

# Guiding Voices

Through Our Eyes Ep.1

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I'm stepping into the world of blogging, and truthfully, I never thought I would. But here I am, representing Chester First Baptist Church, ready to share stories and wisdom about life's challenges, mixing in personal experiences and teachings from the Bible.

Life? It's tough for all of us. But here's the thing – we can learn so much from each other. So, to kick off this blog, let me share a story that really hits home about the power of listening to the people around you.

Back in high school, my principal and one of my heroes of the faith, Bro. Jon Brown, encouraged me to give a sermon at a competition my school attended every year. I was just 15 and pretty overwhelmed. With a lot of effort, I crafted my first sermon in about three hours. I turned to my dad (pastor of 40ish years) for feedback, and he was supportive, but he also pushed me to learn more about writing. He handed me a book by Dr. Harold Bryson titled "Building Sermons to Meet People's Needs", which became my guide. I read the book in about a week. After that, I poured over my sermon and ended up reworking it for over twelve hours (not in one setting, I'm not crazy).

What's the big lesson here? Is it about dads having all the answers? Maybe. Or how great teachers can push us to be our best? Sure. Is it the power of a good read? Why not. But above all, it's about listening to those you look up to. Bro. Jon pushed me to pursue my calling, and my dad equipped me with the tools to succeed. Their influence still drives me, even six years later.

I'm incredibly thankful for the amazing people that God has placed in my life! The Bible certainly gives us the advice of seeking godly counsel from people in our lives who are full of wisdom. Here are a few verses that really capture this principle.

## **Proverbs 22:6**

Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

## **Proverbs 13:20**

He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Catch you soon,

Ridge Fogerson