



Spiritual Fathers (and Mothers)

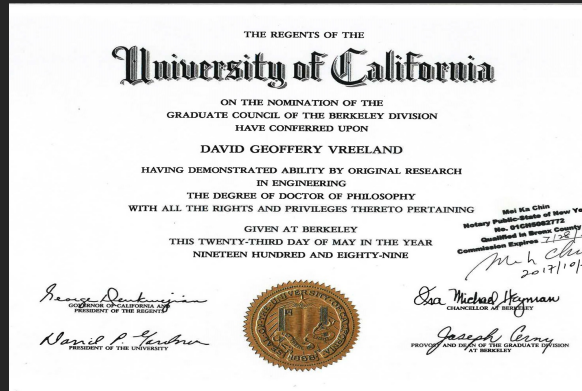
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1 Timothy 1:1-2

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Introduction





I want to challenge you with a question



- What will be your greatest legacy?
- Will it be in something?
- Or will your greatest legacy be someone?



Introduction

I Tim. 1:1-2, *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith”*

What is a Spiritual Mentor?



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- Could be your biological parents
- Could be your youth pastor or friend



Paul meets Timothy

Acts 16:1, *“Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.”*

2 Tim. 1:5, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”*

What does a spiritual mentor look like?



- 1) A spiritual mentor models, he sets and an example for others to follow
- 2) A spiritual mentor encourages
- 3) A spiritual mentor loves



1. A Spiritual Mentor Models

2 Tim. 3:10-11, *“You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.”*



1. A Spiritual Mentor Models

1 Cor. 4:16-17, *“Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.”*



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1. A Spiritual Mentor Models

1 Cor. 11:1, *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*



2. A Spiritual Mentor Encourages

1 Tim. 4:12, *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

- Don’t let your age be an excuse
- Set an example for others, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity



2. A Spiritual Mentor Encourages

2 Tim. 1:6, *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”*

- If you are a believer, there is a flame or spirit burning inside you
- Fires need tending, don't let your fire go out



2. A Spiritual Mentor Encourages

Romans 12:11, *“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”*

- Be zealous, keep your spiritual fervor red hot
- 2 Tim. 1:7, *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*
- Do not be timid, but be bold, be loving, be self-discipline



2. A Spiritual Mentor Encourages

Acts 4:31, *“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”*

- They spoke boldly because they were filled with the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit burned powerfully within them



2. A Spiritual Mentor Encourages

Has your faith ever gone cold, has the flame flickered out? Do you feel far from God? What can you do to rekindle or restart it?

- Listen to worship songs
- Attend church or a Bible study
- Pray to God to restore your faith



3. A Spiritual Mentor Loves

John 15:13, *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

- Not warm feelings but a commitment to someone else's well being
- This love is costly, it cost Christ his life, it will cost you your time and heart.



3. A Spiritual Mentor Loves

1 Peter 4:8, *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*

- None of us gets this completely right, we all make mistakes



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1 Peter 4:8, *“Above all, love each other deeply, because **love covers over a multitude of sins.**”*

- None of us gets this completely right, we all make mistakes
- God cares what’s in your heart
- Love is what matters, love is what counts, love is all you can hope for



Conclusion

Rev. 7:9-12, “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:



Conclusion

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ...

They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Conclusion



When you get to heaven, who will you boast in?