

4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ²Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

⁶If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

NOTES: 1 TIMOTHY 4

A - Watch Yourself (1-5) see structure on FB

What are demons? What are deceitful spirits in particular? [Only time mentioned in epistles – means not meant to be a part of our experience regularly? Although we may have much experience of praying for people who do – their power is broken by Jesus and they have to listen to those He has sent // fallen angels // Well it's a shallow imitation of what it is for us as Christians we have bright shiny powerful gifts to use deceitful - they kind-of specialise too - I see spirits of self-deception and unbelief and pride and self-sufficiency nowadays quite a lot – it is something to consider when praying

Satan is at work spreading false doctrine, and his ministers are faking/infiltrating just as they did in Paul's and Timothy's day

Looking over the majority of the NT it is often LEGALISTS (explain) – saved by rules and works – occasionally there is some outright lie but these don't often work because sensible Christians spot them a mile away - A GREAT KNOWLEDGE and grasp of the Bible makes us like the expert on Antiques roadshow [fake/great value] – is it valuable for eternity?

Seared conscience means our "holy" sensitivity and conscience to make moral decisions and resisting temptation – our radar is jammed and we don't see evil for what it is. This what sin would do to us!

Do we need to be looking for these people? No not necessarily – even Jesus did not drive Judas out - did He think he might repent right up until the last moment?

1. We need to be Biblically Centred
2. Not Legalistically Driven (holes in jeans story couple leave the church)
3. Also not governed purely by our emotions (big challenge of the age – we can't let our feelings determine our convictions)
4. We must ask continually for WISDOM:

Deuteronomy 34:9

"Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses...." *TRANSFERABLE ANNOINTING ?*

Proverbs 4:6-7

Do not forsake **wisdom**, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you..... The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Proverbs 8:11

Wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Acts 6:10

But they could not stand up against the **wisdom** the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

Colossians 2:3

.....In whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks **wisdom**, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

PRAY FOR GODLY WISDOM (in heart [intuition] and mind [good sense]) + ASK TO BE PRAYED FOR FOR **GIFT** OF WISDOM (supernatural gift) – **OLD BANK CASHIER TRAINING STORY**

Sanctified animals are the ones listed in OT originally intended as food – **history of custom of saying grace???** **Sanctifying what's before us???** (Original plan before the fall was that we could eat ANYTHING!!! **Genesis 1:29 and Genesis 9:3**
But have we sometimes in past made it churchy legalism – to be seen to be “holy” [Matt 6:5]

Genesis 9:3 New International Version (NIV)

“Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything”

Acts 10:9-16

“Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

B - Exercise yourself (6-10). If believers would put as much effort into the spiritual life as they do their recreation and hobbies, what a difference it would make!

God's servants must preach the truth and fight the devil's lies. This is our training ground for greater things ahead on earth and in heaven.

Declaring war on the enemy by making commitment / getting baptised [do you need to get baptised?], serving and getting trained up for our future service may not make us popular, but it will keep us faithful as long as we are going straight – like stability of a bike – when you slow down you have more chance of falling off .

Physical exercise is important, but spiritual exercise is even more essential.

Discipline is not a dirty word as has often been – [Hebrews 12] - Both discipline and devotion are needed to make a winning athlete and an effective Christian.

What training are you planning for yourself this year?

1. How can I plan to read the Bible in 1/2/3 years How can I plan to study it effectively?
2. How many verses will I learn ...meditation.... listen to Bible audio / talks / YouTube
3. What books shall I read? What conferences shall I go to? What prayer/healing ministry shall I book for myself? What can I go to at my church? Freedom in Christ?

C - Give yourself (11-16). It takes real effort to grow in the Christian life and to be successful in Christian service. God asks for our wholehearted surrender, no matter what the cost.

Ponder these admonitions that Paul wrote to Timothy and see how they apply in your life.

Alan Redpath “It is very possible for a Christian to have a saved soul but a wasted life....”

Keswick **Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of Bags of Gold/Parable of the talents**

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, **because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

How will you find out what opportunities there are to serve? We've been looking to fill our rota sheet this is a great time to be around – when we get back together it will be a great time for gathering and drawing people in – many will be hungry and many more open – some will be wrecked/heart broken and devastated – will you help us meet this need? If you don't already learn how to pray for people for healing? Being filled with the Spirit? What is God asking you to do in the future?

GIFTS TESTING <https://spiritualgiftstest.com> <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org>

ANALOGY – CARS: Whatever you do – even if you’re not completely sure you are going in the right direction GET YOUR CAR STARTED - it is a lot easier to steer when it’s underway than when it’s stationary! Just get going! It is impossible to steer a vehicle unless it is moving. Once you start serving Jesus He may steer you one way or the other, but the change won’t be difficult if you are already in motion.

Daniel 12:2-4 “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

Advance!

The word translated "progress" in 1 Timothy 4:15 means "pioneer advance." As we walk with the Lord and serve Him, we must move into new territory and not stay the same spiritually BUT GROW EVERY DAY. There are new truths to learn, new battles to fight, and new victories to win.