

## 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12-16, "Example Yourself, Part 2"

☞ "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," 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12 & 15.

### 1. Life equals Behavior

- ✓ Popular saying and T-Shirt : "\_\_\_\_\_ " is Life. "ἀναστρέφω anastrēphō, abide, behave self, have conversation, live,... be used," (The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words). Here in the Church, we are all at different stages of maturity, this makes it hard and fun.
- ✓ Abundant Life to the Full, Saturation. Fullness about you, enough to share. But is it overflowing? "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. Universal life, i.e., the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate," (The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words). Jesus didn't come to give you or fix great circumstances.
- ✓ Abundant life contains vitality it doesn't contain stress and worry. "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well," Matthew 6:31-33. "But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time, you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Matthew 10:19-20. Question, Jesus came to give Abundant Life. Are you receiving it? Living it? Smile, glow and exude the Jesus in you? Our lives will be full of something, Jesus, self or the world.
- ✓ Sharing life, a life of service, serving God and others. "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 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 10:42-45.
- ✓ Serve everyone as Jesus did. There is no better example than our Savior. Service with a smile, enthusiasm. We are all gifted differently so serve differently, we are all to serve. Jesus' life honored God's plan for His life. Ask yourself where when who what why how. Jesus did not go where it was easy or convenient. The crowds and the influential did not cause Him to waver. In the bible it says Lazarus died because Jesus didn't go "soon enough." Jesus also had fasted and prayed (what fun) for 40 days.
- ✓ If not known for your service to others, what will people say about you? He was a great TV watcher. Not saying you can't watch television but that shouldn't be what you're known for doing. She can sure sit in that pew. Not saying worship isn't important but you should do more than just sit there. If service is your norm then they will say, "She was there for me in my time of need," or "He is a person of character and service," this is real life.
- ✓ Self-Less life, push aside your tendency to be selfish, deny yourself. "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. Question, how much self-do you see in You? How much self-do others see in you? We have an example. We have a pattern. His name is Jesus. Look at his Life and Be Like Him! Find something to add that makes you more like Him. Find something to scissor, chop, cut or redo to be more like Him.
- ✓ Illustration, 22 Years old when I took my first ministry. One step ahead in at least one area of my life while being in the proximity of other and being teachable by them. People are the priority; we get to be examples for them. Full, sharing, and selfless is a byproduct of knowing and walking with Jesus. Our lives must flow from faith and love. "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep," John 10:9-11.

**What would others say about you? What would others say is life for him or her? Our Pattern is Jesus. "Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master," Matthew 10:25a. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. We need to be in proximity to people and then be to them like Jesus was to them.**

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