

How to Get the Most out of Mentoring

Florence Stone, in her article entitled "Power Mentoring: How to Get the Most Out of a Mentoring Relationship"¹, identifies qualities of the most effective mentees. They include:

- **Intelligence:** While we cannot change the intelligence that God has given us, we can seek to use it to its full potential. As you meet with your mentor, try to think carefully about what you are experiencing and learning.
- **Desire and the Ability to Accept Power and Risk:** Your mentor may ask you to take on a responsibilities or tasks that push you out of your comfort zone. If your mentor asks you to take on responsibility that seems daunting, ask God to give you the strength to do so, and step out in faith as you take on new ministry responsibilities.
- **Initiative:** Few things will motivate your mentor to invest time and energy in you more than seeing that you really want to learn and grow. Come to your mentoring meetings prepared with questions for your mentor. If your mentor suggests you do something, be sure to complete it before your next mentoring meeting. If he/she forgets to schedule a meeting, follow up and ask for a meeting. In short, demonstrate to your mentor that you are working hard to get as much out of the mentoring relationship as possible.
- **Ambition:** Some mentees approach the mentoring relationship like a sponge--willing to soak up wisdom from their mentor, but passive in the

¹ Taken from "Power Mentoring: How to Get the Most Out of a Mentoring Relationship" by Florence Stone, downloaded from www.amanet.org/editorials/epring.cfm?Ed=276 on July 21, 2009.

process. As you meet with your mentor, take an active role in your own learning and growth.

- **Energy:** Mentoring, and the personal growth that should result from the mentoring relationship, take lots of hard work. If your mentor senses that you are doing all you can to get as much out of the mentoring relationship as possible, he or she will probably put more time and energy into you as well.
- **Trustworthiness and Integrity:** Mentoring relationships that are built on a foundation of trust allow mentors and mentees much greater personal growth than mentoring relationships that lack trust. Be sure to demonstrate to your mentor that you are a person who can be relied upon, who speaks the truth with grace, and who maintains confidence.
- **High Emotional Intelligence:** Emotional Intelligence consists of three components: being able to understand and manage your own emotions, understanding other's emotions, and general mood. As you grow and learn through the mentoring process, take time to think about what is going on emotionally, both in your life and the lives of others around you.
- **Optimism:** Learning to live and thrive in a cross-cultural context will invariably bring times of failure and disappointments. As believers, we have a special reason for optimism--we know that God is using the challenges he brings our way to make us more like Christ. As you work with your mentor, step out in faith, believing that God will work in and through you.

Take a few moments to think about your mentoring relationship. What are two or three things you want to work on before your next mentoring meeting in order to get more out of the relationship?

God bless you as you seek to get as much as you can from your mentoring relationship. If you have any questions or if MTW can help you in your mentoring relationship, please send an e-mail to John or Sue Burch at jandsburch@gmail.com .