

Authentic Relationships and/or Intentional Mentoring and Equipping

The Trinity is the perfect model of authentic relationships. Perfect harmony is held between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Love is the bonding agent, and their mutual purpose is restoring and reconciling humanity to God. The relationship within the Trinity is an eternal fellowship that extends to us as believers. We are invited to experience the same love, harmony, and purpose through responding to His call, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the teachings of Jesus. This invitation draws us into deep communion with God and with others.

“In Christian theology the Holy Spirit is the mentoring nuclear reactor of transformation. And one of the tools in His hand is the body of Christ.” (Calhoun) If we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our steps, love others, and drop the seeds of everlasting hope, the outcome is limitless. Barnabas is an awesome example. He invested in a wildcard named Paul and the outcome was beyond either of their wildest dreams.

“He stimulated us by the acts he performed more than by the theories he taught...Less obvious, but more important...was the fellowship with this man. Where I was blind, he guided me. He taught me the Truth concerning the Word. It was like a spark dropping into my inmost soul and catching fire there.” (Shelly)

Mentoring is more than teaching. It is relational, it is living a Holy and Godly life with intentionality, with authentic and genuine faith lived out alongside others. We can be a powerful influence on others both by our Christ-centered lifestyle and spiritual encouragement.

There have been many who have poured their lives out mentoring both intentionally and unintentionally, before my eyes and ears. The first Sunday School class I attended, Syracuse First Church of the Nazarene,

Paul Baum Jr. was teaching on sanctification. Newell Smith was the pastor putting his whole heart into his pleas and prayers for salvation. Howie Shute not only mentored me through hospitality but by his personal commitment to following His call no matter where it led. Then there were those who gave the most who had the least to give. These are just a few mentors in my life who have made great impact. I am still not perfect, I am still flawed, but I have a Savior who loves me, and mentors me in an adventurous life, doing things I never would have imagined in my wildest dreams.

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

“Spiritual Disciplines Handbook” Adele Ahlberg Calhoun