

Relationships that Empower - Part 1

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Introduction:

A. There are times in life when we grow tired and need helping relationships.

1. I never liked running distances.
2. With a friend I can go further than I can alone.

B. We all need mentoring relationships.

1. We're going to talk about all the age groups.
2. This idea applies to everyone.

C. I am married with four children.

1. All my kids are Christian and are married.
2. I am a vice president with the Navigators.
3. I have good relationships with the other leaders of the Navigators.
4. I am the fifth of five boys.
5. This could be bad but in my case it was good.
6. I met Christ early in my childhood.
7. I began to long to walk with God.
8. I got involved in football and gave my testimony at a youth rally.
9. My testimony was flat but a friend's testimony was vibrant.
10. I wanted my Christian life to be like my friend's.
11. I struggled with having a quiet time and with sharing my faith.
12. Entering West Point I was disciplined to a tee.
13. I thought there must not be a single Christian in West Point.
14. I thought I would go underground for four years and resume my Christian life after graduation.
15. I made the football team and the quarterback invited me to his Bible study.

16. Next he invited me to have a quiet time with him at 5 am.
17. We would memorize scripture and it impacted my thought life and attitude.
18. Next he invited me to engage in some evangelism.
19. We just played basketball with some kids and my mentor began sharing the Gospel with others.
20. He taught me how to share the Gospel with others and I started with my roommate.
21. My roommate prayed to receive Christ and I began to mentor him, inviting him to have a quiet time with me.
22. He began to grow and I have not gotten over that experience of helping him to come into a vital relationship with Christ.
23. This experience changed my life.
24. Every Christian wants to see God use them to help another come to faith in Christ.
25. By the time I graduated from college we had 250 guys involved in discipleship training.
26. After college I thought I would work with my dad in business but God directed me to get involved in full-time ministry.
27. I married and worked in Eastern Europe, seeing God do great things.
28. I focused on leadership development because impacting relationships have marked my life.
29. The power of expectation from leaders has a powerful impact on people.
30. My mentor, Joe Caldwell, impacted me for eternity.
31. We all have much to offer others if we would just give of our time.
32. We're going to talk about how to make quality relationships impacting relationships.
33. The one another emphasis in Scripture is important.
 - a. Love one another.
 - b. Pray for one another.
 - c. Encourage one another.

- d. Man and women need each other.
- e. We are designed with inadequacies.
- f. Our inadequacies are corrected in a loving body of believers.

34. Who do you have a safe relationship with?

- a. A man wanted to pray for healing of others. (James 5:15)
- b. He asked me what I thought.
- c. When he asked for those in need of deliverance from sin or healing of the soul to come down for prayer about half the audience came down.
- d. One man told me he had been carrying a secret sin for ten years.

35. I met a psychologist on an airplane and told him I'm involved in leadership development.

- a. He told me he used to be a Christian.
- b. He grew up in a Christian home but his church neglected the one another Scriptures.
- c. He said that if he knew of a church practicing the one another Scriptures he could send his patients there for healing but he know o none.

I. We need mentoring relationships for four reasons.

A. Personal growth.

1. Life is about growth in many areas.
2. Paul told Timothy to teach others who could teach others.
3. We need to work with others.
4. I needed to learn how read faster and found a friend who read often.
5. He helped me to read more.

B. Ministry impact. (1 Corinthians 12)

1. God will never ask you why you weren't like someone else.
2. God will ask you if you became the person he created you to be.

C. Encouragement. (Hebrews 19:25)

1. We need daily encouragement.
2. We need to be stirred up.

D. Protection.

1. There is safety in numbers.
2. We need to avoid the pit falls in life.

II. What kind of relationships do we need?

A. Models that will inspire us.

1. Spiritual or professional.
2. We are all models and need to realize that.

B. Mentors that empower us.

C. Partners that strengthen us.

1. Ben Franklin had a group called the Ingenious Friends Group.
2. I've got partners in leadership all over the country.
3. We will not reach our potential without partners.

D. Friends that support us.

1. Emotionally.
2. Intellectually.
3. Spiritually.
4. Some things will never be accomplished in our lives if we don't have friends.

III. Why do some succeed and some fail? (Philippians 1)

A. See that God is at work and is on the throne so we don't need to get upset when things go badly.

B. They experience intimacy and renewal with Christ often.

C. They maintain positive learning attitudes all life long.

D. They maintain good mentoring relationships.

1. My mom is 88 and didn't like a Bible study because they weren't learning.
2. She started her own study to learn from the word.
3. Commitment plus accountability equals life change.
4. Only Christ can produce life change in a person.
5. The speaker reads a poem called The Race.
 - a. It is about a boy afraid that he could not win a race.
 - b. He fell and wished to disappear.
 - c. His dad encouraged him to get up and run again.
 - d. He ran again but fell again.
 - e. Again his dad encouraged him to get up and run.
 - f. After a third fall he realized he could not face his dad if he stayed down.
 - g. Win or lose he resolved not to quit.
 - h. When he crossed the finish line his dad greeted him.
 - i. We all fall many times but need to resolve not to quit.

IV. Prayer.

- A. We are all in a race and need to run with perseverance. (Hebrews 12)
- B. Great man and women have preceded us. (Hebrews 11)
- C. We are not going to finish well without quality relationships around us.
- D. It takes a whole village to raise a child.
- E. Help us to empower others to finish their race of faith well.