WHITE FIELDS
CALVARY CHURCH

Nov 8 2026
Title: Spiritual Growth
Topic: ministry, church, spiritual growth

Are you living for now or later? Crazy world! Elections? Job? Fam? Ever want to run? Should the church run from the world or go into it? I'd rather lose now...
1Tim4:11-16 - 10 commands for pastors, provide lessons for spiritual growth false teaching (1-3); nourished w/ the Word (4-6); reject/exercise (7-10)
1Tim4:8-9 - good, but offers nothing for the life to come, run win, all in for Jesus?

11) #1 “command” prescribe…don’t give an inch to the fear of man! Gods Word! I would have loved a prescription for growth! Jumpsoles...jump! Guaranteed!

#2 “teach” = help them understand, patiently - is that hard? Distracted... Disagreements, distractions, and some don’t like P Tim; Tim is timid & fearful, not a take charge alpha, like Paul (1Cor16:10) - God doesn’t disqualify him!
God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called; he calls, then He empowers!
God chooses unlikely heroes, to reveal his power, so we will trust in God’s strength, not our own - He pushes us into faith - nana jumping off cliff
God had a huge calling for Joseph - all he could do was hold on by faith - hated by bros, sold as a slave, thrown in prison, forgotten & the whole time God‘s plan was coming together, finally God raised him up 2nd in power to Pharaoh

12) #3 “Let no one despise” feel contempt & show it w/ action, they bristelled under his leadership - “youth”? Describes military age, 20-40, likely 30; Insecurity makes a mess: run from conflict; ultra defensive; abusive/heavy handed
“I’ve learned I can defend myself, or I can let God defend me. He is far better at it”

#4 lead by “example” = a mark or imprint left by a blow

Jn20:25 “The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” Thomas: if Jesus rose, there ought to be marks…bc Jesus rose, if I've put my faith in Jesus & I'm surrendered to Him, Jesus will leave His imprint on me!
“word” how do you/I talk about people? Bless/curse? Complain or encourage? “conduct” what you do, how you treat people
“love” the fruit of the Spirit is love, does love flow out of me? I do everything…
“spirit” not grumpy, enthusiastic about Jesus & His people! “faith” = trust in Jesus to face adversity, not run
“purity” = impurity has destroyed many, gold, glory, girls...high places? Idols? Effective spiritual leadership hinges on a transformed character

13) #5 “give attention” = turn your mind to (hold, RB, hooked on); what has you hooked? Im...Kids sports? Win/lose. Tim..hooked on the Word, people will grow!
“reading” not speeches & ted talks - reading, exhortation, teaching - familiar?
Jews read Scripture in the synagogue, Jesus, Paul do the same; grows in Gentile numbers...Scripture.
Preaching flows from heavenly authority not mere human creativity.
Mt7:29 “for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes”
Neh8:8 “So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.” from am to midday!!!
Bored? Their ears were attentive, imagine…began to weep & repent, revival!
“distinctly” declare w/ authority, in words they understood! ie. God texts us!
“exhortation” to stir up, challenge, or call to something = application
Prayer: Lord what do you want to say to us? Not just information…
Timothy don’t fall into speculation & rabbit holes of false teachers? How do I know? Don't chase the wrong goals - not big following, to make Disciples.
“doctrine” = teaching, truth about God & our relationship w/ Him - "exposition"!

14) #6 “do not neglect” = careless w/ “the gift” = charismatos = a gift of grace; not personality/talent, it’s the power of the Holy Spirit, not your ability it’s His ability Sounds fun, why would he neglect it? Temptation: tired, not even good at it, I can’t do this, criticism, cares of world, don’t like God’s plan - I don’t even care! “prophesy” as the elders prayed, 1 had a prophetic word about his calling & the Spirit empowered him w/ a gifting - well I don’t feel empowered (1Tim1:18) 1Pet4:10 “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another”
You have a calling & gifting - how He uses you to encourage others spiritually! Rom12:6 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them” Timothy had to be exhorted to use his gift! 2Tim1:6-7 - It wasn’t his ability, he was full of fear! There may be traits, a mom would say, now I see why God made him that way…she’s as surprised as anyone! 2Cor13:4 “For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.” you see it’s never our ability, it’s all His ability through us!

- a church can be large & attractive, all by human talent; but the work of the Holy Spirit is essential to make a ministry dynamic!!

15) #7 “meditate” opposite neglecting - care about, put into action, fills your mind Pic: cow, regurgitation? Chewing gum? An example, hooked, using my gifts... When Abraham Lincoln was your age...easy to tell others, am I still growing?!

#8 “give yourself entirely” not a workaholic, full devotion to Christ = devotion to others, its not just a job

- some: oh I have a heart for ministry, but only come on Sun (1/2:); frustration… prayer, men’s min, conf, early/stays late…has burden to feed people spiritually! A shepherd leads the people to good pasture!

- what’s the secret? You seem…I get more fellowship than anyone! I show up!!
- often the lack of growth is bc we’re not all in, miss out!
- Acts2:42-47 “daily” + “daily added”

A Redpath: “a Christian might have a saved soul but a wasted life”

“progress” when people see your growth, faith, trailblazer. I want to be all in too!

16) #9 “take heed” = pay attn - your walk and your doctrine; that you don’t fall away or lead others astray - God has to work in us in order to work thru us!

#10 “continue” = don’t quit; don’t run; stick with it! Be an example, “save” others! Now only God can save, but He has chosen to use us! This is going to change your future and others!
History says Timothy was beat to death by an angry mob - he became bold!
Maybe you came in here feeling stuck - you aren’t stuck! There’s room to grow Are you living for now and later? All of us are doing this for someone, a friend, family, coworkers, children, so we throw ourselves into it

Big Idea: 10 commands for a pastor, success in ministry,

answering the call (11)
being an example (12)
teaching the Word (13)
using the gift (14)
giving your whole heart (15)
sticking w/ it (16)