

Session 3: Leadership Proving and Preparation

A. God is inviting you to become someone that He can use for the kingdom

1. Leadership is all about handling pressure

*A good leader is
one who can
handle pressure
while maintaining
Christ-like
character and
integrity*

Two ways God will work in you:

1. God will put you in a ministry and then train you as you serve
2. God will train you first before placing you in ministry to serve

Think:

Which one applies to you?

In either case, He is working the same thing in you:

1. He is focused on your character. (heart)
2. He will prove you through a season(s) of testing.

How can you cooperate with God in this?

****If your will is not cooperating with God's will, you will
not pass the leadership test.****

Good leaders surrender all 3 of these parts to God and allow Him to lead them.

- Spirit
- Soul (mind, will, emotions)
- Body

Let's look at a few leadership reminders:

1. **You cannot be a leader unless you are a follower.**

If you cannot follow God, you will never be successful as a leader. You can have character, but if you are not following Him, it will not work. You may think you have surrendered everything to Him but then God peels another layer back to test and expose the true level of surrender that we have.

Our will has layers, God peels another layer and another layer and goes deeper into our character to allow us to deal with areas where we thought we had surrendered fully to Him but are still influenced by our own self-will.

2. **Never invite yourself to the role of a leader.** If there is a calling to leadership, there will be always an invitation from God, not just man. Calling yourself into any leadership or ministry role without the invitation coming first from God, will be a disaster for you, your family and everyone you have an influence over.

3. **God would never put anything in your hands, until you are ready in His eyes.**

Since He invited you, then you can rest yourself in His hands. He will continue to work in you and develop everything in you that is needed to produce the qualities and character you need to be someone He can use (choose).

4. **Go to God for everything you deal with.**

a. Learn to surrender your spirit to Him and let Him lead you in all things. You will start out having leaders over you. But as you go higher in leadership you may come to a point where you may not have another leader over you. It is necessary to have learned to surrender your will to God and to follow Him in everything so you will still be under His leading and surrendered to His will even when you are no longer under another leader.

b. People will ask you for advice. They will come to you with difficult situations and heavy burdens. Where will you find answers, advice, and wise counsel? From God. From His word. You must resist the desire to become the one they always lean on for answers, or to solve their problems. You need to go to God for every answer and teach others to do the same thing.

5. **Overcome fleshly desires and walk in the grace of God.** Our flesh is against our calling, the one who will overcome their flesh will be ready to lead. If you cannot overcome your flesh, you cannot be a leader.

Student Assignment: Read **Romans 6: 5-7; 11-14**

6. Our circumstances in life will orchestrate the fulfilment of purpose in our life.

Whether our personal circumstances are bad or good, God will use them to orchestrate our purpose. That is why we should never look at our circumstances to determine our ability to serve in the kingdom.

God prepares you. He will never tell you to do anything unnecessary. Every circumstance you experience has purpose. The things you learn in a time of preparation, you will use in time of ministry.

Let's look at an example in scripture of the qualifications of chosen leaders.

Student Assignment: Read ACTS 6:1-7

The Apostles couldn't do everything by themselves. If they wanted the church to grow, they had to appoint others; then the Church prospered and multiplied.

Qualifications of these leaders:

- men of good reputation, full of faith, wisdom, led by HS, (vs 3-4)

- 1. men of good reputation - evidence of character:** This means good character seen in your action - not just by your words.
- 2. full of Spirit:** not just about being filled with the Spirit, but bearing fruits of the Spirit - when you are "squeezed" under pressure, what comes out, the fruit of Christlikeness or your own flesh?
- 3. full of wisdom:** not men who walked in their own wisdom, knowledge and understanding, but men who were full of the wisdom of God; wisdom guided by the Holy Spirit

God has given you an invitation to answer the call. He can only choose those who will respond, pass the test, build their character, and be faithful in that call

Those who are chosen are those who continue to grow and mature in their Christian Walk despite life challenges, temptations, persecution and personal struggle. The chosen are those who are *faithful to the end*.

14 " These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Revelations 17:14)

In our next session we will begin studying the life of Timothy. We will see how he responded to the invitation and allowed himself to go through the process of proving and preparation so that God could choose him and equip him for the role of a leader in the church.

Here is a brief overview of Timothy's life to help you understand more about him and why his life and ministry provides valuable lessons for all of us.

Student Assignment: You can read this **over the next 3 weeks** to help prepare you for our session on **December 21**, where we will begin discussing Timothy's life.

Some interesting facts about Timothy's life:

Timothy was a native of Lystra. The NKJV refers to him a total of 28 times (9 times using his well-known name and 19 times as Timotheus).

Timothy was Raised a Believer

The mother of Timothy was named Eunice, and she was Jewish. Later she became a Jewish Christian (**Acts 16:1, 2Timothy 1:5**). His father was a Greek (Gentile). The grandmother of Timothy, on his mother's side, was named Lois and she also became a Christian. Both women were likely converted during Paul's first evangelistic journey to the city (Acts 14). This is an important fact because it was due to their conversion that Timothy was trained in the scriptures even as a child.

“But as for you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them; And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.”

(2Timothy 3:14 - 15).

Paul met Timothy in Lystra, and soon after that he began his second missionary journey. Scholars suggest that Paul was roughly 48 when he met Timothy, and Timothy was likely around 33 years old. Based on the recommendation of several church members both in the city and in Iconium, Paul decided to take Timothy with him as he traveled preaching the gospel. But before this could happen, the apostle Paul paid to have Timothy circumcised. (**Acts 16:2 - 3**).

Unique Character and Service

The Bible bears record of the following:

- Timothy was ordained to serve by Paul and other church brethren (**1Timothy 4:14, 2Timothy 1:6**)
- he ministered in at least five New Testament churches (**1Thessalonians 3:1 - 2, 1Corinthians 4:17, Philippians 2:19 - 22, Acts 17:14 and 1Timothy 1:3**).
- Timothy accompanied Paul on most of his second journey travels after he left Lystra.

- he was with Paul in Ephesus during his third missionary journey. While in the city he and a man named Erastus were sent by Paul to minister to brethren in Macedonia (**Acts 19:22**). Later on, he met with others at Troas to accompany the apostle through Asia on his way to Jerusalem (**Acts 20:4 - 5**).
- Paul was imprisoned in Rome at the end of his fourth missionary journey (**Acts 28:16 - 31**). While he was in prison, he wrote four epistles, **three of which mention Timothy being with him** (**Philippians 1:1, 2:19, Colossians 1:1, Philemon 1:1**).
- At the end of Paul's fifth and final missionary journey, while in Rome a second time just before his death, he requested his closest friend, Timothy, visit him and bring his personal copies of his writings (**2 Timothy 4:9, 13, 21**).
- Paul testified to those in Philippi regarding the unique Christian character of Timothy and his dedication to spreading the gospel. He refers to him as a "spiritual son" when he says,

²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, **because as a son with his father** he has served with me in the work of the gospel. (**Philippians 2:20, 22**).