



*The Older Women:
Teaching What Is Good*

by Gail Yost



A. Who are the “older women”?

They ARE NOT necessarily

- experienced teachers,
- gifted speakers,
- leaders,
- products of Christian homes,
- women _____,
- mothers of “perfect” children, or
- women who have had a “perfect” marriage.

They ARE

- “reverent in their behavior,”
- “not malicious gossips” (controlling the tongue)
- “nor enslaved to much wine” (controlling the appetites of the flesh),
- _____!

B. What is the older women’s special assignment in the church?

They (We) ARE

- “to be teaching what is good . . . that they (we) may encourage the young women.” (Titus 2:3b-4a)

C. But how do older women (we) fulfill this special teaching assignment?

- By example:
We are responsible to _____ the acceptable and respectable life for younger women.

The adjective *teaching what is good* denotes _____.

"Good things" in this context are _____.

But the term contains a hidden implication: one teaches with one's life either _____ or _____, and pursuit of the _____ will ensure teaching that is good.

With age and experience comes wisdom, and many older women have discovered secrets of godly living in relation to their husbands, children, and neighbors and in the workplace that could save younger women a lot of unnecessary grief. And when the unavoidable trials come to the young woman, who better to guide her through than an older sister who has been through it before?

- By word:
Just as Paul exhorts Titus to teach the church _____, just as our pastors teach us by expositing the Word, so we older women are to reinforce _____ in talking with the younger women.

“Paul wanted the young women to think Christianly so that they would act Christianly. And sound doctrine is essential for right thinking.” (Donna Otto)

“A mindset of right thinking about the Gospel
will produce right living in the Gospel.”
(Dr. Mike Barrett at BJU Chapel, 9/17/08)

- By design:
Since our special assignment in the church is to teach the younger women Biblical goodness in _____ and _____, we need to make it our goal to look for the “students” the Lord has for us.

Consider young women already within our sphere:

- in your Sunday school class
- near you at prayer meeting or Sunday church services
- in choir with you
- one whose children are in the nursery when you have duty
- one who requests specific prayer on our weekly prayer lists
- a new church member whose testimony challenges you

Pray that the Lord will direct you to a young woman you can encourage. He may well have already shown you who that is.

D. What is this special teaching assignment called?

- Christian mentoring:

_____.
 - It is purposeful, intentional, and _____.
 - It happens in a _____ personal relationship through time.
 - It calls for the _____, focus, and single-mindedness of a person willing to

pour his or her life, faith, and knowledge of God into another person.

- Older women mentoring younger women is a _____.

E. But what if I don't think mentoring is for me?

I don't really want to think of myself as an older woman.

Mentoring sounds like a great ministry opportunity, but I'm busy—and besides, I did the Sunday school teaching/neighborhood Bible school/choir/LMPG president/Social Committee/Released Time/College & Career Fellowship/church sign things for years!

OK. I have time. I understand the importance of the ministry and the desperate need. I'd like to be involved, but what do I have to offer?

“Sow your life into something of significance.”
(Pastor Minnick)

“Put off the old things you were doing; start doing good things in the light of the truth. When you see yourself in union with the Savior on the cross, raised, and exalted, it won't be hard to die to your sin and live unto righteousness. Believers need to start living in the reality of what they say they believe. There should be no disconnect between what you believe and what you practice; between doctrine and duty.” (Dr. Mike Barrett at BJU Chapel, 9/17/08)

F. What does mentoring involve?

It involves

- Getting to know a younger woman and _____
_____.
- Asking questions (and _____).

“A question is one of the most wonderful communication devices in the world.” (V. Gilbert Beers)

- Offering encouragement. (Hebrews 10:23-25)
 - Write an encouraging letter.
 - Tell about how God has dealt with you—your personal testimony of overcoming and growth.
 - Offer your supportive presence. Don't withhold friendship when a sister stumbles or embarrasses you.
 - Show kindness when she hurts.
 - Praise the Lord with her when she makes progress in the faith (1 Peter 1:22).
 - Be available and willing to listen.
 - Be a cheerleader—offer celebration when the situation looks dim.
 - Jump in and help her actually complete a job.
 - Stand up for her, defending her when others disparage her.

- Review with her the record of God’s involvement in your past and present, so that she can get the future into perspective.
- Sharing books and/or sermon and music CDs from your (or the church’s) library.
- Praying together.
 - Pray frequently.
 - Pray honestly.
 - Pray in an understandable manner.
 - Pray Scripture.
 - Pray when you don’t have “the” answer—stop and ask God for the answer.



“It is in prayer we receive strength and courage to attend to life as God planned.” (Donna Otto)

- Bringing the hungry-hearted young woman to the Lord. (Matthew 14:15-21)
- Covering this mentoring ministry in prayer. Ask God to guide you, use you, and bless the time you spend with this younger woman.
- Rejoicing that God will be glorified as you share the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

“For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.” (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)

“One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

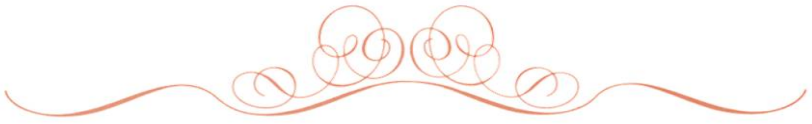
I Would Be True

(Howard A. Walter, 1883-1918)

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care.
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare—
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving and forget the gift.
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift—
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

I would be prayerful thru each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God.
I would be tuned to hear His slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod—
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.



A Charge to Keep I Have
(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788)

A charge to keep I have—
A God to glorify,
Who gave His Son my soul to save
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill—
O may it all my pow'rs engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely;
And let me ne'er my trust betray,
But press to realms on high.

Sources Consulted:

Finding a Mentor, Being a Mentor, Donna Otto.
Loving God with All Your Mind, Elizabeth George
Spiritual Mothering, Susan Hunt