



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

Being Content In Christ



As we take another look at the book of 1 Timothy we are still getting to examine the relationship between a spiritual father and his son. With every exhortation, we understand more and more that Paul has a significant amount of trust for Timothy. The purpose of the message remains the same. Paul says in 1 Timothy 3:15, "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." As we read the expectations in the letter Paul wrote to Timothy, it is safe to say that God has the same level of expectations for us.

Regardless of Timothy's youth, Paul had expectations of him to be an example to the believers he would come in contact with. As saints, we come in a variety of ages, but the charge to be an example to others never alters. When our words of truth fall on deaf ears, our godly example is something that can never be taken away. Paul goes on say in 1 Timothy 4:16, that if we continue to walk in the doctrine we have learned, we will have a sanctifying impact on ourselves and those who hear us. We learn in Timothy the importance of being content in Christ. While Paul cautioned those who would fall into greed, he points out that godliness with contentment is a great gain. If the love of money is the root of all evil, then we must allow Christ to be the foundation of our satisfaction. "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want." The Lord is our provider; He is Jehovah Jireh. He alone is enough.

Lastly, one of the most popular scriptures in the Bible encourages us to "fight the good fight of faith." We know that without faith it is impossible to please the Lord, but if not careful, we can easily find ourselves looking for alternatives. According to Romans 12:3, God has given us all a measure of faith. The more we use it, the more it grows. We must continue to exercise our faith in order to win the battles that have been placed in front of us.

Information on Fasting	Bethel Prayer Schedule
Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.	<p>Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.</p> <p>Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.</p> <p>Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.</p>

“Be An Example”

READ

1 Timothy 4:12 • Matthew 5:13 • Romans 12:2 • 1 Timothy 4:16
• Matthew 5:16 • Titus 2:7-8 • Philippians 3:17

REFLECT

When it comes to being an example, we don't have to look any further than the life of Jesus. First and foremost, His ultimate mission was to redeem the world from sin. But in addition to that, He had 12 disciples He was committed to, illustrating a life pleasing to God. Jesus promised that if they followed His example He would make them fishers of men. Yet, His influence doesn't stop with the apostles. Even today we pose the question, “what would Jesus do?” Such an example is not meant to simply admire, but to duplicate. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says to “let your light shine before men that they see your good works, and glorify the Father in heaven.”

The Bible has many things to say about being an example. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul instructs Timothy to be an example to the believer in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity. These instructions are not for him alone, but for us as well. Often times we look at opportunities to be an example to those who do not know Christ. Unfortunately, there are believers who are also in search of a good example to follow. Because of this, we should never take our lifestyle and our position of influence for granted. This gives us the best opportunity to lead people towards Christ, instead of away from Him. As we take heed to the examples set before us, we will learn how to be the example God has called us to be for others.

Do you have godly examples you are safe to follow?

How can you be a better example to believers around you?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any examples you have set that lead people away from Christ
- Ask God to help you recognize the godly examples around you
- Write down the areas you would like to improve in

“The Good Fight of Faith”

READ

1 Timothy 6:12 • Hebrews 11:1 • Hebrews 11:6 • 1 John 5:4 •
Matthew 17:20-21 • Romans 10:11 • Hebrews 6:12 • Matthew
15:28

REFLECT

We don't have to imagine the offense Goliath felt once he realized Israel's ultimate soldier was going to be a shepherd boy. The Bible paints the picture very clear. Goliath was a bonafide warrior that thrived off of a good challenge, yet he was to match up with David, a teenage boy. And to make matters worse, in Goliath's opinion, David had no weapon in sight. But we know how the story goes: David kills Goliath with a sling-shot and a stone. However, David was not solely banking on his sling and five stones to defeat Goliath. I believe his faith would have given him the victory by any means necessary.

In life, there are many battles we will become entangled with. Our enemies will have a great selection of weapons to fight with, but we must remember that our weapons of warfare are not carnal. Furthermore, If we don't fight back with faith, we won't stand a chance. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul says that we are to fight the good fight of faith. This weapon is for both, offensive and defensive measures. No matter the situation we are facing, faith has no rival. Like David, it is important that we stand on our faith in God, without wavering. This may appear to be an impossible task, but if we remember that faith comes by hearing, we can guarantee success by submitting ourselves to reading, hearing, and acting on the word of God daily. His word will never return void and we can have faith in that!

Have you been fighting your battles with faith?

What are the barriers hindering your fight of faith?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Pray for godly examples of faith to enter your life
- Read the word of God daily to help you build your faith
- Thank God for being faithful to you

“Godliness with Contentment”

READ

1 Timothy 6:6-10 • Matthew 6:33 • Philippians 4:12-13 • Acts 3:4-8 • Hebrews 13:5 • Luke 12:15 • Proverbs 16:8 • 2 Timothy 2:3

REFLECT

“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give to you.” These are the words of Peter right before he introduces a beggar to the transforming power of Jesus Christ. The beggar, whose original attention was focused on the gain of money, instantly shifted his attention to recognize the sufficiency of God. As a result of the exchange, this begging man would now become a worshipper of God. 1 Timothy 6:6 informs us that godliness with contentment is great gain. This is a hard saying for many Christians, however, it is important to note that contentment does not mean complacency, but more so a gratefulness in your situation.

Of course, we know that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ever imagine. But, is He enough? And yes, God also wants to give us the desires of our hearts. But the question still remains, is God alone enough to satisfy you? What God has for you is for you; however, can you remain obedient to His word while you wait? Are we able to remain faithful to our assignment while we wait? These questions help to answer matters of contentment. The truth is, if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, everything else will be added in due time. Not only does God know what we have need of, He also has our best interest in mind. Nevertheless, we must learn to be content where we are.

Do you recognize the sufficiency of God in your life?

Have you prioritized the kingdom of God?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Ask God to fill your heart with contentment and gratefulness
- Prioritize the things of God as first in your life
- Be faithful to the assignment that God has given you

