological Seminary: “Mentoring is a mutually encouraging relationship distinguished by the power of example (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1), the wisdom of humility (James 3:13; 1 Peter 5:5-7), and an attitude of enthusiasm (Romans 12:1; 3 John 4). These are experienced by both parties as God works His transforming purpose in them.”

What are some examples of mentoring type relationships in the Bible?

Jethro → Moses

Moses → Joshua

Eli → Samuel

Samuel → Saul and also David

Elijah → Elisha

Mordecai → Esther

Jesus 12 → Apostles

Paul → Titus, Timothy and others

What are some key Biblical principles related to the concept of mentoring?

- 1) We need to pass on to others what we have learned (II Timothy 2:1-2).
- 2) We gain wisdom by walking with the wise (versus being harmed by hanging out with fools) (Proverbs 13:20, 12:26).
- 3) “Iron sharpens Iron” (we can help develop and mold each other’s character by spending time together) (Proverbs 27:17).
- 4) We should follow and learn from good examples, including worthy leaders (Philippians 4:9; I Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; Hebrews 6:12, 13:7; I Peter 5:1-5). (Note: only perfect example is Jesus Christ Himself!)
- 5) One generation should mentor succeeding generations (Psalms 145:4-7) ; includes adults training children (Proverbs 22:6) , and older women mentoring younger women (Titus 2:3-4) and older men mentoring younger men (I Peter 5:5; Titus 2:2).