

Mentoring for Ministry
with Dr. Bob and Nancy Abramson
(www.mentoringministry.com)

Session Four: The End Game - “Just a Little Bit More”

Let us now look at the concluding portion of our “Concise Definition of Mentoring.”

[4] Mentoring, as a process, challenges them to embrace what they have been given, apply it fruitfully to their lives, and develop themselves into all God wants them to be. The goal of successful mentoring is that those it touches shall be forever changed - to the glory and honor of God.

This last part of the mentoring definition is the real test for you and those you will mentor. Will they be transformed? Will they become all that is in God’s heart for them to be? Will you have done what God called and equipped you to do, so they can do what God calls them to do?

The NIV version of Philippians 4:9 says, *“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

In the final analysis, the mentoring process will be judged by its product. The only product you, as the mentor, are responsible for are the people you mentor.

- Your responsibility is to do your part to help them to become vessels of honor, fit for the Master’s use.
- Every part of the mentoring process is a building block for a house that will stand the test of Romans 12:1-2 - that everyone, including you as the mentor, will be transformed as living displays in action of the will of God.
- After they leave you, the actions and outcomes of their ministry will be their responsibilities.

(Colossians 1:9-10 NKJV) "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; {10} that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

The New Living Translation of Colossians 1:10 says, *“Then the way you live... [a] will always honor and please the Lord, and... [b] you will continually do*

good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better.”

Here is a final look at the mentoring definition we have been working with. Read it slowly and thoughtfully. (If you are in a group, read it aloud together.

Mentoring is our intentional, sacrificial imitation and modeling of Christ and His love, in the company of those we are given to care for, lead and develop. We model and teach them what they need to know. We help them practice what they have learned. We inspire them to have the faith to achieve their destinies.

Mentoring, as a process, challenges them to embrace what they have been given, apply it fruitfully to their lives, and develop themselves into all God wants them to be. The goal of successful mentoring is that those it touches shall be forever changed - to the glory and honor of God.

Ultimately, we can only have one conclusion for the mentoring efforts every one of us is called to undertake. Here it is.

Transformation is the End Game (ultimate goal of your mentoring efforts).

Mentoring puts everyone involved in a place of progressive transformation. If you do your mentoring assignment correctly, you will establish the end game as what really is only the beginning. You will have done your part to enable those you mentored to be Romans 12:1-2 people.

- Mentoring is not about your success or significance, though it is an integral part of it.
- It is about the success and significance of those God gives you to mentor.

So, why did God position you to receive all this information? That is the question we (Dr. Bob and Pastor Nancy) want to leave with you. Before you think about how you might answer it, listen to the preface from my book, “Just a Little Bit More.” It may seem strange for us to be ending with a beginning, but it is appropriate. You are at the beginning of what can become a great journey of influence and significance. Please listen carefully, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you, as He did to me when I experienced what you are about to hear.

From the Preface of Dr. Bob's book, "JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE."

It was 1996. We had just arrived in the Fiji Islands¹ and were committed to be there for the next three years. My wife Nancy and I had visited twice before, but now we were to be embedded full time into a culture that was very different from what we were used to. We would pastor a church and establish a training school for ministry. We had great anticipation, but little understanding of this very special place with a very different way of living.

Our first Sunday, we were in services with the Christian Mission Fellowship church. It met in an old movie theater, which was in quite a state of disrepair. Long ago, it had been painted completely black on the inside. It looked like years had passed since any serious maintenance had been done. It was quite dirty. The day was typically hot and unbearably humid. The theater had no air conditioning and the air was absolutely still. It did not take long for all of us in the crowd to generate a less than pleasing odor.

Nancy and I were seated on the front row. We knew the whole service would be in the native Fijian language and we would not have a clue of what was going on. As the worship team began to sing, a very large speaker just in front of us was sending forth a blast of sound that was far beyond my comfort zone. In spite of the sound nearly blasting us out of our seats, and even though we could not understand a single word, it became apparent there was a strong presence of God. The heartfelt worship of the congregation made a powerful impression on me. Nevertheless, I was getting physically more uncomfortable by the minute, and began to wish I were anywhere else but there!

After about an hour of praise and worship, the time came for the sermon. The church had invited a guest speaker that day. He was an imposing-looking man who preached with great passion, but again, it was in Fijian. I had no idea what he was saying. I sat there sweating, wondering how long it would be until I could get out and go somewhere cooler. I thought to myself, "Lord, what am I doing here?"

¹ The Fiji Islands are an island nation in the South Pacific.

Quite unexpectedly, God answered me. As I sat there, resigned to the fact that I would simply have to endure the sermon without a clue about what he was saying, it happened. In the midst of a sentence, the preacher switched to English and said five words that struck me like a hammer. He said, “Just a little bit more.” Then he went back to speaking Fijian. About three or four minutes later, he again switched to English, “Just a little bit more.” He did this about a half dozen times during his sermon. They were the only words he spoke in English. To this day, I have no idea why, except that God had a life-changing message for me – “Just a little bit more.”

These five words became part of me. They began to define my relationship with God, and they became the guiding principle for my strategies as a mentor and pastor. (To be just a little bit more like Jesus every day.)

Our prayer is that what I just read to you, and all we shared with you, will help you become “just a little bit more” like Jesus every day and in every way so that you can help others do the same. That, dear friends, is the end game.

Dr. Bob and Nancy Abramson

If you are in a group, take the time now to discuss how these four sessions have touched the group.