



“Faith Killers and Faith Builders”

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1 Timothy 4:10 “For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”

I. Faith Killers

A. Lies That _____

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons”

1 Timothy 1:19-20a “holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander”

1 John 2:19a “They went out from us, but they were not of us”

1 Timothy 4:1b “by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons”

B. _____ That Hide

1 Timothy 4:2 “through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared”

C. Rules That Replace _____

1 Timothy 4:3 “who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

1 Timothy 4:4-5 “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

II. Faith Builders

A. Feed on _____

1 Timothy 4:6 “If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.”

B. _____ for Godliness

1 Timothy 4:7 “Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness”

1 Timothy 4:8-9 “for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.”

C. Live as an _____

1 Timothy 4:11-12 “Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

1. Godly Speech

1 Timothy 6:4-5 “he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”

2. Godly Conduct

3. Godly Love

Matthew 22:37-40 “And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

4. Godly Faith

5. Godly Purity (Proverbs 7:25-27)

2 Timothy 2:22 “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

D. Devote Yourself to the _____ and Teaching

1 Timothy 4:13 “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Psalms 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.”

E. Use Your _____

1 Timothy 4:14 “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.”

1 Timothy 4:15 “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

F. Watch Your _____ and Your _____

1 Timothy 4:16 “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”



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BACKGROUND:

As believers, we need to train ourselves for godliness as we exercise our faith. Our capacity to love and care for our neighbors is only as good as our capacity to love and care for ourselves. In other words, what you put in is what you get out. Paul compares it to physical exercise; however, he determines that spiritual training (godliness) is the greater value because it reaps eternal significance. Training for godliness requires spiritual discipline which is how we train our heart to love God and others. In his letter to Timothy, Paul encourages him to remind the church to embrace godliness and reject false teachings that threaten the gospel.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Paul warns Timothy as he prepares to lead the church in Ephesus that some will depart from the faith by embracing false, demonic teachings and choosing to turn from Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:1-6).

1. Paul warns that these false teachings are designed by deceivers who have “seared consciences” (1 Timothy 4:3). What is meant by a “seared conscience”?

2. False teachers often promote a form of legalism, such as abstaining from certain behaviors that are contrary to the grace of God. Can you provide some examples of behaviors that might be discouraged by certain religious sects that God deems acceptable? Do you recall specific examples of legalism that are contrary to God’s grace?

In Galatians 1:8 Paul reminds us that there are false gospels promoting doctrines contrary to the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. What did Paul mean when he said we should “have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths” and what types of these myths are prevalent today in our churches (1 Timothy 4:7)?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. In light of this, what teachings or false gospels do you observe in our society that run contrary to that which Paul preached?

5. What can we do as believers to teach, equip, and remind others of the truth of the gospel?

As disciples of Jesus our speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity should be examples to others of what a godly life looks like. Considering that each of us are involved in relationships where we can either teach or learn from others, we need to keep close watch of ourselves (1 Timothy 4:16).

6. How do you keep close watch over yourself and how does accountability with others help you in this?

7. How does keeping close watch on yourself and sound doctrine help save you and others (1 Timothy 4:16)?

8. How might it affect your behavior toward others when you consider that when people encounter you they also encounter Christ?

TAKING IT HOME:

The heart of a godly life is an appreciation for the gospel – “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve” (1 Corinthians 15:4-6). In Romans 1:16, Paul tells us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. Any gospel contrary to this one is a false gospel. The way we protect ourselves and others from such falsehood is to train ourselves up in spiritual disciplines. Two primary disciplines are immersing ourselves in God’s Word and in prayer. As God’s Word speaks to us, we speak to God through prayer.

9. Describe the role of reading, studying, and memorizing God’s Word in your life (Joshua 1:8)?

10. How is the Word of God the “Sword of the Spirit” and how do you utilize this important weapon in fighting against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:17)?

11. What does your prayer-life look like? Are you using resources such as the Prayer Team, the Prayer Wall, and the Prayer Room to invite the church to be praying for you?