

Success habits and leadership skills are recycled from one generation to the next, and that happens by way of great mentorship.

five reasons why you need a mentor



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*“The most important profession in the world is parenting. The second is teaching, and **everyone is a teacher to someone.**”*

— John Wooden

Even though we live in the Information Age (also commonly referred to as: Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age) – a time in which the way we live, work and play has been greatly influenced by major technological advancements -- we still need face-to-face, belly-to-belly interaction with other people.

Thanks to personal computers, the internet, and now smartphones, anything that is shared over the web can be seen instantaneously across the globe. Once upon a time, there was an old adage of everyone being only *six degrees of separation* from anyone else on the planet. Meaning, we are all six introductions away from meeting any given person in the world. Well, thanks to the Information Age, we are now basically operating under *zero degrees of separation*.

That said, why is it that in a time where more information is shared and seen in the span of a day than one was probably exposed to in a lifetime a century ago, are people achieving less and less desirable and fulfilling results in various areas of their life? We don't have time to dissect all of the components of this dilemma, but I can offer part of the solution. It's mentorship, or lack thereof.

Being relational creatures who were created for community, our relationships drive much of what we do. And it's sound mentorship that, in part, teaches you to value these relationships. Find someone who has lived a life on purpose for a purpose, while adding tremendous amounts of value to lives of others around them, and I'll show you someone who has received genuine, authentic mentorship.

Before we go any further, let's first consider what a mentor is.

WHAT IS A MENTOR

A mentor is someone you trust, respect, and admire. You trust them for who they are. You respect them for how they operate. You admire them for what they have accomplished in a given area of their life. You may look up to this person because of their strong faith or even their sound disciplines.

Although I have met many people who I consider to be mentors, between the pages of great books, the mentors I appreciate most are the ones who have invested their precious, finite time with me. They have imparted decades of wisdom on me, teaching me invaluable lessons and reinforcing timeless truths to me.

Here are what I consider to be the five reasons why you need a mentor.

1. YOU DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU KNOW

The first reason you need a mentor is you don't know as much as you think you know, regardless of how intelligent you are. You've probably heard the saying: *the most expensive thing you could ever own is a closed mind*. A common characteristic of a closed mind is thinking you know more than you actually do. And there's usually a little negativity and some pride thrown in there on top of that.

My growth hit a plateau for some time; longer than I care to admit, to be honest. With the help of my ego, I reached a place where I thought I knew what was best for me. I backed myself into a corner by refusing to accept the advice of others who had gone before me, while also neglecting the importance of working on myself through self-education

Although you certainly shouldn't treat just *anyone* as a mentor, you *can* learn something from *everyone*. Being mindful of this truth allows you to remain teachable. Also, let's not forget the simple fact that our life span on this physical earth is but spec as it relates to the infinite time and space of eternity. So, to even think you really know it all and have it all figured out is quite ridiculous.

2. SOMEONE SOMEWHERE WANTS TO HELP YOU

The second reason you need a mentor is someone is looking forward to investing in you. Can the world be a pretty cold place? Yes. Are there some difficult people you come across in this life? Absolutely. Will you always be treated fair and square? Of course not. But to hold that over the heads of everyone you meet isn't a wise decision. The reality is that there are good people all over the place who want to help other people, just like you.

Those who have truly become successful in their respective careers or callings, and have made a significant impact in the lives of others, will always give credit where credit is due. Although everyone must put in the sweat equity that any particular endeavor worth pursuing requires, people of significance know they didn't reach their level of success on their own.

Success habits and leadership skills are recycled from one generation to the next, and that happens by way of great mentorship. How do you leave a legacy in the lives of others? You pay it forward with what you've learned. Therefore, remember this: great people want to help those who aspire to be great themselves. If you're one of those people, there is someone somewhere who wants to help you grow.

3. YOU CAN'T GO IT ALONE

The third reason you need a mentor is because a mentor plays an important role on the team that you need in order to get where you want to go. Similar to the first point, this point addresses an individualistic approach to life. Reason number one speaks to the knowledge side of things, while this points to the *application* of that knowledge: action.

You've probably heard it said before, "*I can do bad all by myself, or I can do bad all on my own.*" Well, that's true, my friend. You can. If you plan on being a one man (or woman) show, your dream will never grow. And inevitably, your actions and results will never exceed the vision you have for your life. So, it's important to recognize and respect the fact that you need help.

A mentor who cares about you and your success will provide ongoing support and additional resources as you find your way. In that process, a great mentor will help you see the value of surrounding yourself with strong leaders and like-minded people who can complement you in a number of ways.

4. LEARNING FROM OTHERS' MISTAKES IS LESS PAINFUL

The fourth reason you need a mentor is that it is much less painful to learn from the mistakes of other people than it is to learn from your own shortcomings. This obviously doesn't mean a mentor is going to help you avoid making every possible mistake you could make in the future by miraculously removing them from your path.

What this does mean, however, is that your growth could be expedited, if you decide to listen and learn from the mistakes that others have made. Most all sound parents want their children to end up better off than they are, right? That's why many conversations between parents and children include statements like, *"I don't want you make the same mistake I made."*

With great mentorship, we all have the opportunity to jump over some potholes, dodge a few landmines, and avoid stepping in some cracks, figuratively speaking. In other words, someone else has already made a lot of the mistakes for you. This is an invaluable component when you really think about it. If I was a betting man, I'd put my money on this being the most important of each of the five reasons I'm sharing with you.

5. YOU ARE ALSO CALLED TO BE A MENTOR

The fifth reason you need a mentor is that in order for you to effectively influence the lives of other people, you need an example of what that looks like. The foundation of any healthy relationship is reciprocity. This means there is a give and take pattern, but there is a respectful and responsible initiative from both parties to give. But, what you will see happen, more often than not, is that a great mentor doesn't ask for anything in return.

Each of my mentors have always exhorted me by requesting that I *pay them back* by going out and putting in play what we have practiced. Part of that game plan is being open to sharing what I have learned from them with other people I see who are working to grow and lead. As I mentioned briefly in reason number two, this is how you *pay it forward*.

If you operate with the philosophy that you are blessed in order to be a blessing, being a mentor will be fun for you. This is where your dream gets real good... This is where you see the real fruit... When you see others growing, in part, due to your investment in their lives, it's unbelievably rewarding.

SEEK MENTORSHIP NOW

There is no collection of words that I could put together in the English diction that would be able to express the genuine gratitude and deep appreciation I have for the important people who have served as mentors in my life.

I encourage you to seek mentorship now, and when you find it, become a sponge and soak up all the wisdom and knowledge that you possibly can. Great mentorship will help you understand the depths of the following ideas, and much more:

- we are all in the people business
- leadership is hard work
- teaching and training is more than just knowledge
- helping people grow is a process
- success is not a destination; it's a journey
- adding great value to others requires intentionality
- who you are is more important than what you do
- to dream is to do

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeremy A. Taylor was raised in rural Campbellsville, Kentucky. After several years of teaching and coaching in the public education sector, he shifted his focus to building a network marketing business in the health and wellness industry.

With an entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for helping people grow, Jeremy launched Taylor Leadership Development, LLC. He is uniquely charismatic in his approach to engaging, equipping, empowering, and encouraging people of all ages.

He has written two books: *D.R.E.A.M.* (2014) and *The 25 Secrets to Staying Excited* (2016). In addition to writing, he has traveled the US extensively, consulting and inspiring dozens of organizations and businesses and thousands of students, as a trainer and speaker.

Jeremy also co-founded Mission Candle Co., a social enterprise, with his lovely wife, Jaala. They work to produce all-natural hand-crafted aromatherapy products while providing restoration support to survivors of human trafficking, particularly sex slavery.

Jeremy holds a Bachelor of Science degree (Social Studies) from Campbellsville University (2007), and has received extensive leadership training from world renowned experts such as John C. Maxwell, Les Brown, Kenneth Brailsford, Darren Hardy, Paul Zane Pilzer, Dan Clark, Clifton Lambreth, and many more.

Jesus, people, food, traveling, reading, and sports, are all some of Jeremy's favorites. He believes in keeping the main thing the main thing, and *"if you're not having fun, you're not doing it right!"*

To learn more about Jeremy A. Taylor and find out how he can serve you, please visit www.jeremyataylor.com. Stay connected with him on social media by following @jermataylor on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

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