

Engage to Face the Challenge  
1 Timothy 4:12-16

WE all have challenges and we must face them. Let us learn from Paul's advice to Timothy how to combat them.

1. Focus on what is real and true about you. People do not usually like to hear words that sends out a negative vibe. But Paul saw it necessary to give Timothy two things to filter and separate what is real and what is perceived.
  - a. V12) Do not let anyone look down on you because of your age.
  - b. V14 Do not neglect the gift which was imparted to you prophetically.

*God is not intimidated by age that He would not trust and anoint you. If you are a child of God, there is an anointing in your life.*

*Romans 11:29, "for the gifts and the calling of the Lord are irrevocable (cannot be withdrawn).*

2. Work on what is perceived.  
Some people perceived Timothy a misfit. He's just the wrong person for the job. If Timothy is alive today, he can use some of the worldly defence mechanism around. *But the right defense is to use what is real and true about you to change the perception of those around you.*

In verse 12 Paul lists five areas how Timothy can do that.

- a) Work on your speech – • **SET AN EXAMPLE IN SPEECH.**
- b) Work on your conduct (1 Cor. 9:27)
- c) Work on your love aspect.
- d) Work on your faith
- e) Work on your purity.

v13 - **FOCUS ON THE JOB.** Get on with God's work! Make it the centre of your attention and the centre of your activities.

- f) Work on your love and devotion to public reading of Scripture – preach and teach people to love the Word of God! **LESS WORD, MORE** hurt, more work. **MORE WORD, LESS** hurt, less work!

V15) Be diligent, give yourself wholly to them so that everyone may see your progress.

***That is the way to face your challenge silence your critics.***

16) Watch your life and your doctrine closely. The difference between believing Christians and non-believing Christians is the **EVER INCREASING PRESENCE OF GOD IN THEIR LIVES.**

3. Fix what need fixing (**v.16**)– THE word "**fix**" has several meaning in the English dictionary. Fasten (something) securely in a particular place or position, establish, position, mend or repair, patch up, put right, put to rights, set right, get working, make as good as new

Jesus has power to **fix** people and situations. He has power to fix what has been broken or damaged.

In verse 16, Paul said to Timothy that he needs to persevere. If you have to make baby steps to face the challenge, do it! Begin this week.

In John 5:1-15, we find the story of a paralytic man. And, some people can be like this man stuck somewhere in his life. Like this man, you may have valid reason for being stuck. But, "*Do you want to be made well?*" "**Rise, take up your bed and walk.**" If you choose fear, you'll have paralysis. **IF YOU CHOOSE FAITH, you'll have FREEDOM!** Your choice!