

A Good Servant; 1 Timothy 4:6-16

- I. Point out these things
 - A. Do “these things” follow or precede that statement
 - B. Is he talking about the false teachers and those who leave Christ in verses 1-5?
 - C. 1 Timothy 4:1–5; ¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.
 - D. Since he covers some of the same ground in verses 6-16, I think what follows is his main idea
 1. Being nourished (trained) by the faith
 2. Train yourself for Godliness
 3. Do not neglect your gift
- II. Nourished
 - A. 1 Timothy 4:6; If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.
 - B. “Trained” - being reared or nourished, likened to raising a child
 1. Acts 7:20–22; ²⁰ At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was **brought up** for three months in his father’s house, ²¹ and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and **brought him up** as her own son. ²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.
 2. Acts 22:3; ³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but **brought up** in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.
 3. Ephesians 6:4; ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but **bring them up** in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 - C. While we would tend to look at this from a perspective of raising our children, nourishing them with God’s word, I’m not so sure that is what Paul is telling Timothy
 1. Tradition tells us the Timothy could be around 38 years old as Paul is writing to him
 2. He is still considered a “youth” (in Hebrew culture age 40 is the crossover point from youth to elder)
 3. I think it was a way of life for Timothy after he made the decision to follow Christ
 4. He was raised by the word, his conversion was not the end of a long road, but the beginning of his service in the Kingdom of Heaven
 5. He let the words of Christ (through the Apostles and prophets) nourish him
 - D. We as Christians should not think that our conversion to Christ is an end for it is only a beginning.
 1. A beginning of a life of service to God through Christ
 2. Part of that service includes being raised up, being nourished, being trained by the faith
 3. Colossians 3:16–17; ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or

deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

4. Philippians 4:8–9; ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
 5. I don't think it is coincidence that the book of acts is the beginning of the New Testament (Matthew - John are still under the old Covenant)
 6. The book of Acts details the beginning of the Church and Christianity. The rest of the books detail how to be nourished, trained, reared, brought up in the Faith
 7. 1 Peter 1:3-11 (read from Bible)
- E. Have we let the world nourish us, bring us up, rear us?
- F. I imagine (in my own mind) the three years Moses mother reared him
1. Exodus 2:7–10; ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."
 2. This nourishment, this nursing (I imagine) included all the stories about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph.
 3. Hebrews 11:24–26; ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
 4. Moses was 40 years old when he first left Egypt; could you imagine 3 years of Godly teaching and 37 years of "other" training.
 5. I also imagine that Moses spent a lot of time with the Hebrew slaves
 6. Exodus 2:11; One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.
- G. My point is, who are we letting nourish us?

III. Train

- A. 1 Timothy 4:7–10; ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.
- B. "Train" - To develop behavior by instruction or practice; to be shaped or conditioned, disciplined
- C. We get the English word "gymnasium" from this Greek word
- D. A Gym is where people go to train, to discipline their bodies
1. Jordan Wieber is an Olympic Gold Medalist in the 2012 Summer Olympics
 2. She was asked a question about her training, "When did you first start doing gymnastics, and how much do you train?"

3. Her Answers: 4 years old and about 5 hours a day for about 6 days a week (from a very early age).
 4. That is 30 hours a week (others said 36 hours a week) she dedicates to her gymnastics' training (from a very early age)
 5. A regular work week is around 40 hours a week (that is 8 hours a day)
 6. Our children spend 6.5 to 7 hours a day training in academics (5 days a week)
- E. It is no accident that Paul uses this term to get across his idea to Timothy
- F. But what does "training for godliness" look like?
1. It is not physical training, because Paul makes that comparison, "while bodily training is of some value..."
 2. Paul lists some of these things in verses 12-13
 3. Speech
 - a) The way we communicate with one another is very important
 - b) My first day back in Iceland, riding with the NCO that picked me up from the airport (my speech was one expletive after another)
 - c) Colossians 4:6; Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
 4. Conduct
 - a) The way we live communicates who we are to others
 - b) I'm sure we have all done things we shouldn't have done
 - c) 1 Peter 1:14–17; ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,
 5. Love
 - a) A selfless, sacrificial action that puts others needs before our own
 - b) Ephesians 5:2; And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
 6. Faith
 - a) A full reliance on the Heavenly creator's promises to us concerning our salvation
 - b) Hope in the resurrection of Jesus (a confident expectation)
 - c) Hope in His return
 - d) John 14:1–6; ¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 7. Purity
 - a) The state of being unspotted by sin or moral wrong (without sin)
 - b) That should be what we strive for
 - c) 2 Corinthians 4:1–2; ¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God

G. Practice these things; train, discipline yourselves in godliness

IV. Your Gift

A. Do not neglect your gift

B. 1 Timothy 4:14–15; ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

C. What is your gift?

1. A good way to find out is to ask a close friend in the church
2. I used to think that my gift was singing
3. Then I thought since I really enjoyed teaching, that must be my gift
4. Then my wife finally told me that preaching is what I do best
5. Some people have a special gift of visiting the elderly and shut-ins
6. Some people have a special gift of giving generously (and not just to the church)
7. But the point is to find out what it is and do it with zeal

D. We (as a church) are encouraged by each person's gift

1. Romans 1:11–12; ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.
2. Romans 12:4–8; ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
3. I think this is just a partial list
4. Mike, in Germany, was walking his wife to church (she was in a wheelchair) and he suffered a brain aneurysm and died
 - a) Mike did not preach, lead songs, pray, teach or play any such role in the morning assemblies
 - b) But Mike was always at the building fixing things and making sure everything was working properly
 - c) While his gift isn't covered in the partial list in Romans, it is a gift none the less
 - d) Eric reminds me a lot of Mike (except that Eric will preach when asked to)

E. 1 Corinthians 7:6–7; ⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

F. 2 Timothy 1:6; For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

G. 1 Peter 4:10–11; ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

V. A Good Servant

A. Are you nourished in the word and in the Faith

B. Are you training yourself for godliness

C. Are you fanning the flame of your gift