



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: A Christian God Can Use

Passage: 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Excellence never happens by accident. In every area of life, growth and maturity require intentional effort, yet many believers assume that spiritual maturity comes automatically with time. The truth is that no one drifts toward godliness. Spiritual growth is cultivated through a life intentionally surrendered to Christ. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul reminds Timothy that God desires to use believers who are growing in their walk with Him. These verses reveal the qualities that characterize a faithful servant of Christ and show us the kind of Christian God delights to use.

I. Feed Your Soul with God's Truth (Verse 6)

The problem is not that God has failed you. The problem is that a starving soul cannot live like a healthy one.

If you continually feed your heart on the Word of God, your mind begins to change.

God's truth slowly reshapes the way you think, the way you respond, and the way you live.

What nourishes the soul is the Word of God that produces strong Christians, healthy families, faithful churches, and fruitful servants. But nothing can ever replace the life-giving nourishment of the Scriptures.



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If you neglect the Word of God, you will not accidentally become spiritually mature. You will drift.

The Christian who is growing is the Christian who has learned to feast on God's Word day after day, week after week, year after year.

II. Train Your Soul for God's Holiness (Verses 7-9)

If we're ever going to train for godliness, there are some things we simply have to stop feeding our minds and hearts.

Satan doesn't always have to make us wicked. Sometimes he simply has to make us distracted.

Godliness isn't something we put on for a few hours on Sunday. It is living every day with the awareness that we belong to Christ.

Every moment spent in God's Word, every prayer offered in secret, every temptation resisted, every act of obedience, every sacrifice made for Christ, every quiet decision to honor Him when no one else notices is shaping a character that will outlast this world.

God uses our sanctification in this life to prepare us for the glory that awaits us in the next.

God never trains us simply so we can become more spiritual for our own benefit. He nourishes us with His truth and trains us in godliness because He has a purpose far bigger than ourselves.

III. Live for God's Mission (Verse 10)

God never intended for spiritual growth to stop with us. He nourishes us so we can nourish others.



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Bible study, prayer, worship, and spiritual disciplines are not ends in themselves. God is preparing us to step onto the field every day as His representatives in a world that desperately needs the gospel.

God wants His people to be like a river, letting His blessings flow through us. Not reservoirs holding them to ourselves.

God never intended His blessings to stop with us. He intends them to flow through us into the lives of others.

Everything God pours into our lives is meant to overflow into someone else's life. Christianity was never intended to terminate on us. It was always intended to flow through us.

Every one of us has been strategically placed by God exactly where we are. God has not placed you there by accident. He has placed you there on a mission.

We feed our souls with God's truth. We train our souls for God's holiness. Then we give our lives to God's mission. God isn't simply looking for knowledgeable Christians. He is looking for useful Christians.

Conclusion: Every day we are becoming someone, and the question is not whether we are changing, but what we are becoming. God has given us His Word, His Spirit, and His church to help us grow in godliness. Spiritual maturity does not happen by accident; it requires intentional pursuit. As we leave this passage, may we ask ourselves whether we are feeding our souls with God's truth, training our hearts for godliness, and living for His mission. Before God does a work through us, He first desires to do a work in us, shaping us into the kind of Christians He can use for His glory.



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