



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers, 1st Timothy 4:12-16.

1. Example or Pattern as in Sewing Pattern (Jig, Stamp, As in Woodworking).

- ✓ To the Believer, 1st Timothy 4:12, to Everyone, 1st Timothy 4:15. Progress on Display, progress towards perfection, not perfection, 1st Timothy 4:15. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven, Matthew 5:15-16. Your Light is your Christ Likeness, The Spirit of God living in you! We are on display, our lives (good and bad) are projected for others to see.

2. External Encouragement and Internal Motivation from...

- ✓ Salvation, Growth and Calling, our spiritual journey. Thankfulness, Colossians 3:16. Desire to Please God, Ephesians 5:10. Desire to help others grow, Matthew 28:19-20. If the desire to be a light and an example do not come from our Salvation, it is likely based in a works based theology, pride, and desire to be recognized, liked and/or affirmed.

3. Scripture Focus

- ✓ "set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers, 1st Timothy 4:12, 15-16. Watch, regulate yourself, both in your life and in your teaching, they see it, 1st Timothy 4:15-16.
- ✓ You should point to salvation, 1st Timothy 4:16. Question: So... What kind of example are you? WHO, from your past, was your spiritual example(s). Question: And what was the best thing they ever said? But what did they say with their lives? Be diligent, wholly committed to the things of the Lord, people are watching, 1st Timothy 4:15. Watch (not in a spectator way) your life and doctrine, it points to Jesus and leads to salvation, verse 16. So... "I Gotta do better" doesn't mean much until you get to the specifics. God, thru Paul, gives us those specifics.

4. Speech, Jesus and Beelzebub

- ✓ "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks, Matthew 12:33-34. Jesus teaches us the heart to mouth Connection. Fruit (your speech) is Obvious, KNOWN, Matthew 12:33. Your Fruit, Matthew 12:34, (your speech) comes from what is in your heart. I was just kidding... I didn't mean anything by it. I'm not really like that. Check Yourself, that's not what Jesus says. Jesus cares about what comes out of Your mouth, He Does! Clean and Unclean. "Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean,'" Mark 7:15. Controlling our Speech is HARD, but necessary. Taming the Tongue. "We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check," James 3:2 NIV (1984).

5. Parts of Speech 1

- ✓ Words we use and our word selection. Question: As you look back on your spiritual maturity, did you find that you had or are having a narrowing vocabulary? Time in the Word, good preaching, good examples shape not only your life but your vocabulary. Rated "E" for "Everyone" (infrequent use of mild language, 6 years old and up). Rated "EC" for Early Childhood (no material that parents would object to). Maybe words, but worldly themes are everywhere. More on that later. Illustration: what was R rated when I was a kid is now PG. Society is on a not so slow fade. 3 Channels + UHF (mostly snow with tiny resemblance of recognizable action). Spoon fed protected diet. Edited TV Movies?, anyone?
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6. Here are just a couple of scriptural tests to run your vocabulary through...

- ✓ The Hint-Less Test: "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving," James 3:2. Obscenity, shamefulness, many words deemed obscene by the Christian Community are celebrated by the world. While the standards for TV have greatly eroded, there are still some standards on the major broadcast channels (Cable... another story). That ship has sailed. Now it seems that every movie that comes out has a lot of obscenity, foolish talk and coarse joking. That seems to be the criteria for a good show these days... how sad. Question, are your standards higher or lower than that of the world in "Prime Time"? It is like Hollywood has made a bucket list to mock the 10 commandments... one by one. And these checkmarks abound. Words that hint are improper and words that shout are...
- ✓ The Little Kid Test: Causing to Sin, "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off," Mark 9:42 NIV (1984). If a little kid follow your example... what path will that lead him down? Kids mimic us, they follow our examples in almost everything!, Sin or Righteousness! Fewer and Fewer actually "Whisper Words." Words Paint Pictures. Biological Processes, Byproducts. Intended for marriage activities. Mentioning the un-mentionable. If it doesn't pass this test... cut those words out!
- ✓ Acceptable to God Test, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer," Psalm 19:14. Test both your heart and words. Just you and God. "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so," James 3:9-10. There is a difference between "I don't know where that came from" and "That's just who I am." Progress towards perfection. Say, I Wouldn't put it that way.

7. Parts of Speech 2, Content and Subject Matter.

- ✓ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving," Ephesians 5:3-4. Sexual Immorality, Impurity, Greed, Casting Verbal Stones, Foolish Talk, Coarse Joking, Name Calling, Gossip, Slander, Glorifying of Sin, Worry, Complaining, Greed, Selfishness.
- ✓ The only test, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen," Ephesians 4:29.

8. Parts of Speech 3, tone, how you say it.

- ✓ Remind the believers to be gentle and polite to all people," Titus 3:1-2.

9. Life, a broad subject, here in the Church we are all at different stages of maturity.

- ✓ Abundant life to the full. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," John 10:10. Question: Jesus came to give Abundant Life, are you receiving it?, Living it? Smile, glow and exude the Jesus in you? "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many," Mark 10:43-45. Serve everyone, Jesus did, there is no better example than our Savior, service with a smile. Jesus' Life honored God's plan for His Life in every way (where... when... who... what... why... and how...).
- ✓ Jesus did not go where it was easy or convenient. The crowds and the influential did not cause Him to waver. Lazarus died because Jesus didn't go "soon enough." He fasted and prayed (what fun) for 40 days. Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it," Mark 8:34-35.

How much self-do you see in You? How much self-do do others see in you? We have an example. We have a pattern. His name is Jesus. Look at his Life... find something to scissor, chop, cut or redo to be more like him. Keep one step ahead in at least one area of your life, while being teachable by others. Be in proximity of others. People are the priority. We all get to be Examples!