

## 8. Helping Spiritual Young Men and Women Grow in Knowledge and Ministry

In our last topic, we gave an introduction on how we help spiritual young men and women grow in godly character and attitude. Today, we will be focusing on how we help them grow in knowledge and ministry. As we help a spiritual young man grow in knowledge, there are at least four key areas where we want to see growth and development.

1. We want to help him become advanced in his knowledge of God - 1 John 2:13-14

“I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.” In the phrase, in both verses, that describes spiritual fathers, John said he wrote to the fathers, “Because they had known Him who is from the beginning.”

As a person grows and becomes a spiritual young man, that growth happens because he gets to know the Word of God. Here, we see that to become a spiritual parent, a person needs to get to know the God of the Word. Many people have gotten to know all about God by Bible study but they have never gotten to know God by communion with Him through prayer and meditation. We can know all about a historical figure like George Washington from reading books about him, but that does not mean that we know him. The only way we really get to know a person is by spending time with them. We want to help spiritual young men learn to really know God by learning to share every area of their lives with Him as they commune with Him.

2. We want to help him learn how to be ready at all times to share his faith - 1 Peter 3:15

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” The only way anyone will be ready at all times to give a defense to everyone who asks him with a proper attitude is if that person is learning to walk in the Spirit as a pattern of life. We will teach others how to walk in the Spirit by our own example. Galatians 5 gives us four key principles for being ready at all times:

- Walk in the Spirit - verses 16, 25
- Be led by the Spirit - verse 18
- Bear the fruit of the Spirit - verses 22-23
- Live in the Spirit - verse 25

3. We want to help him learn to be an example to others - 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” We want to help spiritual young men grow in their understanding of the importance of their example as they minister to others. We do that both by providing an example through our own lives as well as teaching them how to be an example to others.

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4. We want to help him learn how to answer false teachers - Titus 1:9

“Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” Since an elder is to be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict, we need to begin preparing spiritual young men for this ministry as it will be a part of their future ministry as they continue to develop. The best way to help them learn to answer those who reject sound doctrine is to take them with us as we reach out, so they can see, by our example, how to answer false teachers from the Word of God, as well as encourage those who believe from the Word of God.

In addition, there are also some basic areas of ministry in which we want to help spiritual young men as they grow in their ministry. These things must be shown by example in order to help the spiritual young men develop these as a part of their life and ministry. In these areas, we will be most effective if we work as a team of spiritual leaders so that the spiritual young men can observe others, as well as observing us. Three key areas we want to help young men grow in ministry are:

1. We want to show him how to share the Gospel with others:

In Mark 1:16-17, we see that Christ made it an important part of his ministry to show people by his own example how to share the Gospel, “And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

In Acts 11:12, we see that Peter made it an important part of his ministry to show people by his own example how to share the Gospel, “Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.”

2. We want to show him how to minister to other Christians - Acts 20:2-4

“Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 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.” As we can see, whenever Paul traveled, he took other Christians with him so they could learn how to minister by observing him.

3. We want to show him how to teach the Word of God - Acts 20:20

“*And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house.” Paul made it a point to take future leaders with him so he could show them how to teach the Word of God both in public places as well as in the homes of people.

As we look at the various areas where we want to equip spiritual young men, we see why a spiritual

leadership team in a church can be very valuable to equip spiritual young men. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, “And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” The apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 1:21-22), and the prophets gave us the written Word of God (2 Peter 1:19-21). Ephesians 2:19-22 tell us that these gifts provide our foundation with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.

The other three gifts are also given for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. That is why a team of spiritual leaders can be most helpful in preparing spiritual young men for spiritual ministry.

Evangelists will be most effective at showing young men how to and equipping them to:  
Share the Gospel with others.

Pastors will be most effective at showing young men how to and equipping them to:  
Minister to other Christians

Teachers will be most effective at showing young men how to and equipping them to:  
Teach the Word of God

The Lord will greatly use you as you help spiritual young men and young women grow in godly character and attitude and grow in knowledge and ministry. May the Lord richly bless you as you equip others to serve Him.