

INTRODUCTION

The dictionary defines *mentor* as “a wise and influential counselor or teacher.”

I’ve had some excellent mentors—pastors, seminary professors, and older disciples who are farther down the same spiritual road on which I’m traveling. But some of my mentors I’ve never met. They don’t even know me, much less that they’ve been my mentors. Yet they’ve had a gigantic impact on my life.

Every Christian needs a mentor in prayer, someone who knows God intimately and can say, “Follow my example” and “Here are some mistakes I’ve made in prayer that I want you to avoid.”

Maybe you don’t have a seasoned saint who will take you under his or her wing to mentor you that way. But you can still enjoy the ministry of a prayer mentor—or many of them.

I’m talking about the biblical heroes. I invite you to listen to their cries to God, to feel their spiritual passion, and to allow their hearts to mold yours. The examples of these prayer warriors are not historical relics to be admired in the museum of a dead book. They are patterns that we should follow as we feed on the living Word of God. And as we study their prayer lives, we’ll discover fifteen secrets to an effective prayer life of our own.

On the following pages, I’ll introduce you to more than a dozen biblical prayer mentors who have shaped my own prayer life into a ministry that God is using and blessing. I’m confident that these biblical heroes will be good mentors to you, too.