

# Following Great Christians

During January, we have been asking in self reflection - *Am I Rooted?* Am I building great habits? Am I thinking great thoughts? Am I moving with spiritual confidence? It is not that strong Christians do not have problems, but, because of their relationship with Christ, they tend toward stability. Which often stands in contrast to weak Christians. In these lesson we will discuss who strong Christians associate with. And we'll look at four reasons why spiritual mentors are important.

## I. Who do deeply rooted Christians associate with?

- A. Answer: other strong christians
  - 1. Proverbs 27:17: *Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.*
  - 2. They love and appreciate their spiritual family.
- B. Our associations impact us
  - 1. Negatively
    - a) 1 Corinthians 15:33: *Do not be deceived: "Bad company **corrupts** good morals.*
    - b) Those around us affect who we are:
    - c) Psalm 1:1: *How happy is the one who does not **walk** in the advice of the wicked or **stand** in the pathway with sinners or **sit** in the company of mockers!*
    - d) Other people have an effect on us. Impact our life.
      - (1) Genesis 13.12: Lot set up his tent **near** Sodom.
      - (2) Genesis 14.12: Lot is **living** in Sodom.
      - (3) Genesis 19.1: Lot is **sitting** in Sodom's gateway.
    - e) If your primary associations are with worldly people, your spiritual life will be impacted.
  - 2. Positively
    - a) Think of the effect these mentors had on those who matured under them: Joshua/Moses; Timothy/Paul; Solomon/David
    - b) What about here at Cornerstone?
      - (1) Hebrews 13.7: *Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, **imitate** their faith.*
      - (2) Proverbs 13:20: *The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.*

## II. Why Spiritual Mentors are Important

- A. It opens our eyes to great spiritual qualities.
- B. It motivates us to do what they are doing. e.g., how do they encourage people?
  - 1. Ephesians 4:29b: *...but only what is good for **building up** someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.*
  - 2. Colossians 4.6a: *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...*
- C. It distances us from things that keep us from being strong.
  - 1. Get focused on others: Connect with them.
    - a) Romans 12:10: *Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.*
    - b) We must get out of ourselves and inside the lives others.
  - 2. Who's on your Spiritual Mount Rushmore?
- D. It helps us seek advice in the right places.
  - 1. Hebrews 12.1 - we have **witnesses** surrounding us. They encourage us. Build us up.

## III. As We Close...

- A. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: *Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love.*
- B. God wants Christians who are committed to being deeply rooted in Jesus Christ. Are you rooted?