

*Set An Example*  
*Part 3*

***“3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.” (2Timothy 2:3-4)***

The foundation of service and ministry sprout out from a good base that composed of God’s word, faith, and the willingness to abide in the followings:-

***1- Willingness to endure hardships: “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (2Timothy 2:3)*** Many they want to serve but they don’t want to suffer. But there is no service without a cost or suffering. The life of a soldier is a life of high discipline, away from pleasures and worldliness. And as he pursue in this way then he found himself well adopted and comforted with the set up. You are called to focus on what is available in your hand and do what you are called to do for God.

***2- Willingness to separate from civilian affairs: “No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.” (2Timothy 2: 4)*** Civilian affairs are the temptations that pull the workers from serving the Lord. Jealousy, fights, quarrels, arguments, love of money, selfish ambition and worldly plans, parties, pleasures, worldly celebrations, and the like are civilian affairs and are the pulling factors that will take you away from serving the Lord. You are called to please Christ your master and serve Him wholeheartedly. Avoiding civilian affairs will build in you character and personality that is able to endure hardship.

Timothy is a good example that really responded to the call of God. He cherished the word of God and the teaching that he received in his family from his mother and grandmother and cherished the training that the church and Paul gave to him.

Paul met Timothy in this way: ***“1 He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled from town***

***to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.” (Acts 16:1-5)*** From the above passage about Timothy, and how he find himself with Paul serving the Lord, we can conclude the following points about *setting a good example*.

***1- Good reputation:*** Timothy had good reputation, ***The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.*** Good report about you based on your good deeds for the Lord is needed.

***2- Willingness to be circumcised:*** Timothy was willing to be circumcised: ***“Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.” (Galatians 6:15)*** For us not the physical circumcision is needed but the spiritual one; the circumcision of the heart unto the Lord, ***“Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts.” (Jeremiah 4:4a)*** ***“29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.” (Romans 2:29)*** Timothy was even willing to be circumcised physically to spare Paul the criticism of the Jews. There are certain times things you need to suffer, and to deprive yourself of certain things and rights so that the message would go forward. You need to be mature and act responsibly, for ***“In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,” (Colossians 2:11)***

***3- Willingness to obey the one who trained you:*** Timothy was in full harmony with Paul, and he obeyed him willingly and that is why Paul considered Timothy his true son in faith, as we can read, ***“To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (1Timothy 1:2)*** ***“To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (2Timothy 1:2)*** Paul considered Timothy a spiritual son and Timothy obeyed and abide with Paul for the sake of the gospel message to be spread. Timothy realized and accepted His responsibility toward God when he decided to obey the instructions of Paul in order for God’s message to spread. The same for you, you need to abide with us and the teaching we pass unto you so the message will be spread.

***4- Willingness to travel and go along the plan of Paul: “As they traveled from town to town ... .” (Acts 16:4a)*** Timothy sure had his own plan and set up but he put it aside and was willing to abide with the plan of Paul who is doing and

executing God's plan. If you want to serve God then you need to put out of your mind tourist trips and vacations because these are temptation that will take you away from serving the Lord. Moving or travelling to reach the lost entail suffering, spending, enduring and commitment that you need to be ready to achieve for God.

**5- Your active participation is valid way for you to declare your agreement with the message: "they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey ... ." (Acts 16:4b)** Timothy moved with Paul and the rest of the men with him. When you take an active part in the ministry you are saying indirectly to others that you are in full agreement with the church vision and God's work in His church. Therefore take part in God's service so that you will set a good example to others to follow and obey. Timothy went along Paul in his second missionary journey to various places; to Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas, Macedonia, then Philippi were the church of Philippi planted **"6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days." (Acts 16:6-12)** From Philippi Paul went to Thessalonica and then to Berea; Timothy and Silas were with him, **"14 The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. 15 The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible." (Acts 17:14-15)** Silas and Timothy they did not go with Paul to Athens but were able to join Paul in Corinth, **"1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. 4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching,**

**testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ." (Acts 18:1-5)** Paul was able to be freed from his secular job when Timothy and Silas rejoined him in Athens. Timothy and Silas persevered and were able to overcome obstacles to be with Paul wherever he went. Timothy was of great benefit to Paul and was so needed because later on when Paul was not able to reach to certain places Timothy was sent instead of Paul. And that what had happened when Paul was not able to reach the church in Thessalonica so he found himself sending Timothy to them as we can read here: **"17 But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. 18 For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us. 19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? 20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy. 1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. 6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you." (1Thessalonians 2:17-3:6)**

**6- Churches and ministries will be strengthened as you set good example to them to follow: "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." (Acts 16:5)**

**My dear and Beloved:** Till this day churches and ministries are strengthened with the good example of Timothy and how he faithfully abide with God's call as he abide with the ministry of his leader, Paul. God calling you today to abide with His word, and to set a good example to others to follow as you agree to abide and pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my life fully into your hand. Lord takes me according to your will where you want me to go. Let the word of yours in this message come true in my life, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

