

September 2008—Mentoring through Friendships

Following are highlights from my devotional which I had the privilege of sharing at a ladies' retreat in Florida. How can we be a friend worth having; cultivating a friendship that opens the door for spiritual mentoring?

- **Have the goal to please God** - 2 Cor 5:9
- **Be a listener** - James 1:19
- **Be a learner** - Prov 18:15
- **Be patient** - Prov 14:29
- **Be cheerful, not a complainer** - Prov 15:31
- **Don't be quarrelsome** - 2 Tim 2:24.
- **Be gentle** - Phil 4:5
- **Be dependable** - Prov 25:19
- **Be kind, compassionate and forgiving** - Eph 4:32
- **Be honest** - Eph 4:25
- **Be sensitive** - Prov 25:20 - Prov 27:14
- **Build up others. Be an encourager** - Eph 4:29
- **Be submissive to authority** - Prov 13:13
- **Don't be pushy** - Prov 25:17
- **Be polite** - 1 Cor 13:5
- **Be discerning** - Eccl 8:5-6

Discernment means to judge closely or examine carefully. Discernment is essential for knowing when, where, and how we're to give to others; it guides us in recognizing true needs.

God is our source for discernment and wisdom. He is the one who gives us eyes to see and hearts to understand the needs around us. We need to learn two important tasks together: giving and guarding. Learn to give openly and freely to others while guarding ourselves from committing to people and things that God has not called us to.

Four questions to ask ourselves: 1) Have I sought God's direction? 2) Will it really help this person? 3) What is my motive for helping? 4) Is this what I'm suppose to do right now?

As a mentor and friend, the greatest thing we can do is point them to the one who can truly meet their deepest needs.

-Terri'