

FIND A SPIRITUAL MENTOR

Part 1 of IMITATE ME. 2 Timothy 3:10-11.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 24, 2023.

OUR NEW TEACHING AND SMALL GROUP SERIES

Every time I teach, I have two goals in mind.

- I want to help you **find** Jesus as your God and Savior. That's spiritual **birth** received through faith.
- I want to help you follow Jesus as your Leader, Teacher, and Lord. That's spiritual **growth** by faith.
- Spiritual life results in spiritual growth.

What Is spiritual growth?

- It is the journey towards conformity to the character and conduct of Christ.
- That journey is long, daily, difficult, and filled with twists and turns.

How do we get on the path to spiritual growth?

- Depend on the Holy Spirit and sanctifying grace.
- Learn and apply Christian teaching to our beliefs and behaviors.
- With the help of a spiritual mentor.

Why is spiritual growth important.

- It was the apostle Paul's goal for all his churches - Colossians 1:28-29.
- Spiritual stagnation inevitably leads to spiritual death.

The Imitate Me Teaching and Small Group Series.

- The series presents a path to spiritual growth and maturity.
- Make a commitment to participate fully.

AN OVERVIEW OF 2 TIMOTHY

Why did the apostle Paul write 2 Timothy?

- He wrote to Timothy who was leading the church in Ephesus.
- He encourage him to persevere in a nightmare situation - 2 Timothy 3:1-9.

Our focus is on 2 Timothy 3:10-11

- Paul was Timothy's spiritual mentor. He lists eight characteristics he modeled for Timothy to emulate.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (ESV) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

THE CONCEPT OF SPIRITUAL MENTORS

Andy and Phil mentored me in college.

- Andy and Phil had a massive impact on my life. Because I followed their example, I went from being an aimless, half- hearted baby believer to a fully committed disciple of Jesus.

Spiritual mentors have a powerful impact.

- Paul urged the Christians in Philippi to follow his example:

Philippians 3:17 (ESV) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV) What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

“FOLLOWED”

The idea of a mentor comes from 2 Timothy 3:10: “You have followed.”

It translates a Greek word that referred to a teacher and disciple.

Timothy spent a lot of time with Paul, watching and learning.

He followed Paul’s example of life and ministry.

Mentors matter.

- Mentors help our spiritual growth, share ministry mindset and skills, etc.
- The Bible tells us to find and follow spiritual mentors.

Hebrews 13:7 (ESV) Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SPIRITUAL MENTOR

What does an ideal mentor look like?

- A mentor should keep us focused on Jesus.
- A mentor should be further down the growth path.
- A mentor should be worthy of emulation. Ray Pritchard on 2 Timothy 3:
 - Mentors should have nothing to hide.
 - Mentors should teach the truth.
 - Mentors should practice what they preach.
 - Mentors should not fear persecution.
- A mentor can be dead or alive, near or far, met or unmet.

TODAY, COMMIT TO FIND OR BECOME A MENTOR

Download the Research Guide at FamousGod.com/teaching-notes

SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

GET STARTED

- If some are new to the group, take a moment to introduce yourselves.
- What is one thing people may not know about you?
- How long have you been participating in the Cornerstone Church?

DIVE IN

- What were the ideas, insights, Bible passages, or concepts that struck you in Peter's teaching on spiritual mentors?
- If possible, download the Research Guide. Swipe to Chapter 1 and its Application section (pages 17-18 in the PDF version). As a group, read aloud the Bible passages on Paul's strategy as a spiritual mentor. What insights did you gain from these passages?
- What are some experiences you've had with spiritual mentors. How have they helped or impacted your spiritual growth? What characteristics did your mentors possess? What made it work for you?
- What are some experiences you've had being a mentor to someone? What were you able to pass on to them? What were the highs and lows?

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

- Brainstorm ways to find and benefit from spiritual mentors.
- Discuss what is preventing you becoming a spiritual mentor.

PRAY TOGETHER

Take some time to pray for each other, for the Cornerstone Church, and for our Outreach Partners. Pray that the Lord would make us a strong, healthy, and mature church family worthy of imitation. Pray: "Lord, raise up mentors to model Christian faith, lifestyle, and ministry."