

## 10. Helping Spiritual Young Men and Women Build Their Ministry

In our last topic, we talked about how we help spiritual young men and women build their ministry to the body. Today, we are going to focus on some key areas to help growing Christians develop their ministry. One of the key characteristics of spiritual young men and women is that they are looking for opportunities to serve the Lord. Spiritual young men and women are ready and eager to serve the Lord if they are given opportunities and shown how to serve. In order to help them learn to serve the Lord most effectively, we need to help them discover their SHAPE.

- S - spiritual gifts - Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; 1 Peter 4:7-11
- H - heart (passion in life) - the example of Paul - Romans 15:15-20
- A - abilities - 1 Peter 4:11
- P - personality - Peter liked to work with crowds - Acts 2:14-41; Andrew liked to work with individuals - John 1:40-41, 6:8-9, 12:20-22
- E - experiences in life - 2 Corinthians 11:21-33

When Barnabas and Paul were sent out by God from the church at Antioch, they took John Mark with them, so he could learn to minister by assisting them as they traveled. That is a key way we help spiritual young men in their spiritual development and prepare them to become healthy reproducing Christians. Acts 13:5 says, “And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant.” Many years later, Paul wrote, in 2 Timothy 4:11, “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”

Paul shows us that taking spiritual young men and women with us as we minister is a very effective way to help growing Christians become reproducing Christians. In Acts 16:1-3a, we read, “Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted him to go with him.” Paul had noticed several things about Timothy:

- Timothy was already a disciple
- Timothy had a mother who was a believer
- Timothy had a father who was not a believer
- Timothy had a background of two cultures
- Timothy had a good report from other Christians

As Timothy traveled with Paul, Timothy was being shown how to serve the Lord in new ways as he had the opportunity to share the Gospel in many different cultures. Through that process, Paul was able to help Timothy develop his SHAPE.

- ◆ Paul helped Timothy to recognize his spiritual gift - 1 Timothy 4:14
- ◆ Paul helped Timothy develop his passion for ministry - 1 Corinthians 4:17
- ◆ Paul helped Timothy to use his abilities in serving the Lord - 1 Timothy 1:3

Growing Christian Leaders Series – Developing Reproducing Christians 10. “Helping Spiritual Young Men and Women Build Their Ministry”  
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- ◆ Paul understood Timothy’s personality and encouraged him - 2 Timothy 1:5-7
- ◆ Paul used Timothy’s experiences in life to help him multiply his ministry - 2 Timothy 2:2

Timothy was not the only growing Christian Paul took with him to help him develop and mature. Paul usually had a team of several growing Christians with him. In Acts 20:4, we read, “And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia - also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.” Paul realized that growing Christians mature best by spending time with godly spiritual leaders as they minister together.

As we can see from this verse, Paul had learned the tremendous importance of taking younger Christians with him to show them how to minister. As you can see, these men were from several different cultures so they were also learning how to minister to a variety of different cultures. Paul knew that the men would be equipped to carry on the ministry, when he came to the end of his life, because he had shown them how to minister through on-the-job training rather than just telling them what to do. That same principle will help us to develop reproducing Christians and multiply our ministry.

Today, many growing Christians never have the opportunity to learn by observing more mature Christians in their ministry, because many spiritual leaders have not realized the importance of taking others along with them as they minister. Paul told Timothy that he would multiply his ministry in the same way Paul had earlier multiplied his ministry. In 2 Timothy 2:2, we read, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” Here, we see four spiritual generations - Paul, Timothy, faithful men, others. Here, we see some key principles for helping spiritual young men develop their ministry:

- Take growing Christians (Timothys) with you
- Share with your Timothys in many different situations (among many witnesses)
- Show your Timothys how to select faithful men
- Show your Timothys how to pass sound teaching on to these faithful men
- Show your Timothys how to help those faithful men develop a vision for others
- Show your Timothys how to help those faithful men learn how to teach others by example as well as word
- Show your Timothys how to commission those faithful men to teach others following the same process

Today, most Christians try to tell others how to serve the Lord (sermons, seminars, classes, etc.) instead of showing them how to serve the Lord. As a result, many Christians have a lot of knowledge but they do not know how to pass that knowledge on to others. Spiritual young men and women will learn best how to serve the Lord if we take them with us and show them how to serve the Lord, instead of just telling them how to serve. Whether it was Christ or Paul, we see that both of them realized the importance of taking people along with them and showing them how

to minister in order to equip those people to carry on that ministry.

In Mark 3:13-14, we read, “And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach.” In these verses, we see that Christ:

- ⇒ Chose the men that He was going to train
- ⇒ Chose those men to be with Him
- ⇒ Chose to send them out to preach

When we are choosing those that we will spend time with, Christ gives us certain principles:

- ◆ Christ chose these men after spending much time in prayer - Luke 6:12-13
- ◆ Christ chose men who were FAT men (Faithful, Available, Teachable).
- ◆ Christ chose them to be with Him (the value of learning through example)
- ◆ Christ chose to send them out to preach (the value of having them minister and then come back and report what had happened - Mark 6:30)

When you come to the end of your ministry, you will see a ministry that will do one of two things:

- If you have chosen faithful men and taken them with you, you will see your ministry multiply
  - If you have tried to do all the ministry yourself, you will see your ministry start to die
- May the Lord richly bless you as you take spiritual young men and women with you so that the Lord is able to use your life to multiply His work.