

Spiritual Friendship - Paul & Timothy
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Key Passage: Acts 16:1-5; 1 Timothy 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:1-8

You need three spiritual friends in your life:

- **You need a BARNABAS** — a spiritual friend who loves you but is not impressed by you, a peer who is willing to keep you honest and speak in to your life.
- **You need a PAUL** — an older person who is willing to build into your life, a mentor who will share their successes, failures, and what they've learned in the laboratory of life.
- **You need a TIMOTHY** — a younger person into whose life you are building, someone to take under your wing and affirm, encourage, teach, pray for, correct, and direct through the opportunities and challenges of life.

Paul invested in Timothy by EXTENDING GRACE, INVITING INTO THE MISSION OF MERCY, and EMBODYING PEACE.

Practical Steps

1. Start praying for a Timothy.
2. Find some way for your life to intersect with theirs.
3. Start the journey with them.
 - ⇒ Hear their story. Learn about their passions.
 - ⇒ Be for them. Encourage them to grow.

Words of Wisdom

- You're not responsible for your friend's faith journey.
- You won't have all the answers so don't pretend.
- You don't replace God in their life, but commit to pointing them towards God's will.
- Know when you're in over your head.
- Know it may only be for a season.

