

A Window For Women

God's Word and Norma's Notes

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Mentoring Part 3

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Mentoring is defined by Stanley and Clinton, in their book *Connecting*, as a relational experience in which one person empowers another by sharing their God-given resources. They support their definition by showing that Moses mentored Joshua, that Naomi coached Ruth, and that Jesus clearly modeled a lifestyle of mentoring as He disciplined and taught His disciples. Mentoring certainly is a multi-faceted experience composed of discipling, guiding, coaching, counseling, teaching, sponsoring and modeling. Mentoring is reaching out to meet the painful needs of hurting people. Or it may be less invasive, as the above description indicates.

Simply stated, mentoring is caring about and lovingly leading someone to be an overcomer. As Christians our purpose is to point them to the Word of God to find out who He is and what He can/will do for them. At a glance it is obvious that there are numerous burdened and baffled individuals who need answers. There are many reasons why they do not reach out for help. Often they can think of no one whom they feel comfortable with or who would have answers.

When God opens the mentoring door to us, we are initially overwhelmed. It is possible that we shun our God-appointed responsibility for fear we will not have answers. Of course, the enemy will put roadblocks in front of us. Oh, what a powerful God we have who invites us to trust Him for wisdom, knowledge and direction. He will be with us for He has promised, "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23). Step out. Claim His never failing promises.

Recently I had the opportunity to chat (mentor) again with a friend of several years. After chatting awhile, I felt it was time to ask questions. "Are you reading your Bible?" (On several

occasions I had challenged her with that necessity.) She said that she had not taken the time because of enormous interruptions. I knew that to be true and sympathized with her. The second question was, “Are you finding comfort in the Lord?” Answer, “I’m trying.” Response, “Dear, friend, it is not a matter of trying. It is a matter of trusting” (cf. Prov. 3:5). The better we know our Bibles, the more readily will the Holy Spirit bring Scripture to our mind when we need it. God’s “sword” will be at the edge of our mind and at the tip of our tongue.

I again quote from *The Daily Remembrancer*, edited by S.H. Tow, page 578: “Our God is greater than all, and He is able and faithful. Remember His promises, ‘As thy days, so shall thy strength be.’ Prove the Savior’s testimony, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’ Accept the divine invitation, ‘Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.’ Attend to the inspired direction, ‘Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.’ Imitate the sorely tried Psalmist, ‘I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.’ Rest thy troubled spirit on the promises of God, ‘He giveth power to the faint, and to him that haveth no might He increaseth strength.’ Endeavor to apply to yourself the apostolic exhortation, ‘Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.’ Let not your hearts faint, for your sins are pardoned, your foes are doomed, your mansion is being prepared, your needs will certainly be met, your Savior deeply sympathizes with you, your heavenly Father cares for you, and all things must work together for your good. Call upon God and He will show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not. ‘Let not your hearts faint.’”

Rich! By God’s grace alone! Be strengthened by these powerful, assuring promises so you are equipped to use them in your mentoring ministry.

Part 4

Our transient, love-starved world has numerous hearts’ doors that are desperately waiting to swing open to someone who has compassion. That is a stupendously big topic which I will slightly touch on in this issue. Before I do, I would like to refer to “Mentoring – Part 2” to leave a few thought-provoking snippets about the husband-wife relationship:

“Anything without a head is dead. Anything with two heads is a monster — in the home and elsewhere.” “Before marriage opposites attract; After marriage opposites attack.” “Do we wear labels or do we meet needs?” “Anyone in need of mercy is a neighbor.”

The husband-wife relationship sets the tone for the home atmosphere; therefore, it must be strongly, consistently and seriously established on Christian principles. God has given the necessary guidelines in His Instruction Book.

Homes are crumbling. Why? For reasons too many to be covered in this short treatise. One to be addressed is the transient lifestyle of its members. Extra-curricular school activities, sports, clubs, music, gyms, hobbies and more entice family members away from each other. Parents and children do not know where the others are. Days go by without sitting down to a meal together as a family. Mealtime is a special time for catching up with each other and for bonding. A time of

laughter and love. A time to share perspectives, plans and dreams. A time to be guided, admonished and equipped. A time of corporate mentoring. A family devotion time.

At one time the six children of our blended family ranged from 13 to 20 years. Work schedules and school programs became a challenge for togetherness. We had to have rules that could not be broken without an acceptably good reason. There were no excuses for neglecting church. In their younger years we went as a family in one station wagon. In those days we dressed appropriately, because we were going before the King of kings. (Perhaps this statement is out of line in this day and age. Please excuse if you disagree with my clothing code.)

Every child needs the masculine influence in his or her life. For various reasons it is missing. Mother must play the two roles. This is impossible and unforgivable if both live in the home. Mother provides love, understanding, and tenderness. Father provides solidarity and regularity. Together they do not merely focus on the cute little child but on the child's adulthood. *Already Gone* and *Already Compromised*, books produced by Answers in Genesis, alert and unnerve us when we read facts and data that focus on why youth are church dropouts. I believe the basic reason starts in the home and then the church. Youth are home dropouts as well.

From experience I conclude that the most strategic mentoring tools are godly prepared hearts, minds and souls. When needy opportunities cross our paths, we rarely have warning, and we must be prepared through fervent, believing prayer. There is great activity in the heavenlies when we pray. As we pray, "The Spirit works in the unconscious domain of another's being about which we know nothing, and about which the other person knows nothing. After a while the conscious life of the one being prayed for begins to show signs of softening and unrest, of enquiry and a desire to know. As our prayers are directed to God who understands the conscious depths of our longing, He uses our prayers to change the desires of the one for whom we are praying. We cannot keep silent; we are compelled to intercede. We refuse to doubt or give up our vigil" (Oswald Chambers).

The Trinity is efficacious. We cannot lose!

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