



MENTORING MOMENT: ANYONE CAN MENTOR...

“I have never seen myself as a mentor.” Whenever I hear someone say that, I think of a statement Tim Elmore wrote in his book on Mentoring: “Anyone can mentor, provided he has learned something from God and is willing to share with others what he has learned.” Two simple provisions on being a mentor: you have learned something and you are willing to pass it on.

The best mentors are life-long learners. We need to be constantly learning for several reasons. First, when it comes to life and wisdom and growing up, there is a lot to learn! I also believe that God is constantly teaching, so we better have our learning antenna up and alert every day. But perhaps the most overlooked reason for being a learner is that other people need us to be life-long learners.

Here are 3 commitments that I challenge you to make today – and every day:

1. **Commitment to Stay Humble and Open:** Humility is a prerequisite to a learning spirit. Begin every day with the acknowledgement that there is more to learn. Don't let arrogance shut down your learning.
2. **Commitment to Apply and Act** on what you are learning: One of my favorite mentoring statements of Jesus goes like this: *“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”* Note that the blessing is not found in merely knowing something. The blessing comes when you put into practice what you have learned. Mentors keep the focus on “application learning.”
3. **Commitment to Pass Along to Others** what you are learning. Learning should never be a “Dead Sea” experience. Take it in and pass it along. That’s what mentoring is all about.

Dr. Blair Ritchey is Executive Director of ISF, a non-profit foundation dedicated to providing scholarships, mentoring and leadership development for young people who have aged out of orphan or foster care, as they pursue their dream of a college education and a successful life. Mentoring Moment is a weekly message of encouragement and inspiration to those committed to the mentoring process. If you prefer NOT to receive Mentoring Moment, simply reply to this email.



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