
TIMOTHY

TRAINING

Son, like the Father,
And together with
Father, and together
Son?
6 And when he saith, "And
in the Father,"
he saith, "And
God worship."
7 And "of
Who make
and his man."
8 But not
throne. O G
a sceptre
sceptre of
9 Thou!



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THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

1. The Invitation to All

A. The _____ and the _____

“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.’” – Matthew 22:1–14

1. Many _____

Although many were issued invitations, some allowed other priorities to deter them from responding.

It is important to notice that God is “inviting”. He is not forcing. He is inviting. We are given the freedom to choose to respond or not. He does not force His call on our lives, but holds out an invitation and waits for us to accept it.

2. Few _____

Those who did respond were chosen.

B. The Called and the _____

“Those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” – Revelation 17:14b

Those who will overcome are not simply those who were called and chosen, but those who remain faithful.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

2. Those Who Received Invitation

A. Esther

“Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” – Esther 4:14

God can place us in a specific place at a specific time for a specific reason. We must be alert and prepared to see that calling so we can grasp it and fulfill it.

B. _____

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” – Jeremiah 1:5

Called from the womb. From childhood God’s hand is upon us, preparing us for the calling He has placed on our lives.

C. Paul

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’” – Acts 9:15–16

Called to be a witness, apostle to the Gentiles.

D. Onesimus

“Who formerly was useless to you but now is useful both to you and to me.” – Philemon 11

Went from useless to useful. Previous failure does not preclude present success.

E. _____

“For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world.” – 2 Timothy 4:10

Went from useful to useless. Previous success does not guarantee present success.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 2. Those Who Received Invitation

F. John _____

“Bring him with you for he is useful to me for ministry.” – 2 Timothy 4:11

He went from useful to useless to useful. Never give up the call God has placed in your heart. Failures can be turned around. On the other hand, never take for granted the call of God on your life but cultivate and guard it lest you become a Demas.

G. Gideon

“I am the least in my father’s house.” Yet in God’s eyes, “mighty man of valor.” – Judges 6

Our strength in our call is not in our own abilities but in God’s strength. According to the world’s standards, Gideon was not eligible for the call, yet in God’s eyes he was superbly fit for the task. He was one who would lean on God’s wisdom and strength and not his own innate abilities.

3. The Invitation’s Specific Elements

A. God is inviting you to live life with _____ and meaning.

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’” – Acts 13:22

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God...” – Acts 13:36a

To live as David, serving your own generation by the will of God.

B. God is inviting you to become a _____ in His hand.

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go for he is a chosen vessel [tool] of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.’” – Acts 9:15

Paul was only a tool, a vessel, but he was called to “bear My name”. The glory does not go to the tool, but to the one who wields it. We are tools, called to be yielded to the hand of God that He might wield us with great skill to accomplish great things and glorify Himself.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 3. The Invitation's Specific Elements

- C. God is inviting you to suffer for Him, bearing your _____ daily.
"For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God."
– 1 Peter 2:20

How do you respond when you pour your life into a person, spending hours in prayer and counseling with them, caring, serving, discipling them, and then reject you? What if you pour your life to someone and they decide to return to their previous lifestyle?

- D. God is inviting you to do a specific _____ which only you have been called to do – "your work"
"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." – Acts 13:2

God has placed an individual call on your life that no one else can fulfill. You have unique giftings and abilities that perfectly qualify you for the destiny that God has for you. Even as no one else can fulfill your call, you cannot fulfill anyone else's. So don't compare your call with that of another individual. Throw yourself passionately into your call.

- E. God is inviting you to receive His _____ for your life.
"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." – 1 Peter 4:10

See also: Acts 2:39; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11; Romans 12:6–8; 2 Timothy 1:6

God has given each of us certain giftings that are tailor-made to accomplish what He has called us to. God doesn't force these on us, but offers them and invites us to take them.

- F. God is inviting you to _____. God intends to discover where your strengths lie by serving others.
"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded." – John 13:3–5

Serving is not a stepping-stone to greatness. It is greatness! Serving does not mean "full-time service", as a position in the church, but it is a "full-time lifestyle."

Serving is not just a title of elder or deacon, but it is the attitude and motivation wherever you are serving God, even in your secular job.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

4. Our Response to the Invitation and Heart Condition

A. Importance of the Heart

1. Heart (Hebrew) = labab= whole inner life of a man: mind, will, emotions, the “center”

The heart is the seat of a man’s collective energies, his inner life. It is the very throne upon which life itself sits, his thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purpose. It is his very person God’s spirit comes into our renewed personality bringing God’s own strength and vitality, His own pure motives and desires. This new beginning redirects our total life and experience.

2. Who we are in our heart dictates our _____, our _____, our _____.

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”
– Proverbs 4:23

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.” – Matthew 12:33–35

B. Heart Conditions

1. _____

Tender [Hebrew] = to be soft, delicate, contrite, easily penetrated. It is a word used to describe a state of children. It is to be easily impressed, broken or bruised, not tough, firm or hard. To be very sensitive; to easily yield; quick to respond.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” – Ezekiel 36:26

“Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the LORD. – II Kings 22:19 (King Josiah)

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” – Ephesians 4:32

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 4. Our Response to the Invitation and Heart Condition cont... B. Heart Conditions

2. _____

Willing = ready to do, without reluctance; voluntarily; cheerfully doing; not refusing; not reluctant compliance.

⁶ 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze; ²¹ Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. ²² They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the LORD.' – Exodus 35:5, 21–22

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts." – I Chronicles 28:9

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power" – Psalms 110:3a (KJV)

3. Hardened

The condition of the heart is vitally connected to the hearing ear.

"But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts." – Zechariah 7:11–12

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." – Hebrews 3:13

4. _____

"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles." – Matthew 13:20–21

An immediate positive response, yet no depth of commitment to fulfill the call.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 4. Our Response to the Invitation and Heart Condition

cont... B. Heart Conditions

5. Over-crowded

“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” – Matthew 13:22

Distractions suffocate the call.

6. Embittered

Bitterness defiles many.

“Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.” – Hebrews 12:15

Amplified = *“In order that no root of resentment, bitterness or hatred shoot forth.”*

5. The Response and Escaping Excuses – Luke 14:16–20 (NKJV)

“16 Then He said to him, ‘A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ 20 Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’” – Luke 14:16-20

A. Defining the word “_____”

Excuse = to decline, shun, avoid, beg off

In each case in Luke 14, what caused refusal was not wrong in itself. The excuses simply veiled a disinclination to respond favorably to the invitation. The three excuses listed below parallel the forces that choked the seed in the parable of the sower: cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, pleasures of this life.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 5. The Response and Escaping Excuses

B. Common Unacceptable Excuses

1. Profitable _____

“But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’”
– Luke 14:18

“But they all with one accord” = One motive inspired them all. They were indifferent towards the one who had invited them. They all gave reasons why they were not able to come.

Bought land = investment, property, material gain.

The excuse of wrong priorities/necessities

2. Reasonable Activities

“And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’” – Luke 14:19

Bought oxen = involved in a very important activity. Absorbed in a commercial pursuit. The excuse of activities.

3. Wholesome _____

“Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’” – Luke 14:20

Married a wife = relative obligations, attractions of earthly ties.

4. Ignoring the invitation

“But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.” – Matthew 22:5

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

cont... 5. The Response and Escaping Excuses cont... B. Common Unacceptable Excuses

5. _____ Hindrances

“⁶⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, ‘Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.’⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’⁵⁹ Then He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.’⁶¹ And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’⁶² But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’” – Luke 9:57–62

- a. I do need to provide a home – Luke 9:57–58
- b. I must see to my parents business – Luke 9:59–60
- c. I must say good-bye to my relatives – Luke 9:61–62

Jesus accepts none of these excuses, even though they sound so right and so human. No one could be blamed for wanting a house, burying a father or visiting relatives. But Jesus sees the heart. First we have a good excuse, an obstacle in our way. Then we use our good excuses as a foundation not to commit totally to our call to serve Christ.

*“No man putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
– Luke 9:62*

The Greek here indicates, not just an occasional glance backward, but a constant looking to the past and the things that we are leaving or losing.

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1

6. The Right Response to God's Invitation

A. The _____ Response

1. I present myself as a living sacrifice, surrendering to Christ.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
– Romans 12:1–2

2. Lord, what will you have me to do?

"So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"
– Acts 9:6

Note that God didn't tell him. He sent Ananias to Saul to tell him.

3. Be it unto me according to thy word.

"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her." – Luke 1:38

4. Whatsoever He says unto you, do it.

"His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.'" – John 2:5

B. Your _____ Response – The called and the chosen

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." – Proverbs 4:23

THE INVITATION AND RESPONSE

LESSON 1 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

Called
Chosen
Called
Chosen
Faithful
Jeremiah
Demas
Mark
purpose
tool
cross
work
gifting
serve
response
actions
words
Tender
Willing
Shallow
Excuse
priorities
Pleasures
Honorable
Biblical
Personal

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

1. The Preparation In Context

A. The Lystra Derbe Church – Acts 14

Timothy was from Lystra. In approximately A.D. 53 Paul and Barnabas went through Lystra on their first missionary journey (v. 6). It was at Lystra that a man who had been crippled from birth was healed (v. 8–10). The crowds then began worshiping Paul and Barnabas as gods (v. 11–18). Favor quickly turned to anger and Jews from Antioch and Iconium turned the crowds against Paul. Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city and left for dead (v. 19–20). After going to Derbe to preach, Paul returned to Lystra (v. 21) and *“Strengthened the disciples and encouraged them to remain true to the faith. ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.’”* (v. 22) This was Timothy’s introduction to the gospel.

Five years later Paul returned to Lystra on his second journey, picked up Timothy and took him with him. For those five years Timothy was in a period of preparation.

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” – Acts 16:1–3

1. Must be _____. *“Well reported of.”* – Acts 16:1

2. A _____ – Acts 16:1

3. An overcomer of personal problems – Acts 16:1–3

His father was a Greek, a worshiper of the god of Diana, while his mother was a Christian. He came from a “split” home/mixed marriage.

4. _____, willing, submissive – Paul circumcised Timothy so he could go to the Jews.

5. A _____ man.

6. An _____

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 1. The Preparation In Context

B. Preparation Begins in the Local Church – Acts 16:1

1. Like a tree _____

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” – Psalms 1:1–3

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” – Acts 14:21–23

- a. Planted: Roots go deep and are fixed into the planting soil; immovable; drawing strength and nourishment and also bearing fruit to supply for others.
- b. Planted: Speaks of commitment to the local church as God’s authority and to the body of believers.

2. Like a stone _____

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 2:5

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 1. The Preparation In Context

C. Training Begins with a Disciple's _____

"Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek."
– Acts 16:1

"Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Here I am, Lord.'" – Acts 9:10

"So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus." – Acts 9:19

Disciple = to direct one's mind to something; to learn; to be a learner. Denotes the willingness to learn from another; learning skills under instruction.

"Go therefore and make disciples [not pupils] of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" – Matthew 28:19

1. Pupils want information; disciples learn to practice and live out what they learn.
2. A disciple must be a listener. Learning takes place by listening to what the teacher is saying.
3. Implies the existence of a personal attachment which shapes the whole life of the disciple.

Note: What is the difference between a disciple and a Christian? Is there a difference? Is everyone that is a Christian a disciple? What makes a person a disciple? What makes you a disciple?

D. Training Begins with Overcoming Personal _____ – Acts 16:1

Personal problems must be overcome not used as excuses. Don't let personal problems limit your vision or be used as excuses for character problems.

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

2. The Necessity of Being Proven In The Local Church

“He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.” –Acts 16:2

Amplified: *“Timothy had a good reputation among the brethren”*

A. Good _____

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.” – Proverbs 22:1

1. Greek = martureo = to have credibility, attested, proven, approved
2. Acts 6:3; Acts 22:12; 3 John 1:12; 1 Timothy 3:7, 5:10

B. Examine the _____

“Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my mind and my heart.” – Psalm 26:2

“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.” – Deuteronomy 8:2

“But let these also first be proved, let them be tested, let their fruit be examined, let them undergo probation.” – 1 Timothy 3:10

Amplified: *“Let them also be tried and investigated and proven first.”*

C. Submissive Spirit

“Paul wanted to have him go on with him and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews” – Acts 16:3

Paul had Timothy circumcised. This was humiliating, yet he responded to authority and was willing to obey. He respected Paul’s word and conviction.

Submissive = to yield under, to rank under; take your place under authority.

1. Submit to _____

*“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
– James 4:6–7*

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 2. The Necessity of Being Proven in the Local Church

cont... C. Submissive Spirit

2. Submit to those who have spiritual _____ over you

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” – Hebrews 13:17

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” – 1 Peter 5:5

3. Submit one to _____

“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.” – Ephesians 5:21

3. The Absolute Necessity of Faithfulness

“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and Faithful son in the Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 4:17

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” – 1 Corinthians 4:2

A. Defining Faithful

1. One who can be relied on, accountable, steadfast in affection or allegiance, firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty.
2. One who is a trustworthy person; one who shows himself faithful in business transactions, executions of commands or the discharge of official duties; conscientious, accountable.

Faithfulness is a quality of the divine nature. God is faithful.

“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” – Lamentations 3:22–23

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 3. The Absolute Necessity of Faithfulness

B. Synonyms of Faithful

1. _____: Implies a firm resistance to any temptation to desert or betray.
2. Steadfast: Implies a steady and unwavering course in love, allegiance or conviction.
3. Commitment: The act of pledging oneself, engaging in a work without thought of quitting or straying off course.

C. God is _____ and Demands Faithfulness

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” – 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. The Absolute Bottom Line For Leadership = Faithfulness

A. God Chooses Leaders on the Basis of Faithfulness

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” – Matthew 25:21

B. Godly Men in the New Testament Chose Leaders on the Basis of Faithfulness

1. Paul chose _____ because of his faithfulness

“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” – 1 Corinthians 4:17

2. Paul chose Tychicus who was a faithful minister

“But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you.” – Ephesians 6:21

3. Peter chose Silvanus “our faithful _____”

“By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.” – 1 Peter 5:12

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 4. The Absolute Bottom Line For Leadership=Faithfulness

cont... B. Godly Men in the N.T. Chose Leaders on the Basis of Faithfulness

4. Bishops

“Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.”
– 1 Timothy 3:11

5. _____

“If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.” – Titus 1:6

5. The Three Tests of Faithfulness

A. The Test of Faithfulness in _____ Things

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” – Luke 16:10–11

Least = smallest, least in management of affairs, insignificant, without notice.

What are some “small things” where a man’s faithfulness can be proved? If necessary, use the following questions to stir up ideas.

1. Does he keep his word to his family and his children?
2. Does he faithfully tithe?
3. Do his neighbors consider him an honest and dependable man?
4. Does he give his employer all his energy at work or does he slack off when alone?

B. The Test of Faithfulness in _____ Man’s House and Goals

“And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?” – Luke 16:12

A man who is willing to give wholeheartedly of himself to see another man succeed is a man worth following.

Every true leader has proven himself faithful in _____ another man’s dream.

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

cont... 5. The Three Test of Faithfulness

cont... B. The Test of Faithfulness in Another Man's House and Goals

1. _____ – Exodus 3:1; Numbers 12:7; Hebrews 3:2

For 40 years Moses faithfully cared for his father-in-law's sheep before God entrusted him with the care of His people.

2. _____ – 1 Samuel 16:11; 17:15; 22:14

David cared for his fathers sheep. He wasn't considered important enough to bring in to meet with Samuel with his brothers, yet he still remained faithful at a position that was unnoticed.

David was known for his faithful service to Saul, yet Saul never appreciated or recognized David's service to him.

C. The Test of Faithfulness in Natural Things

1. In money, a man who is undisciplined in money cannot be _____.

"Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" – Luke 16:11

2. In obeying the laws of the land

"So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him." – Daniel 6:4

3. In serving an employer

"Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him."
– Ephesians 6:6–9

Faithfulness in _____ things must be done "to the Lord" and not to gain the favor of men.

Faithfulness will not always be noticed by those we serve, but the faithfulness lived before God will be rewarded.

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2

6. The Progress of a Faithful Leader

A. _____ – Your Talents

“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.” – Mathew 25:15

God honors the man who uses his abilities to the fullest with more ability. Don't serve half-heartedly while waiting for someone to recognize your potential. Serve with all your strength and push the limit of your potential and God will expand your potential.

B. _____ – Your Delegated Authority

“It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.” – Mark 13:34

As you faithfully carry out the assignments given you by those in authority over you, they will grant more authority. It is always God's authority delegated to you; never your authority taken on by right.

C. _____ – Your Trustworthiness

“So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’” – Luke 16:2

D. _____ – Your Maturity

1. *“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” – Luke 12:48*
2. *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” – James 3:1*
3. *“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” – Acts 13:2–3*

LOCAL CHURCH PREPARATION

LESSON 2 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

proven
disciple
Teachable
faithful
example
planted
placed
Attitude
Problems
Report
Fruit
God
responsibility
another
Loyal
Faithful
Timothy
brother
Elders
Small
Another
serving
Moses
David
trusted
natural
Ability
Responsibility
Accountability
Authority

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

The Local Church is the place of proving and preparation.

The last several sessions have taken us through the vital steps in preparing the vessel of the Lord. This process develops both the gift and the character of the vessel. We now move onto the area of choosing and equipping. We must bear in mind this is not the initial choosing that takes place prior to preparation. We call that choosing an “invitation.” It is an invitation to the Potter’s house for the process of becoming a usable vessel of the Lord. The “choosing” we are about to examine is the “selecting for service” that takes place by the Holy Spirit after the gift and character of the vessel have been proven.

I. The Choosing

“Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” – Acts 16:3

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” – Acts 13:2

A. Definition of Chosen

1. Hebrew: To _____, choose, pick out

2. Greek: [ek lego] To single out, select out from, to prefer

a. _____: Called to the privileges of gospel salvation

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.” – Colossians 3:12

“Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness.” – Titus 1:1

b. _____: Called to the functions of gospel ministry,

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’” – Acts 9:15–16

A person does not choose for himself the work of ministry. God has selected for him. The lack of a divine call is a main failure in the Christian ministry. When the call is manifest the promise is assured but if we run unselected, our labors will prove vain.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 1. The Choosing

B. The Doctrine of _____

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.” – 2 Peter 1:10

1. Election Divine Selection

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:2–4

2. Election According to:

a. _____

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” – 1 Peter 1:2

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” – Jeremiah 1:5

Prognosko = to know beforehand; God’s ability of perfectly knowing the future. God foreknew who would respond to his offer by the Holy Spirit.

b. _____

“Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” – Romans 11:5

Grace is the benefit bestowed on one who deserves the opposite, the favor of God.

c. The _____ of God

“And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls).” – Romans 9:11

The vessels are called, not because of human actions, but because of God’s great purpose – Romans 10:9–11–23

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 1. The Choosing

cont... B. The Doctrine of Election

d. _____

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” – Romans 8:29–30

Predestine = to previously mark out a boundary line, to predetermine. It is a determination made previous to its actual coming to pass and it carries with it the power to make it come to pass.

2. Vessels Selected By God

Peter: “And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.’” – Acts 15:7

Joshua: “And Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.’” – Exodus 17:9

The man chosen by God: “Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple.” – Psalms 65:4

Rufus: “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.” – Romans 16:13

A. Choosing Because of _____

1. Fruitfulness is a confirmation of the gifting.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.” – John 15:16–17

2. Example of Aarons’ rod that budded.

“And you shall write Aaron’s name on the rod of Levi. For there shall be one rod for the head of each father’s house. Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you. And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you.” – Numbers 17:3–5

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 2. Vessels Chosen By God

cont... A. Choosing Because of Fruitfulness

- a. "Rod" represents a man's gifting and ministry and placement.

Only one rod budded. Your ministry must be fruitful in the place you lay down your rod.

3. The Rod Ministry

- a. Releases the supernatural

"Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood." – Exodus 7:17

- b. Opens a way where there is no way

"But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." – Exodus 14:16

- c. Brings refreshing water where there is no water

"And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.'" – Exodus 17:5

B. Choosing Because of God's _____

"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." – Deuteronomy 7:6–8

1. Chosen by God's covenant of grace, not works.
2. It is not because of your own talent, looks, background, but because "in Christ" God made a covenant.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 2. Vessels Chosen By God

C. Choosing Because of _____,

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” – Exodus 18:21

1. Ability – Able men
2. Right relationship with God – Such as fear God
3. Honesty – Men of truth, hating covetousness

D. Choosing because of _____

“So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.” – Joshua 8:3

E. Choosing Because of _____

Refined by the dealings of God

“Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.” – 1 Samuel 17:40

1. “Five smooth stones out of the brook” had their rough edges knocked off and were even, level.
2. River/water speaks of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

F. Choosing Because of _____

1. Separation to God

“Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; by their word every controversy and every assault shall be settled.” – Deuteronomy 21:5

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 2. Vessels Chosen By God

cont... F. Choosing Because of Commission

2. Sense of destiny in God

“So David said to Michal, ‘It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.’” – 2 Samuel 6:21

Live all life in the light of eternity.

G. Choosing Because of _____ of Response During Battle

“When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel’s best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.” – 2 Samuel 10:9

When the battle was against him, Joab selected “choice” men from Israel to stand with him in battle.

1. Proven under pressure

2. Faithful in battle

H. Choosing Because of _____ to Charge of the Office,

“All those chosen as gatekeepers were two hundred and twelve. They were recorded by their genealogy, in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their trusted office.” – 1 Chronicles 9:22

1. Commitment to the house of God.

2. Gatekeepers were the most trustworthy servants because they were in an office of trust.

I. Choosing Because of _____

“And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.” – 1 Chronicles 15:15

Appointed to bear the ark.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 2. Vessels Chosen By God

J. Choosing Because of Capacity and _____

“However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.” – 1 Chronicles 28:4

1. Chosen for leadership from among the leadership tribe.
2. Solomon is an example of God choosing for a particular level of leadership.

K. Choosing Does Not Guarantee _____,

“Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’” – John 6:70

Judas was selected for service, yet he did not maintain his integrity!

L. Chosen the “Most _____”

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.” – 1 Corinthians 1:27–28

Not selected for natural position or by the natural eye.

Paul recognized two vital areas of Timothy’s life – his character and his gifting. Both are important. Both are taught in Scripture.

3. Recognition of Gifting

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” – 1 Timothy 4:14

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” – 1 Corinthians 12:7

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 3. Recognition of Gifting

A. What are Spiritual _____?

1. Spiritual gifts are special abilities that God gives you to accomplish His work.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” – 1 Peter 4:10

2. Spiritual gifts are neither identical to natural abilities nor are they totally different. There are both differences and similarities.

- a. Only Christians can possess a spiritual gift

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” – Romans 8:9

*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”
– Romans 8:14–16*

- b. Spiritual gifts are given at the time of spiritual birth, whereas talents come at the time of natural birth.

3. A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the body of Christ according to God’s grace for use within the context of the body.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”
– 1 Corinthians 12:7*

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 3. Recognition of Gifting

B. Discover, _____ and dispense your gift

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into^[a] one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.” – 1 Corinthians 12:13–18

1. Discover

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”
– 1 Corinthians 12:7

First, you have to be born again.

You have to believe in spiritual gifts.

You have to be an active member of the local church and be willing to work.

You have to pray.

You have to accept by faith that you have one or several spiritual gifts.

a. Awareness = identifying the spiritual gifts through study and reading

Become aware of what the gifts are.

b. Common Sense = what are your desires, interests.

What do you enjoy doing? What needs are you drawn to?

c. Confirmation = what do others say about you.

In what area do people look to you?

2. Develop

Identify your gift, then develop your gift. Take training classes for developing a leadership gift, teaching gift or serving gift. Begin to read books concerning your area of gifting.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 3. Recognition of Gifting

cont... B. Discover, develop and dispense your gift

3. Dispense
 - a. Move out in faith and obedience.
 - b. Get involved

Begin to pray for God to release your gift. Look for God-created opportunities.

4. Recognition of Character – 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9

A. What is a man of God? How do we recognize a spiritually mature person? When Timothy stayed in Ephesus to help the church mature he came face to face with men who wanted to be teachers and spiritual leaders in the church. In 1 Timothy 3:1 Paul commanded those who wanted to lead, “It is a fine work he desires, but [he implies] make sure he is a certain kind of man.” What Paul says to both Timothy and Titus form a powerful profile for testing a Christian’s maturity level. A man of God does not “suddenly appear”. He is cultivated in a slow process by the Holy Spirit.

B. Discerning our Character _____

1. Above _____

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.” – 1 Timothy 3:2

“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money” – Titus 1:7

Blameless, having unquestionable integrity, irreproachable, “not to be taken hold of,” having such character that no one can rightfully take hold of the person with a charge of unfitness. The conduct of an elder must be an example to the flock of God and free from the taint of scandal and accusation. Therefore, an elder must conduct himself so well that an accusation is rendered absurd and unfounded from the outset.

A person above reproach is:

- a. One that gives no ground for accusation (Amplified Bible)
- b. Of blameless reputation (Phillips)
- c. Of unquestionable integrity and irreproachable (Amplified Bible)

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

2. Husband of _____ wife

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.” – 1 Timothy 3:2

“If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.” – Titus 1:6

- a. Not a bigamist
- b. One wife’s husband.

As “one wife’s husband,” a man has nothing to do with any other woman. He must be a man who cannot be accused of sexual promiscuity. The moral and society environment of Paul’s day certainly made this character standard an important one. Pagan temple prostitutes were used regularly by many, without social stigma. “Companion” girls were often used by both married and unmarried men. But in requiring bishops to be “the husband of one wife,” Paul required them to be intimately related to only one woman.

In the environment of Paul’s day, a happily married man handled the many available sexual temptations better than the man with a bad marriage. Paul is thus saying that a leader must have a strong marriage with a healthy sex life and must not deliberately expose himself to sexual temptations. A man and woman must work hard to cultivate a tremendous unity and love their marriage.

3. _____ (Self-Controlled) – 1 Timothy 3:2

“But hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled.” – Titus 1:8

- a. This character quality denotes keeping oneself in hand, self controlled and disciplined. An elder must be in control (rule) himself in all respects.
- b. The exhortation to be sober (1 Thessalonians 5:6–8) is a call to temperance. A temperate man has a clean perspective on life and correct fruitful spiritual orientation. A temperate man does not lose his physical, psychological and spiritual balance. He is stable, steadfast, always thinking clearly and doesn’t lose his perspective under pressure.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

4. _____ (Sober-minded)

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.” – 1 Timothy 3:2

a. This is to be sober minded, prudent, sensible, not given to emotional irrationality, using sound judgment. A prudent person is:

i. Safe in mind and judgment

ii. Disciplined

b. Leaders with a safe, sane, steady mind in all matters of life will include these elements: caution, practical wisdom, understanding the present. In Proverbs, a prudent man “covereth shame” and “looketh well to his ways” and “responds to correction” and is “hungry for training.” (Proverbs 12:16, 23; 13:16; 14:8, 15, 18; 15:5; 16:21; 18:15; 19:14; 22:3; 27:12)

5. _____ (Of good behavior) – 1 Timothy 3:2

a. Of good behavior, having a modest, orderly, disciplines, respectable lifestyle. A respectable person is:

i. Orderly or moderate

ii. Has a composure that brings no reproach upon the ministry or the Lord.

b. The Greek word for “respectable” should be understood in its broadest sense as denoting a character quality and goes well beyond a refined, courteous, polite person. A respectable man lives a well-ordered life. It is used to describe a well-ordered house (Matthew 12:44) and well-trimmed lamps (Matthew 25:7). Paul is saying here that a man who is respectable has a lifestyle that adorns the teachings of the Bible in his speech, his dress, his appearance at home, his office of the way he does business. God is a God of order. A man of God, too, should be orderly and proper.

c. 1 Thessalonians 4:10–12; Colossians 3:23–24; 1 Timothy 6:2; Colossians 4:5–6; 1 Peter 2:12; Philippians 1:27

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

6. _____

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach.” – 1 Timothy 3:2

- a. “Fond of guest” enjoys the company of others, especially believers.
- b. It means more than simply taking people into your homes. It means being fond of and kind to them while they are there. An elder must enjoy having guest into his home and being a help to strangers.
- c. Leviticus 19:33–34; Romans 12:9–10; Hebrews 13:1–2; 1 Peter 4:9

7. Able to _____ –1 Timothy 3:2

- a. A skilled teacher. The Greek word does not mean simply to teach; it means to teach in a skillful manner.
- b. Able to teach, resulting from having been taught.
- c. Those who are apt to teach are also apt to learn. They learn more of the word (2 Timothy 2:2). They progressively believe more of the word (Titus 1:9). They progressively live more of the word (2 Timothy 2:24–25).

8. Not _____ to wine

“Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous.” – 1 Timothy 3:3

“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money.” – Titus 1:7

- a. Literally, not tarrying at wine or staying near wine. One who drinks alcoholic beverages often and in large amounts.
- b. Would Paul condone drinking at all? In this passage he is not speaking of total abstinence. He uses a word “poinos” that definitely refers to excess, meaning that he is talking about the kind of drinking that causes one to lose control of his senses and be brought into bondage. Paul here is talking about over-drinking.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

- c. A higher law rules us in this matter. We should not do “anything by which your brother stumbles.” (Romans 14:21)

9. Not _____ – _____

“Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous.” – 1 Timothy 3:3

“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money.” – Titus 1:7

- a. An elder must not be dominated by self-interest, self-pleasing, stubbornness or arrogance. He must submit to proper authority, seek to please God and others and not become “set” in his ways.
- b. A self-willed person is set on having his own way, never seems to lay down his desires in order to serve another and, when he finally does, he does it grudgingly. The self-willed man builds the world around himself. The self-willed man is his own authority (2 Peter 2:2-3, 10, 14, 18)! That probably couldn’t describe any of us reading this, but – just to be sure – ask yourself these questions:

- i. Do you usually or always get your way?
- ii. Do you have difficulty admitting your mistakes?
- iii. Do you rule your home with authoritarian leadership (Do it because I told you to do it)?
- c. Self-will and strong-willed are two different things. The spiritually mature person will not dominate others, even if he does have a strong will.

10. Not _____ – _____ – 1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7

- a. Not soon angry, not prone to anger or quick-tempered; not easily provoked or inflamed.
- b. Capable of governing your own spirit (Kevin J. Conner)

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

11. Not _____ – 1 Timothy 3:3

- a. No striker; not violent, combative. A combative man carries a chip on his shoulder and is always ready for good argument.
- b. Not quarrelsome or disposed to arguments or fighting.
- c. Be comforted in this fact: God has helped and used some people who had a problem with anger.
 - i. Moses: He killed an Egyptian (Acts 7:20–29), threw down and broke the Tablets of the Law, angrily smote God’s rock of provision in the wilderness contrary to God’s command (Numbers 20:1–13). In spite of all this, the Lord used Moses in a mighty way.
 - ii. Peter was also rash in word and deed. He cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant on the night of Christ’s arrest (John 18:1–27).

12. _____

“Not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous.” – 1 Timothy 3:3

- a. Not contentious, not a brawler. This signifies someone who is not quarrelsome and contentious, but is peaceable; a man of peace.
- b. Easily corrected.
- c. The peaceable character quality that makes a person a good bishop seeks peace. “With all that lies within you... live a peace with one another” is his motto (Romans 12:16,18).

13. _____ – I Timothy 3:3

- a. Patient, kind, considerate and forbearing; a person who has a mild disposition.
- b. Galatians 6:1 tells us to restore people “in a spirit of gentleness.”

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

14. Free from the love of _____ – 1 Timothy 3:3

- a. This person is not greedy of money. It means not acquiring money by dishonest means or acquiring dishonest money by any means.
- b. This person is not covetous of other possessions as well. An elder must be free from the love of money and the things it can obtain.

15. One who manages his own _____ well

“One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.”
– 1 Timothy 3:4

“If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.” – Titus 1:6

- a. An elders must preside over and manage his own household (family members, finances, possessions, etc.) in an excellent manner.
- b. Faithful children refers to believing children or children who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior (that is, they are Christians). Elders’ children are to be Christians.

16. A good _____ with those outside the church

“Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” – 1 Timothy 3:7

- a. This is the result of living an excellent testimony for those outside of the church (the non-Christian community).
- b. An example of Christian virtue in the community in regard to integrity, honesty and purity.
- c. *“Behave properly toward outsiders.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12)
- d. *“Conduct yourself with wisdom toward outsiders.”* (Colossians 4:3–6)

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

17. Love what is _____

“But hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled.”
– Titus 1:8

- a. An elder’s desires should be toward the good things of God and not set on evil.
- b. The mindset is described in detail in Philippians 4:8 which lists many good things for the believer to dwell on: *“Whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report...any virtue...any praise.”*

18. _____

“But hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled.”
– Titus 1:8

- a. This entails not only right standing before God, but also doing what is right and just in one’s dealings with other people.

The just man is:

- i. Equitable in character
- ii. Fair in decisions
- iii. Right in judgment
- iv. Upright and fair-minded
- b. The just man can make mature decisions and proper judgments. God blessed Solomon exceedingly because, rather than asking for wealth, he prayed this prayer: *“Lord, give me an understanding heart.”*

19. _____ – Titus 1:8

- a. A devout man pursues holiness, pleases God and is set apart for His service.
- b. A devout man actively and consistently practices righteousness. He maintains his moral and religious obligations.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3

cont... 4. Recognition of Character

cont... B. Discerning our Character Maturity

20. Not a new _____

“Not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.” – 1 Timothy 3:6

- a. Not a newly-converted Christian
- b. Hopeful beginners who have ministry qualifications still lack of maturity in the faith that is needed. This refers not to a young man’s age, but to his spiritual maturity. Quickly elevating newly-saved converts to spiritual leadership violates this command. Some of these “hothouse growth” leaders survive this mistake, some are re-ruined for life, and others never seem to find a balanced role in ministry.

21. Holding fast the _____ word

“Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” – Titus 1:9

- a. An elder must have a firm grip and a strong hold on the word of God as it was taught to him. He must know the Scriptures and the proper teaching (sound doctrine) he received (2 Timothy 2:2).
- b. Holding fast the faithful word involves:
 - i. Never being willing to compromise truth (Kevin J. Conner).
 - ii. A deep conviction of the infallibility and authority of Scripture.

THE CHOOSING AND EQUIPPING

LESSON 3 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

select
Invitation
Selection
Election
Foreknowledge
Grace
purpose
Predestination
Fruitfulness
Covenant
Character
Courage
Changeableness
Commission
Certainty
Commitment
Cleansing
Aptitude
Success
Unlikely
Gifts
develop
Maturity
reproach
one
Temperate
Prudent
Respectable
Hospitable
teach
given
self-willed
quick-tempered
violent
Uncontentious
Gentle
money
household
reputation
good
Just
Devout

convert
faithful

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4

We now examine the actual training of Timothy by the Apostle Paul. This stage of preparing a vessel for usefulness is The Equipping, which is a very important aspect of training. It is more than teaching. It is training, actually imparting one's life to another. Equipping takes time. To equip means to furnish for service or action, to make ready by appropriate provisioning.

1. Relationship: The Foundation for Equipping

A. Paul and _____ – 2 Timothy 2:1–13

1. In verses 1–7 we have what Paul asks his son to be and to do
2. In verses 8–13 Paul tells what he, as the son's father does.

B. Father/_____ relationship

"The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother." – Proverbs 10:1

1. Relationship is the foundation for training
2. Father/Son = authority, discipline, correction

2. Equipping of Timothy

"That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
– 2 Timothy 3:17

A. His _____ experiences

Pioneering churches
Working with a team
Solving problems
Emotions of the ministry
Suffering
Trying to find guidance from the Holy Spirit
Disloyalty of friends
Church conflicts

1. Paul's first apostolic journey – Acts 13:2–14:28

Barnabas and Paul

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4

cont... 2. Equipping of Timothy

cont... A. His Ministry Experiences

2. Paul's second apostolic journey – Acts 15:40–18:22

Silas and Paul

In three years they traveled 3,500 miles, covering 8 cities and 6 churches: Antioch, Pisidia, Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, Athens, Ephesus

3. Paul's third apostolic journey – Acts 18:23–21:17

- a. Ephesus Revival, Acts 19:1–35
- b. Timothy sent to Macedonia and Erastus, Acts 19:22
- c. Timothy sails with team to Miletus, Acts 20:15, 17, 18–38
- d. Timothy stays in Ephesus, 1 Timothy 1:3

- B. His _____ received from Paul

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” – 2 Timothy 3:10–12

Paul will soon be dead. He therefore reminds Timothy of nine important things that he, Paul, has imparted to Timothy. Those nine things make up a basic discipleship program. These lives present practically all of Paul's labor as an apostle and all that was intertwined with it, namely Timothy's relationship to his father in the Lord. Short, concentrated, the effect of these verses is in the grip of a strong, quick grasp of Paul's post. The Greek brings out that “my” should be repeated with each one of these points. Each one stands by itself!

1. My _____

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” – Ephesians 4:14

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine..” – 1 Timothy 1:3

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.” – 1 Timothy 4:6

A leader must know the Scriptures and from the Scriptures know and comprehend sound doctrine, for out of your doctrine comes your principles of ministry.

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4

cont... 2. Equipping of Timothy

cont... B. His Impartation Received from Paul

2. My _____

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”
– Philippians 3:13

Greek = ephibibazo = that which leads to action; an inner drive, impulse, incentive

This word refers to the results of what has been placed into the spirit and inner heart of man. How a man conducts himself in life is based on what he puts into his “well” of inner man.

3. My _____

“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
– Philippians 3:14

Purpose = prothesis = to place the ultimate result before the mind; a clear objective, a clear course to follow.

Ephesians 5:15–16; 2 Timothy 1:9

4. My _____

“For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.” – 1 Timothy 2:7

5. My _____

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.” – Ephesians 4:1–2

Longsuffering = makrothumia = forbearance, fortitude. Comes from makros which means long distance or in time.

6. My _____

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.” – Galatians 5:6

Love = agape = not geared to response; not emotional, love of the will.

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4

cont... 2. Equipping of Timothy

cont... B. His Impartation Received from Paul

7. My _____ (Perseverance)

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.” – Philipians 3:12

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.” – 2 Timothy 2:4–5

Hupomone = brave courage which remains under; never give up in any situation.

Determine beforehand your response to adversity in every area of life and ministry.

8. My _____ with perspective

“Perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra— what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
– 2 Timothy 3:11–12

“But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.” – Acts 13:50

“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”
– Acts 14:19

Persecution = to be chased, pursued, harassed

Perspective – the Lord will deliver out of them all

“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” – 2 Corinthians 4:8–10

Afflicted in very way ... but not crushed

Perplexed ... but not despairing

Persecuted ... but not despairing

Struck down ... but not destroyed

Always dying ... that life may be manifested

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4

cont... 2. Equipping of Timothy

cont... B. His Impartation Received from Paul

9. My _____ with dignity

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” – 2 Timothy 2:3

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.”

– 2 Timothy 1:8

Paul had both physical and emotional suffering.

Emotional = pathema = To suffer by the hands of others, abused, misused; to be hurt intentionally or unintentionally; to experience misfortune.

We are called to be comrade with all in the army of God. All will suffer. Do not shrink back from this. Suffer with dignity, suffer with purpose, suffer with the strength of Christ, suffer with determination.

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 4 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

Timothy
Son
ministry
impartation
doctrine
motivation
purpose
Faith
longsuffering
love
determination
persecutions
suffering

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

Paul has developed Timothy into a strong respected leader through the many trials, teachings and triumphs of their relationship. Paul is now an aged man who is on his way to Rome to be tried and ultimately convicted and beheaded for his faith. Timothy has remained at the great church of Ephesus to give pastoral oversight through his apostolic-type ministry.

1. Ephesus: The City, The Church

A. Ephesus: The _____

Ephesus and Pergamos were the two great cities of Asia Minor.

1. A place of commercial wealth
2. Temple of Diana was located in Ephesus and was a place of worship as well as a house where treasure was stored

B. Ephesus: The _____

1. Acts 18:19–20 – Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila there.
2. Acts 19:1–6 – Paul lays hands on the disciples and they are filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. Acts 19:8–10 – Paul preaches at the synagogue for three months then spent two years at the school of Tyranus.
4. Acts 19:11–20 – Paul and his miracle meetings.
5. Acts 19:23–41 – Paul is persecuted and encounters Demetrius the silversmith.
6. Acts 20:19–38 – Paul’s farewell speech to the Ephesian elders.
7. Revelation 2:1–7 – The commendation and warning to the church at Ephesus.

C. The Epistle to the Ephesians

Paul writes his letter to the Ephesians in approximately AD 62 from a Roman prison. He dispatched the letter by Tychicus. Paul spent more time in Ephesus than in any other church. At this point he had been gone for five years and is now communicating by letter. This epistle treats great subjects for the purpose of edification only. There are no problems as such, at least in the church main body!

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

2. The Placement Of Timothy At Ephesus

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus.” – 1 Timothy 1:3a

A. Placement with Admonition – Acts 20:28–32

1. To be on guard for _____

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” – Acts 20:28

To hold the mind towards something, constant attention.

2. To guard the flock as an _____ – Acts 20:28

3. To _____ the flock – Acts 20:28

Care, watch, provide for, give tireless effort to leading, feeding and guarding.

4. To _____ the savage wolves,

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” – Acts 20:29

Risk your own well-being for the sheep. Do warfare in their behalf.

5. To guard against _____ leaders

“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” – Acts 20:30

6. To be spiritually _____

“Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.” – Acts 20:31

7. To instruct the _____

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” – 1 Timothy 1:3

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

cont... 2. The Placement of Timothy At Ephesus

B. Placement with Perseverance

“After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia.” – Acts 20:1

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” – 1 Timothy 1:3

Placement:

1. Prosmeno [Gk] = to cleave to something, remain, continue on in the face of adversity, to take ones station, to anchor.
2. Spiritual placement means to abide, to stay put, to not let adversity move you, cleave unto like glue, to determine to remain and bear fruit.

“Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,”
– Psalm 92:13–14

3. Placement: Pastoral Charges And Concerns

A. Defining _____ Charges

1. Charge [Gk] = diamarturomai = to confirm a thing by testimony, cause it to be believed
2. *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” – 1 Timothy 1:3*

“I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.” – 1 Timothy 5:21

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.” – 2 Timothy 4:1

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

cont... 3. Placement: Pastoral Charges And Concerns

B. Twelve Charges Given to Timothy

1. To keep the teaching _____

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.” – 1 Timothy 1:3–4

2. To love out of a pure heart and keep a _____ conscience

“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk.” – 1 Timothy 1:5–6

3. To wage war with the _____ word that went over him

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.” – 1 Timothy 1:18–19

4. To continue in _____ prayer

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” – 1 Timothy 2:1–4

- a. Supplication = Childlike trust, making known our wishes
- b. Prayers = Free speech to God, bold prayer, coming to God with due reverence, recognizing Him as Lord
- c. Intercessions = Prayer for others
- d. Thanksgiving = Grateful acknowledgement for past mercies

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” – James 5:16b

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

cont... 3. Placement: Pastoral Charges And Concerns cont... B. Twelve Charges Given to Timothy

5. To take heed to personal _____ and character

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.” – 1 Timothy 4:6

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” – 1 Timothy 6:11–12

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.” – 2 Timothy 2:22–23

6. To guard the divine _____

“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge” – 1 Timothy 6:20

“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.” – 2 Timothy 1:12–14

Deposit = term used in banking to denote a sum deposited for which the bank is responsible. It guards the deposit most carefully since it must pay it back. Standing guard like a soldier, locking up safely and securely.

7. To _____ the fire of spiritual gifting,

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” – 2 Timothy 1:6–7

8. To teach _____ men

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2

THE PROMOTION

LESSON 5

cont... 3. Placement: Pastoral Charges And Concerns cont... B. Twelve Charges Given to Timothy

9. To be a good _____, a disciplined athlete and a hard working farmer

“You therefore must endure^[a] hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may^[b] the Lord give you understanding in all things.” – 2 Timothy 2:3–7

10. To keep his faith unfeigned (_____; genuine)

“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” – 2 Timothy 1:5

11. To be _____ a minister of the word

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” – 2 Timothy 4:1–4

12. A _____ concerning the approaching apostasy in the last days

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.” – 2 Timothy 3:1–5

4. Conclusion

Timothy was placed at Ephesus as a mighty warrior to guide the church through many spiritual storms. Timothy faced times of discouragement, distress and disappointment but he never gave up his post.

THE EQUIPPING AND PLACING

LESSON 5 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

suffering
City
Church
yourselves
overseer
shepherd
fight
false
alert
imbalanced
Apostolic
pure
clear
prophetic
fervent
habits
deposit
rekindle
faithful
soldier
sincere
qualified
charge

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

Promotion: To forward, advance, contribute to growth, enlargement; elevate, advancement; to be blessed, prospered, lifted up.

1. Purpose Of Delayed Promotions

A. Spiritual _____: the length of time a person can wait between achieving a ministry and being recognized for it.

B. Purpose of Delays

Delay is not _____.

1. Purifying our _____

2. Trying our inner _____

“Search me, O God, and know my heart try me, and know my anxieties and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” – Psalm 139:23–24

3. Death of a _____

Joseph & Moses

4. Development of one’s _____

Some things take time.

Belheimer – destined for the throne – age 84

5. Submission of one’s _____ to God’s will

God will outlast you.

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore submit to God.” – James 4:6–7a

6. Promotion does not _____ man’s ways

“For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another.” – Psalm 75:6–7

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

cont... 1. Purpose of Delayed Promotions

cont... B. Purpose of Delays

7. Development of true _____

Dependency upon God.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

2. Wrong Concepts Of Promotion

A. Promotion comes because of what I _____ (gifting) not what I am (character).

Character above gifting.

Your gift can take you where your character cannot sustain you.

B. Promotion comes from the _____, those over us who are responsible.

You're probably going to become frustrated with those over you.

C. Promotion comes through _____ responsibilities as stepping stones to the top.

Those on the way to the top often don't care who they're stepping on to get there.

D. Promotion comes because of _____ training and accomplishment.

Promotion has more to do with attitude than academics.

E. Promotion comes because of _____: “I'm the next in line.”

It can be a setup.

F. Promotion comes because of _____ inner ambition that drives a person to the top.

Type A – “Strong Driver”

“I don't have that kind of personality, so others pass me up.

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

3. The Divine Process Of Promotion

A. The God _____ Process

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” – 1 Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” – James 4:10

B. Biblical Illustration

1. Eli – _____ – 1 Samuel chapters 2–3

Samuel was chosen before birth but served in the temple under Eli’s leadership and didn’t try to exalt himself.

2. Saul – _____

“So the women sang as they danced, and said ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, ‘They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?’ So Saul eyed David from that day forward. And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul’s hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, ‘I will pin David to the wall!’ But David escaped his presence twice.”

– 1 Samuel 18:7–11

David served Saul although Saul tried to kill him.

3. _____

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” – Daniel 1:8

“Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.” – Daniel 2:48

The king promoted Daniel.

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

cont... 3. The Divine Process of Promotion

cont... B. Biblical Illustration

C. Biblical Principals of Promotion

1. Promotion comes when you _____ in the place that God has set you in.

“Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. “They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.”

– Psalm 92:13–14

2. Promotion comes when we _____ the dealings of God correctly – Genesis 37 (Joseph)

- a. When someone else gets the job you were better qualified for.
- b. When someone seems to belittle your call and talents by ignoring you.

3. Promotion comes when you can _____ in another person’s advancement and serve them

“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” – Matthew 23:11–12

4. Promotion comes with _____

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” –1 Peter 5:5–6

5. Promotion comes when character has been _____ and proven to be stable

“All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.” – Psalm 75:10

“In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.” – Psalm 89:16

“Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.’” – Genesis 22:15–18

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

cont... 3. The Divine Process of Promotion

cont... C. Biblical Principals of Promotion

6. Promotion comes when there is faithfulness to _____ jobs given, proving one's love and desire

After the fiery furnace test: "Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon." – Daniel 3:30

4. The Ambition Trap

A. Understanding the Word Ambition

1. Dictionary: An eager and sometimes inordinate desire for something, such as preferment, honor, superiority, power, fame, wealth; a desire to distinguish oneself in some way.
2. Greek: laborer for wages; work done for pay and nothing else, no motive for service. It is always used in the New Testament as a fault that ruins a church.

"But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."
– James 3:14–16

B. End Results of Ambition

1. Self-ambition brings _____

"He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction."
– Proverbs 17:19

2. Self-ambition brings _____

"The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools." – Proverbs 3:35

3. Self-ambition brings _____

"The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?' Though you ascend as high as the eagle, and though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," says the LORD. – Obadiah verses 3–4

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6

cont... 4. The Ambition Trap

cont... B. End Results of Ambition

4. Self-ambition causes the body of Christ to come to _____

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders,^[b] drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” – Galatians 5:19–21

5. Self-ambition brings a servant down to _____

“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” – Luke 14:11

*“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
– Luke 18:14*

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Remove the turban, and take off the crown; nothing shall remain the same. Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted.’ – Ezekiel 21:26

PROGRESS & PERSEVERANCE

LESSON 6 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

maturity
denial
motives
attitudes
vision
message
will
come
humility
do
leadership
taking
academic
seniority
strong
Initiative
Samuel
David
Daniel
abide
handle
rejoice
humility
developed
all
destruction
shame
deception
ruin
abasement

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

1. Defining the Word Perseverance

- A. Greek: To remain in a place in spite of opposition; to hold up under; to do something persistently in the face of opposition; to stay one's ground.
- B. Dictionary: to pursue steadily any design or course once begun; to be steadfast in purpose; to continue in a given course in spite of difficulties or obstacles; to continue with determination not to give up.
- C. Illustrations
 - 1. Thomas Edison conducted some 18,000 experiments before he achieved his goal.
 - 2. Dr. Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine, worked three long years with many failures before he finally succeeded.
 - 3. Abraham Lincoln failed six times in trying for political office before he became the United States' greatest presidents.
 - 4. Einstein, considered the great genius of the 20th century, said "I think and think for months, for years. 99 times the conclusion is false. The 100th time I am right."

2. Threats to Perseverance – Hebrews 12:1–17

- A. The Threat of Unconquered _____ Sins

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." – Hebrews 12:1

"Let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin which dogs our feet."
– Hebrews 12:1 (Phillips)

- 1. Greek: The idea is that of a Greek runner who ran practically naked with every weight discarded.
- 2. Besetting sins are the forms and types of sins to which an individual is personally inclined because of their temperament, weakness or environment.

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

cont... 2. Threats to Perseverance

cont... A. The Threat of Unconquered Insignificant Sins

3. Weight = superfluous bodily weight that the athlete sheds during training. It is not necessarily sin. Some things that are not wrong in themselves hinder us in putting forth our best effort.
 - a. Carnal moods of selfishness
 - b. Ungodly recreation
 - c. Entertaining thoughts that are displeasing to God.

B. The Threat of Undefined _____ and Purposes – Hebrews 12:1

1. The long distance runner must have a set goal, a mark to hit.
2. Establish short range goals and keys to evaluate them
3. The purpose must be centered in God's eternal plan and purpose.

C. The Threat of Deadly _____

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
– Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

1. Fix = to look, fix our gaze; not a casual glance, but a disciplined fixed gaze; to fix one's eye on a distant mark and to aim at the mark and to aim at the mark in order to reach it.
2. We must allow nothing to turn us aside from our goals and vision that God has given us. This is an enemy of perseverance.
3. What are some of Satan's deadly distractions?
 - a. Love of pleasure
 - b. Cares of this life
 - c. Deceitfulness of riches
 - d. Over-indulgence
 - e. Double-mindedness
 - f. Lust and breakdown of morals
 - g. Murmuring

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

cont... 2. Threats to Perseverance

D. The Threat of Losing _____ – Hebrews 12:2

1. Motivate yourself by continually reviewing the reasons you began.
2. Remember the law of physics, an object at rest remains at rest unless it is acted upon by an outside force.

E. The Threat of Becoming _____

“For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.” – Hebrews 12:3

1. The Greek word for “weary” was used by Aristotle of runners who relaxed and collapsed after they passed the finishing post.
2. It is a gradual letting down of effort leading to tiredness.
3. It is the relaxing of moral virtue, strength and soul disciplines after accomplishing the goal.
4. Examples:
 - a. Gideon: After a great victory he relaxed his inner strength and set up an ephod.
 - b. Solomon: After accomplishing his goal of building the temple, he relaxed and entered into idolatry.
5. The most dangerous time is after great victories.

F. The Threat of Wrong _____

“You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” – Hebrews 12:4

1. If you focus on your hardships they soon become much greater than they really are. We have not suffered unto blood so don't let self-pity in.
2. Pursue your endeavor with a realistic appraisal of the difficulties to be expected.
3. *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* – Romans 8:1

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

cont... 2. Threats to Perseverance

cont... F. The Threat of Wrong Focus

4. Pastors get lost in a multitude of smaller issues and lose the anointing by wrong focus and wrong activities:
 - a. Focus on people who leave the church
 - b. Focus on the few bad remarks
 - c. Focus on one bad message or decision

G. The Threat of _____ Against God-sent Correction

“Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” – Hebrews 12:5–11

1. “Endure chastening” for our own profit. This indicates that God does not discipline His people aimlessly but with a definite end in view.
2. Purpose of discipline = to produce something good

H. The Threat of _____

“Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.” – Hebrews 12:12–13

1. To lose heart; to become broken in spirit

“The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” – Psalm 34:18

I. The Threat of _____ that Weakens

“Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” – Hebrews 12:15

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

cont... 2. Threats to Perseverance

cont... I. The Threat of Bitterness That Weakens

1. Unresolved ministry's great offenses:
 - a. Disappointment in people
 - b. Disillusioned with city/church
 - c. Hurt by people but not admit it
2. Lenski = "Lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and woodworm"
3. The growth may be slow, but the fruit will be bitter. Bitterness defiles people and makes them unfit to stand before God.
4. When allowed to grow, bitterness will contaminate many.

J. The Threat of _____ that Steals Our Birthright

"lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears."

– Hebrews 12:16–17

3. Biblical Examples of Perseverance

A. _____

"Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, 'Please bring the ephod here to me.' And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. So David inquired of the LORD, saying, 'Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?' And He answered him, 'Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.'" – 1 Samuel 30:1–8

After many years of harassment, defeats, running from Saul, living with the Philistines, rejected from the war, David goes home to find his town destroyed and his wife and children gone. Very tired soldiers wanted to stone him but he didn't give up.

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

cont... 3. Biblical Examples of Perseverance

B. _____

“And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.” – 2 Samuel 23:11–12

Everyone else gave up, but Shammah. He stood his ground and brought the victory.

C. _____

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” – 2 Timothy 4:7

Through shipwrecks, beatings, friends wounding him, through disloyalty, churches turned against him, he never gave up. He fought a good fight and finished the course!

4. The Leader’s _____ as a Drink Offering

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.” – 2 Timothy 4:6

“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” – Acts 20:24

5. The Leader’s Obstacle _____ Completed

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” – 2 Timothy 4:7–8

6. The Leader’s Grip on the _____

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck.” – 1 Timothy 1:18–19

“Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.” – 1 Timothy 3:9

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7

7. The Leader's Perspective on the _____

"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
– 1 Timothy 6:11–12

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." – 1 Corinthians 3:11–15

"Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" – Genesis 18:25

8. The Leader's Forgiving _____

"Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them." – 2 Timothy 4:9–16

9. The Leader's Secret of _____

"But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" – 2 Timothy 4:17–18

- A. The Lord Stood With Me – 2 Timothy 4:17
- B. The Lord Invigorated Me – 2 Timothy 4:17
- C. The Lord Rescued Me – 2 Timothy 4:18

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen." – 2 Timothy 4:18 (NIV)

THE PERSPECTIVE

LESSON 7 - FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

Insignificant
Goals
Distractions
Motivation
Weary
Focus
Reacting
Discouragement
Bitterness
Immorality
David
Shammah
Paul
Life
Course
Faith
Eternal
Spirit
Success