



A Good Minister (1 Timothy 4:1-16)

Deceiving Spirits and Doctrines of Demons

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in **latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in **hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to **abstain from foods** which God created to be **received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and **nothing is to be refused** if it is received with thanksgiving;” 1 Timothy 4:1-4 NKJV

1 Timothy 4:1-4

- ☑ *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in **latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in **hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,” 1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV*
- ☑ **Deceiving Spirits and Doctrines of Demons**

- ☑ **Latter Times:** a time will come when those who seem to be in the faith, really are not.
- ☑ How will will recognize them? Answer: they have a spirit not the Holy Spirit and doctrines not consistent with the Word of God.
- ☑ Hypocrisy: (See Matthew 23!)

- ☑ *“forbidding to marry, and commanding to **abstain from foods** which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” 1 Timothy 4:3 NKJV*
- ☑ **Let me give you two examples of those heretical doctrines!**
 - ☑ **Marriage is not a thing...** Marriage is not important, or we can redefine what marriage is. It can be between any gender, or no gender at all. See: [The Image of God](#)
 - ☑ **You must not eat...** God created certain things we can eat for food and certain things we cannot. We have our own doctrine that says you CANNOT eat certain things that God said you CAN eat. Any time you insert your belief above God’s Word, and teach it as doctrine, you are spreading a doctrine of demons.

☑ *“For **every creature of God is good**, and **nothing is to be refused** if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:4-5 NKJV*

☑ **Let’s break down the food doctrine of demons a bit further**

☑ Every creature is good? Context: every creature God created for food (see verse 3) is good for food! This DOES NOT mean every creature is good for food. It does mean every creature created for food is good for food!

☑ And in that context, nothing is to be refused. In other words, you are permitted to eat anything you wish from the creatures God created for food. And as always, pray and thank Him for all it.

☑ This does not mean you MUST eat animal foods; it simply mean you can if you wish. This does however mean, if you say you MUST NOT eat foods God created for food...that is a doctrine of demons!

☑ **Special side note:**

☑ When you read Romans 14, just know this. It is those who are weak in the faith who don’t know the difference between animals created for food (clean animal as an option, not a requirement) from those that are unclean and NOT created for food.

- ☑ **Pauls admonition:** Don't cause those who are weak in the faith to stumble by exercising a liberty around them (the liberty to eat freely the animals permitted for food), when they are yet uncertain about what the Word of God says on the matter!
- ☑ Why are they uncertain? They are weak in the faith!
- ☑ What do they do because they are uncertain? Answer: eat only vegetables!
- ☑ What should you do around them so they don't stumble? Answer: eat only vegetables!

If you do these things...

“**If you instruct** the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine** which you have carefully followed. But **reject profane and old wives' fables**, and **exercise yourself toward godliness**. For **bodily exercise** profits a little, but **godliness** is profitable for all things, **having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come**. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end **we both labor and suffer reproach**, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.”

I Timothy 4:6-11 NKJV

I Timothy 4:6-11

- ☑ “If you **instruct the brethren in these things**, you will be a **good minister** of Jesus Christ, **nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine** which you have carefully followed.”

I Timothy 4:6 NKJV

- ☑ **This is what a good minister looks like...**

- ☑ Instruct the truth on these matters!
- ☑ You are well nourished in Gods word and good doctrine!
- ☑ Can you recognize how important it is to know Gods word?

- ☑ “But **reject profane and old wives’ fables**, and **exercise yourself toward godliness**.” *I Timothy 4:7 NKJV*

- ☑ **The opposite of good doctrine...**

- ☑ **Old wives’ tales:** you make up your own doctrine and call it a religion, let’s say your own brand of Christianity. Let’s call that your denomination, or your... DEMON-ination!
- ☑ What does it mean to exercise yourself toward Godliness? That is what Paul addresses next!

☑ *“For **bodily exercise** profits a little, but **godliness is profitable** for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. This is **a faithful saying** and worthy of all acceptance.” I Timothy 4:8-9 NKJV*

☑ **This is truth you must accept...lock it into your spirit and soul!**

☑ Physical Exercise is good! It has benefits for your everyday life!

☑ Godliness is better! It will benefit you in this life and into eternity.

☑ What is godliness? Answer: Holistic integrity! When your spiritual life, and your mental and emotional life, and physical life are all in complete alignment with God!

☑ *“**For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach**, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.” I Timothy 4:10 NKJV*

☑ **This is what I have made my whole ministry...**

☑ I am dedicated to making this message known to the whole world. I am called to make sure God’s people have good doctrine!

☑ *“These things command and teach.” I Timothy 4:11 NKJV*

☑ **This is what you should also do...**

☑ If you want to know what the priorities in your life should be, it is the things I just shared with you!

Do not neglect the gift that is in you...

“Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers** in **word**, in **conduct**, in **love**, in **spirit**, in **faith**, in **purity**. Till I come, give **attention** to **reading**, to **exhortation**, to **doctrine**. **Do not neglect the gift that is in you**, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them**, that your progress may be **evident to all**. **Take heed** to yourself and to the **doctrine**. **Continue in them**, for in doing this you will **save both yourself and those who hear you**.” I Timothy 4:12-16 NKJV

I Timothy 4:12-16

☑ *“Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers** in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” I Timothy 4:12 NKJV*

☑ **Be an example...**

☑ **Word:** You should know the Word and live by the Word. And His Word should be your word!

- ☑ **Conduct:** It cannot be in speech only. You must actually live it out in your life!
- ☑ **Love:** God is love, be like God. Love is a many faceted diamond with many attributes. See what I wrote to the Corinthian church in I Corinthians 13. Be all those things.
- ☑ **Spirit:** Again, your human spirit needs to align with the Holy Spirit, otherwise you are the hypocrite I mentioned earlier in verses 1 and 2.
- ☑ **Faith:** Your faith is the primary thing. Everything starts with faith. If you want a great teaching on the foundation of faith, go read II Peter 1:1-11. It all starts with faith and then you build on that until you become like Christ.
- ☑ **Purity:** You cannot mix the world into you life of faith. Do not love the world or the things of the world (1 John 2:15), and do not be conformed to the ways of the world (Romans 12:1-2).

☑ *"Till I come, **give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**" I Timothy 4:13 NKJV*

☑ **Priorities**

- ☑ Reading Gods Word
- ☑ Emphatically communicate and encourage everyone about the things I am teaching you as priorities!

- ☑ Make sure your doctrine is solid!

- ☑ *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”*
I Timothy 4:14 NKJV
- ☑ **You have a gift to do all the above!**
- ☑ Do not ignore what you are called to do! If you find other priorities you will be outside the will of God!

- ☑ *“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be **evident to all.**”* I Timothy 4:15 NKJV
- ☑ **Title**
- ☑ **Mediate on these things:** Don't just casually dismiss what I've just told you. Think deeply about everything I've shared and delegate the necessary mental resources to them!
- ☑ How much of my mental and emotional resources should I allocate to these priorities? ALL OF THEM. Again I would refer you to Romans 12:1-2 and catch this. When you give your all to God, without holding back a thing, God sees this as a reasonable decision, nothing extraordinary, no big deal, fully expected!

- ☑ And that you are living your life like this should be apparent to everyone around you.

- ☑ ***“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” I Timothy 4:16 NKJV***
- ☑ **Final word on the matter...**
 - ☑ Pay attention to what I am saying; give it your full attention, 100% of all you are. Proper doctrine is the secret to everything that is important in the life of a follower of Christ.
 - ☑ What will be the payoff? This will save you and all who hear you (hear your words and see that you are living by them).
 - ☑ What do I mean by save in this context? This is all about your life right here and now, not about eternal redemption. It’s about temporal well-being. Your best life you can possibly have on earth is a life wholly dedicated to everything I just told you!

NEXT TEACHING

Double Honor (I Timothy 5:1-25)