

Small Group Questions
Taking Hold of Your Kingdom Life - 1 Timothy 4:9-16
21 September, 2014

TRAINING IN GODLINESS

Have you ever tried to go on a diet or implement a physical training schedule?
How did it GO? What was your motivation?

The reality is that physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen we need to take responsibility for our own spiritual development and INTENTIONALLY train ourselves to be Godly.

*1 Timothy 4:9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.
11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

TRAINING IN GODLINESS PRINCIPLE 1 : Identify the obstacles and get over them

What was Timothy's obstacle? What did Paul encourage him to do?

What are the obstacles in your life? What is stopping you from growing?
What are you doing to get over those obstacles?

v13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

TRAINING IN GODLINESS PRINCIPLE 2 : Identify your calling and pursue it with everything

What was Timothy's calling?

What have you devoted your life to? God has given each of us a purpose or a calling that we must find and follow. Do you know what God has designed you to do in this Kingdom Life?
Do you have a mission statement? If you do feel free to share it with your group!
What are the sorts of things that you would include in your personal mission statement?

v14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

TRAINING IN GODLINESS PRINCIPLE 3 : Identify your gifts and develop them v14

What do you think Timothy's "gift" is? What is this verse making reference too?

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If you do share them with the group and encourage each other by affirming the gifts you see in the group.
What are some things you can do to discover your gifts?

v15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

TRAINING IN GODLINESS PRINCIPLE 4 : Identify the work and immerse yourself in it v15

In v15 Paul calls Timothy to immerse himself in what?

Where has God called you to serve and have you immersed yourself in it?
How do the previous 3 principles help you with this one?

v16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

TRAINING IN GODLINESS PRINCIPLE 5 : Identify your weaknesses and control them v16

What is this verse talking about?

So what are your weaknesses? We all have areas of weakness, areas that the devil knows and targets.

Do you know what they are?

Do you have a strategy for them?

Do you have people in your world who care about your spirituality, someone you have given the license to speak into your life and ask the tough questions? Life Group, Mentor, Coach?

We have just looked at 5 principles that I believe will help us to effectively train ourselves to be Godly. These principles sound nice but we need to be diligent in their application and give ourselves wholly to them to achieve the spiritual growth.

What is the one practical step you will take out of this message and study?

Spend some time praying for each other.