



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Criteria to Mentor	SPEAKER	Ps Andrew Tan
THEME	Mentoring Series	DATE	22 & 23 June 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The third of the sermon series on mentoring explores the three criteria or common barriers from those who have yet to heed the call to mentor others. The speaker, Ps Andrew, reminds us through 2 Timothy 2:1 that God's grace is more than enough for us, no matter how difficult the situation might be. We are called to surrender our lives for God's work.

THE CRITERIA TO MENTOR

1. I don't know if I can – God's grace will empower you

A common barrier that we sometimes have in our mind is whether we have the knowledge and ability to be able to mentor others. We must remember however that achieving positive outcomes through mentoring has nothing to do with our own ability, but with the grace of God working and flowing through us.

Throughout the Bible, we see that many leaders were lacking in different areas. Moses (Exodus 4:10) was not eloquent and was slow of speech and tongue. Gideon (Exodus 6:15) was the least in his family and his clan was the weakest in Manasseh. However, God's response was the same – that He will be with them and His Grace is sufficient.

God doesn't necessarily call those who are equipped but He always equips those He calls. The Holy Spirit is the power that flows within us and will enable us to do God's work. It is the same power that has resurrected Jesus.

2. I don't know if I am good enough – God's grace will envelope you

Another common mental barrier commonly faced is self-doubt. We doubt that we are good enough to mentor others. The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:10-12 that it is not about whether we are good enough, because no one is good enough and we all fall short. It is instead God's grace that envelopes us and allows all our sins to be forgiven.

In Hebrews 11, many of the faithful followers named in the chapter also had character flaws and they too have fallen short. e.g Noah was a drunk, Moses had anger management issues, and Aaron

led people astray, etc. Paul, who was previously a persecutor of Christians, described himself as the worst of sinners, but through him many came to believe in God (1 Tim 1:15-16).

None of us are sinless but God's grace will always surpass our sins (Romans 5:20). That does not mean we should continue sinning but to align our actions with God's will. Don't let the Devil hold us back with the doubts planted in our minds that we are not good enough.

3. I don't know if I want to – God's grace expects it of you

The third common barrier is a lack of desire and reluctance to get out of our comfort zones to mentor others. Jesus commands us in Matthew 10:8 to freely give what we have freely received. God's grace expects and requires a response and we should heed the call to do His work.

However, giving and helping others doesn't just benefit those whom we mentor/help. Ps Andrew reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:15). God is not unjust and He will not forget our good works and how we have served His people (Hebrews 6:10). Jesus Himself reminds us that those who have made sacrifices to follow Him will receive much more later on (Mark 10:28-30).

CONCLUSION

What is the criteria to mentor? More than knowledge and abilities, experience as a Christian, moral character and desire, there is nothing more powerful than a surrendered life in the hands of God. There are many in our midst who need guidance and someone to journey with so that they can make it to the finish line, e.g. children, youth, young adults, new believers, newly-weds etc. Are you willing to heed the call to mentor?

QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on a mentor in your life and share how God's grace allowed him/her to connect and journey with you effectively.

2. Of the three criteria to mentoring shared during the sermon, which one do you struggle with the most and why? How might you overcome it?

3. Who is someone or a group of people God is prompting you to mentor? What is one way that you can reach out and how can your cell members pray for you?