

4. Don't get too theological on this one, but jot down each gift you find listed in these verses and a few words or phrases as to what would happen to a church that was missing each individual gift listed.

5. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11. How should we look at the gifts and abilities that God has given us? Jot down the purpose statements that you find here.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7, then verses 15-18. What's the point of Paul's questions? Have you ever felt like a foot, or an ear? Have you ever looked at the eye and thought that part had to be more important? What does this say to you about how truly needed you are in the body?

7. Finally, what does 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 say about the purpose of the gifts that God has given each one of us?

EMBRACE GOD'S CALL FOR *YOU*

1 Timothy 4:6-16

If God calls us to a task, he will qualify us to do the job. A young man is in over his head, leading people who thought he was too young, too inexperienced, and probably too shy to do the job. Yet the encouragement that Paul gives Timothy goes far beyond a mentor and his protégé. It comes to all of us who feel we are unworthy or unable to do what God has called us to.

Three instructions to a man thinking about quitting

Point these things out (4:6-10)

We say it once and think it's understood. In reality ...

Say simple truth often enough so that people are mouthing the words back with you.

You can't point things out if you haven't worked them out yourself.
Training in godliness requires you eat properly, prioritize properly,
and train properly.

Command and teach these things (4:11-14)

You can't make people change; but you can prove them wrong.
You don't prove them wrong by shouting; you do it by living.

Be diligent in these matters (4:15-16)

Whole-hearted devotion leads to progress **in learning** and progress **in living**.

Timothy's challenge: **perseverance** instead of shrinking back; **faith** instead of fear; **growth** instead of stagnation.

Timothy's primer in godliness (1 Timothy 4:12)

1. What would an audio playback of **my speech** today reveal?
2. What would a video playback of **my actions** reveal?
3. How would my spouse, my kids, my friends, my enemies, and random strangers say **I treated them** today?
4. How would others say **I handled crisis** in my life today? In faith or in desperation?
5. How would others say **I handled thoughts, my gazes, or my appetites** today if they could crawl around in my mind?

Godliness is practical. Is there anything that encouraged you, challenged you, troubled you, or gave you new insight regarding godliness? Jot it down.

Getting to know you

On Sunday Jim spoke of Timothy, trying to do a job with people who thought he was too young and too inexperienced to do the job. Have you ever been in a situation where you were sidelined because of some stereotypical disqualification? Jot down a couple of sentences help you remember the situation.

Going Deeper

Timothy was challenged not to neglect his gift, presumably because of intimidation or general disuse. This week we consider this important topic of gifts.

1. Read Romans 12:3-8. Pay special attention to verse 3. Why do you think Paul starts out his description the way he does? (1 Corinthians 12:21-22 might help).
2. If Paul were talking to you about your gift, what would he tell you to do?
3. Paul seems to assume that his readers know what their gift is without any special seminars. How do you think they know?