

**“A Good Example, Part 3”, 1 Timothy 4:11-17
Pastor Shawn Newberry, May 31, 2026**

**The Work, Perseverance, and Impact of the Minister
1 Timothy 4:15–16**

I. Practice Your Gift (v. 15)

“Practice these things...”

- Be intentional in using your spiritual gift.
- Spiritual growth requires: practice, meditation, faithful obedience.

“Immerse yourself in them...”

- Ministry is not a hobby.
- Your calling becomes part of your identity.
- Look for opportunities to serve and disciple others.

Result:

“So that all may see your progress.”

- Growth should be visible over time.
- Spiritual gifts mature through: experience, humility, dependence on the Holy Spirit.

II. Spiritual Gifts Must Reflect the Holy Spirit

Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23)

- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Self-control

Key Truth

- Gifts without the Holy Spirit produce frustration.
- Gifts empowered by the Spirit bless and build others.

Examples of Gifts

- Teaching, Encouragement, Leadership, Mercy, Service, Giving, Shepherding, Wisdom

III. Watch Your Life and Doctrine (v. 16)

“Keep a close watch on yourself...”

- Guard your: heart, motives, conduct, spiritual life.

“...and on the teaching.”

- Doctrine matters because truth shapes lives.
- The teacher’s character should support the message.

The Gospel Is More Than an Argument

IV. Persist Through Hardship (v. 16)

“Persist in this...”

- Continue faithfully.
- Remain steadfast through: rejection, suffering, disappointment, trials.

Faithfulness Strengthens Witness

- People notice when: hope is greater than pain, faith remains steady, worship continues through hardship.

They endured death rather than deny biblical truth.

V. Why Christians Endure

Romans 8:18

“The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory...”

Key Truths

- We do not save ourselves or others.
- Christ alone saves.
- But faithful living strengthens the credibility of the gospel.

Main Idea

The hope found in Christ is greater than present suffering.

Summary:

In 1 Timothy 4:15–16, Paul exhorts Timothy to fully devote himself to his calling by practicing and immersing himself in the gifts God has given him so that others may see his spiritual growth and maturity. Ministry is not merely about teaching correct doctrine, but about living a life that reflects the character and fruit of the Holy Spirit through love, purity, humility, perseverance, and faithfulness. Timothy is commanded to closely guard both his life and his teaching because the credibility of the gospel is strengthened when a believer’s conduct aligns with their message. Paul reminds Timothy to persist faithfully through hardship, rejection, and suffering, knowing that the Christian life is sustained by the hope of future glory in Christ. Ultimately, the passage teaches that spiritual gifts must be exercised through dependence on the Holy Spirit, and that enduring faithfulness becomes a powerful witness that points others to the saving hope of the gospel.

Questions:

- Am I practicing my spiritual gift?
- Does my character match my message?
- Am I relying on the Holy Spirit?
- Am I remaining faithful through hardship?
- Does my life make the gospel believable?