



ACTS 15:36-16:5

DIVING DEEPER INTO MENTORSHIPS

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From the official website of the U.S. Air Force:

3/30/2011 - **WASHINGTON (AFNS)** -- Our U.S. Air Force has changed dramatically over time. Consider that 30 years ago the Air Force had more than 565,000 officer and enlisted members. By the end of fiscal year 2010, we had fewer than 330,000.

Couple this nearly 42% reduction in manpower with military budget cuts and the need to prepare for more complex, varied operations in the future and you have an environment we are all very used to: change. Imagine what our Airmen entering the Air Force today will see over the next 20 to 30 years.

To be effective, formal mentoring programs should adapt to this ever-changing environment. In times of stability, traditional coaching, counseling and facilitating skills are sufficient, but the dynamic environment we live in today requires mentors to become more than experts; they also need to be co-learners.

Senior mentors should take the opportunity to learn about the younger more diverse generation instead of following the more conventional role as the authority and the protégé as the learner.

[What do you see as a benefit of mentorship in the military?](#)

It's very interesting that the military has recognized the value of mentoring when it comes to the defense of our nation. It is so amazingly obvious what the benefits are that it seems ridiculous that a mentorship program is not a priority in today's church. Much of what hinders the advancement of The Kingdom is a lack of sound abundant leadership. Without advice, guidance and direction provided for by mentoring, the pool of quality leadership will remain shallow, forcing churches to settle and thereby affecting the quality of the church at all levels.

ACTS 15:36-41

³⁶ After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. ³⁸ But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. ³⁹ Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. ⁴⁰ Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord's gracious care. ⁴¹ Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there.

Sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas caused their separation. Barnabas had presumably mentored Paul for several years and now they were going to go their separate ways. Surely God will use this to serve His purpose however such sharp disagreement is not pleasing to Him.

What good do you think comes from the split up?

Acts 16

¹ Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. ² **Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium,** ³ **so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey.** In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.

Is the authority always older than the protégé?

Pastor Rob: "We have in this text no less than 3 mentoring relationships... Barnabas likely mentored Paul at the beginning of his walk with Christ. Barnabas most likely took the lead in mentoring Mark on the first missionary journey with Paul and now it is Barnabas who is standing behind Mark's potential even at the expense of his continued partnership with Paul. Then we have the introduction of what became the most prolifically written about mentorship recorded for us in Scripture...the infamous Paul and Timothy mentorship/coaching relationship."

Do you think Barnabas saw something in John Mark that warranted some grace that he would see fit to mentor him?

Are mentorships generally made up of an authority and a protégé’?

Pastor Rob: “Mentorship today: Tony Dungy, Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Andy Stanley, Rob Bell...you name it...nearly everyone that anyone looks up to had (and has) mentors!

Female mentorships:

When we think about mentoring relationships, we tend to think it applies primarily to men. This is perhaps because traditional mentorships have existed more so in the business and sports world; a “teaching the ropes” sort of thing. The role of mentoring women in the church is so important. Many young women today have few people to turn to for sound biblical advice. Such advice is crucial in helping them navigate through the difficulties of relationships; marriage for example. What the world teaches our young people today aren’t necessarily the best strategies for pursuing healthy relationships.

As we heard Mindi and Allie describe their mentoring relationship, what hit home the most regarding each of them?

“You’re not done until you’re dead!”~Craig Groeschel (Catalyst 2010).

Speaking to the older/seasoned men of the church (and this applies to women as well); there is value in your knowledge. What has taken you a lifetime to learn can be passed on to a younger generation. There is wisdom in years and likewise there is wisdom in youth and this is why a mentoring relationship can be one that is “co-learning.”

What to Look for in a Mentor~ [Click Here](#)

