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GIVE THEM A CHANCE.

Sometimes all a person needs to become successful is just to be “given a chance” to do something, and then be trusted to perform it. I was given such a chance as a young man.

I had graduated from college. (My Alma Mater is known today as Southeastern University.) I had played on the school’s new soccer team and became their first-ever 4-year letterman. Although my knowledge of the game was very limited, the Athletic Director, who had been carefully observing me during his two years there, offered me the head coaching position.

I did not feel I knew the game well enough, and I had absolutely no coaching experience. However, this man had full confidence in me. He had not only been watching me play on the field, but also my ability in the classroom. He placed full control of the team, the financial budget, and all travel arrangements in my hand.

The first year of coaching was a huge learning curve. We won five games (5-9 season) after having won only one game in each of the previous two years. When the season was finished the team captain confided in me that the players who had played those two years along side me had doubted the Athletic Director’s choice of me as a coach. He said, however, that as it turned out, I had done a very good job as coach.

The following year we had our first ever winning season and went on to win some conference championships during my six years as head coach.

The opportunity given me as an “unproven coach” and the confidence of the Athletic Director to place me in “full charge” as he maintained a “hands off” approach was instrumental in building my confidence that I could fearlessly tackle whatever came my way “to do.”

The Apostle Paul also placed that same kind of confidence in a young unproven man named Timotheus. Timothy as we know him, was likely around 20-25 years in age. In the Jewish culture a man under 30 years old was not taken seriously; nobody would listen to him or place any authority in him. That is the same reason that Jesus did not launch His ministry until He turned thirty.

That youth factor is why Paul, upon sending Timothy alone to Corinth, wrote to them in I Corinthians 16:11, **“Let no man therefore despise him...”** but treat him (conduct) in peace (good faith).

Paul saw such zeal and maturity in this young man that he chose Timothy as his fellow worker alongside him. (Romans 16:21). Paul also called him his “son” (I Timothy 1:2, 18; and II Timothy 1:2).

The two of them travelled together to many places including Colosse, (Colossians 1:1) and Corinth (II Corinthians 1:1). Paul also trusted Timothy enough that Paul sent him alone to minister in Corinth (I Corinthians 4:17), Thessalonica (I Thessalonians 3:2), and Philippi (Philippians 2:19).

Showing trust and confidence in a person can bring out the best in them. Sometimes all that they need is for someone to give them a chance. Is there anyone you know whom you can show that kind of confidence and give them a “chance” at doing something that can show their responsibility? The Athletic Director did that for me. Paul did that for Timothy. Who might you do it for?