

**“A Good Example, Part 2”, 1 Tim. 4:11-16
Pastor Shawn Newberry, May 24, 2026**

Main Idea

A Christian’s greatest influence is not merely what they say, but the consistency between their life and their message.

I. Be an Example (vv. 11–12) – Last week’s message (review)

Key Command

“Set the believers an example...” (v. 12)

Areas of Example

- **Speech** – What you say
- **Conduct** – How you live
- **Love** – How you treat others
- **Faith** – What you trust
- **Purity** – Your holiness and integrity

II. Be Devoted to the Word (vv. 13–15)

Key Command

“Devote yourself...” (v. 13)

Three Priorities

1. **Reading Scripture**
2. **Exhortation (Encouragement)**
3. **Teaching**

Important Truths

- You cannot teach what you do not know.
- You cannot speak clearly if you have not thought deeply.
- Muddy thinking leads to muddy speaking.
- Christian ministry is not ministry without God's Word.

The Berean Example

Acts 17:11

- Received the Word eagerly
- Examined the Scriptures daily
- Sought truth, not criticism

Steward Your Gifts

“Do not neglect the gift you have...” (v. 14)

Questions:

- What gifts has God entrusted to me?
- Am I developing them or neglecting them?

III. Be Faithful to the End (v. 16)

Two Things to Watch Carefully

A. Yourself

- Heart
- Motives
- Character
- Spiritual life

B. Your Teaching

- Doctrine matters
- Truth shapes lives
- Guard both your life and your message

The Call to Persevere

“Persist in this...” (v. 16)

Persist means:

- Continue
- Remain
- Abide
- Endure despite obstacles

Why Persistence Matters

When our hope is greater than our pain, people notice.

When our life and message align:

- The gospel becomes believable.
- Others see authentic faith.
- We gain opportunities to share Christ.

“When your hope is greater than your pain, people notice.”

Summary:

In 1 Timothy 4:11–16, Paul charges Timothy (and by extension all believers) to: live as faithful examples of Christ by cultivating godly character, remaining devoted to God's Word, and persevering in the faith. Christian leadership begins with personal integrity, as believers are called to model Christ in their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Paul then emphasizes devotion to Scripture through reading, teaching, encouraging others, and diligently developing the gifts God has entrusted to them. Finally, he urges Timothy to watch both his life and doctrine carefully and to persist through hardship, knowing that authentic faith is demonstrated not merely by what one professes but by steadfast endurance. The Christian life is sustained because the hope promised in Christ far outweighs present suffering, and when a believer's life and message align, others see the reality of the gospel and are drawn to consider the source of that hope.