

Mentors

We tend to hang around with our friends because they accept us the way we are. Friends make us feel comfortable and seldom try to tell us right from wrong, they usually don't judge us on what we do or don't do. Friends never push us to our personal limits.

Mentors, on the other hand, help us to stretch to our full potential (which may not always be a comfortable situation). Taking advice from others is very humbling, but when you cease to learn, you stagnate. In fact, our natural tendency is to pull back from this type of situation. Once you clearly understand what a mentor can teach you, which is to help you become all that you were meant to be; you learn to submit to their guidance. Some would consider submission as a sign of weakness, but it is truly an indication of intelligence. In Proverbs 24:6 it states, "in the multitude of counselors, there is safety."

A true mentor will never hurt or manipulate you. They get personal satisfaction seeing you implement what they are teaching so that you can grow and succeed beyond them. The wisest of mentors won't offer the answers unless you are brave enough to ask the questions. Mentors will counsel you in all areas of your life such as career, finances, relationships, family and spiritual. It's okay to have several mentors, assuming they all have your best interests at heart. Sir Isaac Newton said "If I have seen further it is by standing on ye shoulders of Giants". Although he wasn't referring specifically to mentors, this statement definitely applies.

How would you recognize someone as being worthy of mentorship? They are respected in their field of discipline and generally recognized for their depth of wisdom. This individual is genuinely concerned with the personal growth and development of others. They have a natural ability to multiply the lives of those they come in contact with. Personally, this individual represents a lifestyle (which may include their personal and family life) that you aspire to have and one day become. Of course, you would have to desire to accept direction and guidance from your mentor and they would have to be prepared to reciprocate.

One important lesson that I have learned about mentorship is that we have to be clear of our own value system. I have benefited greatly from mentors that have helped me in my personal life and professional career. I had some bad habits that were picked up along the way that had to be reversed. The lesson here is you will have great people cross your path; those you can learn many valuable lessons from. You shouldn't put them too high on a pedestal because after all, they are only flesh and blood.

A mentor is typically someone that we admire who has successfully crossed the minefield of life that we are battling to cross. They are careful listeners who have a thirst for knowledge. They dedicate their life to helping others to achieve the levels of success that they have attained themselves. Just as much as we need a mentor, the mentor needs us and they understand the old saying, "when the student is ready, the teacher will appear".

"A mentor will help you see your enemies long before you do". – Mike Murdock



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