

MEN

WHEN YOU ARE SUDDENLY ALONE ON THAT FAMILIAR PATH

Do not give up

LIKE

TIMOTHY

Be instant in season and out of
season

JOHN EMMANUEL

This E-book is dedicated to all the brethren who have decided to bear the yoke of Christ like Paul and Timothy. Remember your labor is not in vain.

John Emmanuel

Lagos, Nigeria

April 2020

08103071931

Johnemmanuel870@gmail.com

All scriptures quoted are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Special thanks to Pastor Fatimah Alatishe for her diligent work on the manuscript.

MEN LIKE TIMOTHY

PAUL : THE PREACHER

Phil.2.20 - For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

From a prison room, with chains in his hand and without freedom of movements, Paul the Apostle sent a letter to the Philippians. What a joy it was to them to hear from the man who first preached the gospel to them. Evangelism wasn't a matter of chance to apostle Paul, rather he knew that any man who is genuinely saved and who has an understanding of the Gospel must of necessity preach the gospel,

1Cor.9.16 - For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

It is not a matter of chance that a saved person should tell others about Jesus, rather it is a task that all who have taste that Lord is good must also tell others about Jesus!

The believer mustn't wait for one big sign from heaven or one loud voice before we take up the great commission. Our Lord Jesus left us with the instruction to tell others about what he has done.

Matt.28.18 - 20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus didn't just send us to go, we are backed up with

- 1. His presence "I am with you always"**
- 2. His power "all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"**
- 3. His Holy Spirit. Act 1:8**

Some people may argue that Paul was personally commissioned for the task, and hence if one is not "called" a person must not get involved in evangelism, how true is this ?

Acts.8.4 - Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

In the above text, the believers were facing persecution, yet amidst the persecution, everyone of them who were running for their lives, were still preaching Jesus "EVERYWHERE" dear friend, each of us is expected to tell others about Jesus.

TIMOTHY:

Acts.16.1 - Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

In the course of Paul's missionary journeys, he passed through many cities, one of such cities, he met a teenager named Timothy, who was called a disciple. The writer of the book of Acts does not use words any how. That he called Timothy a "disciple" speaks a lot, Timothy as a young boy had believed the gospel, his grandmother had taught him.

2Tim.1.5 - When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Christian women can be great instruments for raising great ministers of the gospel, mothers and grandmothers are not just called to bear children

and be home makers rather they have a responsibility to be their children first Bible teachers. Faith though personal can be transferred from parents to offspring if parents will be vivid example both in words and in deeds. What then did Timothy's grandma teach him?

2Tim.3.15 - And that from a child thou hast known THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, which are able to make thee WISE UNTO SALVATION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

Timothy was taught the holy scriptures: children teachers and parents must watch it, it is a pity that today in most Christian organizations, the children department is taken with levity. We teach our children what the normal school system would do to them but we forget the primary purpose of teaching them. Those who trained timothy had no new testament books to use to teach him rather, they taught Timothy from the old testament books. They use Genesis to Malachi to prepare and point Timothy to Jesus. Can we boast of teachings who can use the shadows of the old testament to reveal Jesus in our days.

A child with a solid foundation in the faith will end up becoming a faithful ambassador of the Gospel. Can we reflect on the degree of impact that the teaching of Timothy's grandma had on the boy that made him willing to become a full time missionary? They had given the boy a solid foundation concerning the faith and he was willing to journey with Paul to preach Jesus in different places .

FROM BOYHOOD TO ADULTHOOD; TIMOTHY THE EVANGELIST

2Tim.4.5 - But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

From been a young missionary boy, Timothy had grown into an Evangelist, it didn't happened overnight, it wasn't because he merely followed Paul,

at least a young man had followed Paul in the past, but turned back when the going was tough.

Acts.15.38 - But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Mark had followed Paul but at a junction he turned back. It takes more than being available to serve the Lord, it takes consistency, endurance and sacrifices to be effectively used of God. Many started the journey of life with God, but when persecution arose they turned back. It is not matter of if but of when , before our commitment to the Lord will be put on trial! How far can we go with the Lord? How much can we endure for the Lord? How thick is our skin!

Timothy didn't just go for the title like many people do today, with all sorts of title as if effectiveness In ministry is measured by how highly a person is addressed. Ministerial tittle comes with responsibility, Paul told Timothy "do the work of an evangelist" many people today who aren't doing any actual work of an evangelist, parade themselves as one, many who are not able ministers of the gospel refers to themselves as one.

There is a task that comes with maturity in Christianity. We don't just arrive into positions in the faith rather we are build into it as we consistently endure and persevere in diligent labour to God.

TIMOTHY: OUTSTANDING AMIDST THE BRETHREN

2Tim.4.10 - For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2Tim.4.11 - Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

2Tim.4.12 - And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

Paul had many people working with him at different phases of his Evangelistic journey, it wasn't only Timothy who served with him. One of such men who served with Paul was Demas. Pressures have a way of exposing people's strength, Demas name had appeared earlier on as a co-labourer with Paul in his letter to the Colossians

Col.4.14 - Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

However, this same Demas later made a u-turn , he left Paul at a time when it became obvious that there are hazards with working with Paul. If we have ever been told that it will always be rosy serving the lord, I must tell us it is far from the truth. Our faith will cost us much, it may even cost us our lives. We all love to quote this passage

Rev.12.11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony: AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH

We like the overcoming part but can we also appreciate the degree of their commitment? They loved not their lives unto death. They prefer Christ and his reproach than the comfort around them. They look forward to the fulfilment of the promises of God concerning them.

Paul knew what those who were serving with him were capable of doing, same way God cannot be mocked, he sees and knows the intents of our hearts, he knows why and how we are serving him . For all our labor, a day of reckoning is coming when our works Shall be tested.

1Cor.3.13 - Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

We must serve God with the consciousness that we shall give account of our labour. There were men who did not forsake Paul like Demas did yet their commitment to the gospel was questionable. They didn't leave, but their hearts left. Backsliding is first of all a matter of the heart. Faith first get cold In the heart, commitment first reduce from the heart.

Rev.2.4 - Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Many are in active service but the passion for the Lord is dwindling, many started well but on the long run they have reduced the commitment level. Some of the things which many now seek looks good on the facial level,

but deep within it is not of God, they seek followers so as to Lord over the sheep, they seek titles to add to their resume, some seek money and fame all in the claim that it is to further the Lord's cause. Are we concerned with the Lord's cause? Are we bothered that the Lord's work must be done according to pattern? What do you seek oh man of God?

TIMOTHY ; A MAN WITH PROOF

Phil.2:19-22 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Timothy's life was a vivid proof that he had sold himself out to the gospel, he had brought himself under the Lord's yoke, and also had committed himself to serving with Paul. His services were visible for many to see, and he was willing to bear it up for Christ. We must ask ourselves, what testimonial does our service to Christ bring? Are we deliberate and intentional enough?

Also what and who we serve matters. Some though claim to be in ministry, are not preaching the gospel of Christ. Some are only preaching human philosophy and others are only echoing the voice of their earthly masters. But Timothy only served Paul on the basis that Paul was serving Christ. We do not and must not follow men blindly. Like the Berean Jews we must examine the doctrines that people peddle we must weight it from God's perspective. Does it glorify Christ? Does it preach the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Men like Timothy still exist men who through diligent and sacrificial commitment to the gospel are enduring all for Jesus sake. Are you one?