



Outward Group Discussion Guide

August 2, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 1 Timothy 4:1-16, this sermon calls believers to pursue intentional spiritual growth rather than settling into complacency. The pastor outlines three interconnected principles for genuine Christian growth. First, believers must anchor themselves in gospel truth, rejecting any doctrine that points toward self-effort or legalism as a means of standing before God. Second, growth requires active, disciplined training in godliness through consistent engagement with Scripture, sound doctrine, and the avoidance of spiritual counterfeits. Third, believers are called to track their progress, not toward perfection, but toward measurable, Spirit-driven growth in both life and doctrine. Throughout, the sermon emphasizes that the motivating power behind all growth is the gospel itself -- the grace of God that frees believers from shame and compels them toward Christlikeness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The pastor describes trusting in the gospel as the foundation for all growth, warning against both self-reliance and legalism — in what ways might you be subtly trusting in your own efforts or moral performance rather than in Christ's finished work?
2. Pastor Logan observed that it is shocking how quickly a new believer can shift from being a broken younger brother to a judgmental older brother — where do you see this tendency in yourself, and what does it reveal about your understanding of grace?
3. The sermon warns against devoting yourself to 'deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,' which can include anything that redirects your trust away from Christ — what voices, sources, or influences in your life might be subtly pulling you away from sound doctrine?
4. The pastor draws a distinction between God being opposed to earning salvation but not opposed to effort, describing training for godliness as a rigorous and sometimes painful process — what does your current spiritual training regimen

actually look like, and is it producing godliness or worldliness?

5. 1 Timothy 4:8 teaches that godliness holds promise for both the present life and the life to come — how have you personally experienced the benefits of growing in godliness in your everyday life, even in the midst of difficulty?
6. The pastor asks whether anyone in the congregation has become 'sermon proof,' meaning the Word of God no longer penetrates their heart — what conditions in your life might be creating that kind of spiritual hardness, and how might you address them?
7. The sermon emphasizes that the goal is progress, not perfection, pointing to Jesus choosing broken fishermen over polished Pharisees — how does this truth change the way you view your own spiritual failures and slow growth?
8. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16 to keep a close watch on both his life and his doctrine, warning that it is possible to believe rightly while living wrongly, or to live morally while believing wrongly — which side of that imbalance do you

tend toward, and what would it look like to bring both into alignment?

9. The pastor describes sacrificial giving as one way of crucifying the idol of money and expressing dependence on God — what specific area of toil or striving in your life is God currently calling you toward, and what is holding you back from embracing that cost?
10. The sermon teaches that every believer has been given a spiritual gift intended for the service of the local church and broader community — have you identified your gift, are you actively using it, and if not, what step could you take this week to begin?