

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE  
SERMON OUTLINE

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The Book of 1 Timothy Series # 12

**I TIMOTHY 4:6-11**

In **verse 6**, Paul tells Timothy that if he fulfills his role as a spiritual leader he will be “**a good minister of Jesus Christ.**” The word “**minister**” is from the Greek work *diakonos*, which is translated “**deacon**” in **3:8**. It literally means “**useful servant**” or “**one who serves**” and applies to all believers in Christ.

In this passage, the Word of God gives us the mind of God on spiritual leadership. From **verse 6** to the end of the chapter, I will point out 12 characteristics of true spiritual leadership and in turn we will all learn more fully how to be spiritual leaders. In this message we will examine the first seven characteristics.

**Step 1: A Spiritual Leader Teaches the Word of God V-6a**

The NKJV uses the word “**instruct**” the KJV translates “**put... in remembrance**” while the NASV says, “**pointing out.**”

What does Paul mean by “**these things,**” what “**things**” is he talking about? I believe he is pointing back to what he had just said in the immediate context. The “**things**” Timothy was to continue to lay before the church of Ephesus were both positive (**3:15-16**) and negative (**4:1-3**).

“**These things**” refer to the whole counsel of God. A spiritual leader is a man of the Word of the Living God. God help us not to merely *pet* His sheep but to *feed* them on the riches of the Word. This is why I am committed to preaching the Bible, one book, one chapter, one verse and one word at a time.

**Step 2: A Spiritual Leader Studies the Word of God V-6b**

“**Nourished**” carries the idea of feeding upon and drawing strength from.

**Step 3: Spiritual Leaders Pray V-6b**

In verse 5 we see that all God’s gifts are “**sanctified by the word of God and prayer.**” Here in **verse 6**, we see that the spiritual leader is “**nourished in the words of faith.**” That I believe would also include prayer.

**Step 4: A Spiritual Leader Rejects Foolishness V-7a**

“**Reject**” is from a strong verb meaning “put away” or “have nothing to do with.” “**Profane**” means the opposite of holiness or “unhallowed.” “**Fables**” from which we get “myths.”

**Step 5: Spiritual Leaders Build Spiritual Muscles V-7b-9**

Next Paul says, “**Exercise yourself toward godliness.**” “**Exercise**” is from *gumnazo* from which we get our words “gymnasium” and “gymnastics.” As spiritual leaders, we are to continually work out to develop “**godliness.**”

Now what does Paul mean when he speaks of “**godliness**”? Charles Swindoll says, “the word described a general **attitude of reverence or worship.** A good definition would be “**taking God seriously.**” Godliness is never automatic. It requires training, just like athletic competition requires physical discipline.

**Step 6: Spiritual Leaders Work Hard V-10**

They “**labor**” to the point of exhaustion and agonize in the great struggle of ministry. Ministry is hard work. Contrary to popular opinion, pastors, those who take their ministries seriously, work much more than one day a week!

We “**trust**” that our labor is not in vain. We know that our God “**is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.**” It is true that Christ’s death was **sufficient** for “**all men**” (**1 John 2:2**), but only **efficient** for “**those who believe.**”

**Step 7: A Spiritual Leader Exercises Authority V-11**

So much that passes for preaching and teaching today is not authoritative. It is entertaining, educational but seldom commanding. In **2 Tim 4:2** Timothy was commanded to, “**Preach the word!**” Young Timothy was to stay **focused** on the **will** of God; stay **faithful** to the **word** of God and be **fruitful** in the **work** of God. There is power in a sold out, surrendered, and Spirit filled man and woman of God. We can and should have influence for God and good in this world if we will follow these **Steps Of Spiritual Leadership**