



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Thank You, Lord, that You give us all the strength and ability that we need in order to do what You have called must to do. Help us, Lord, to nourish our self on the truths of the faith and of good Christian instruction. Help us to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous of heart and to share with others. Fill us with whom to bless and how, in Jesus' name. Amen

Worship Music

[Effortless-Rita Springer](#)

[If You Say Go-Rita Springer](#)

[Holy-Rita Springer](#)

[I Have To Believe-Rita Springer](#)

[Phenomenon-Rita Springer](#)

Scripture

I Timothy 3 (2005)

1 Timothy 3:1-16 (AMP)

- ¹THE SAYING is true *and* irrefutable: If any man [eagerly] seeks the office of bishop (superintendent, overseer), he desires an excellent task (work).
- ²Now a bishop (superintendent, overseer) must give no grounds for accusation *but* must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, circumspect *and* temperate *and* self-controlled; [he must be] sensible *and* well behaved *and* dignified and lead an orderly (disciplined) life; [he must be] hospitable [showing love for and being a friend to the believers, especially strangers or foreigners, and be] a capable *and* qualified teacher,
- ³Not given to wine, not combative but gentle *and* considerate, not quarrelsome *but* forbearing *and* peaceable, and not a lover of money [insatiable for wealth and ready to obtain it by questionable means].
- ⁴He must rule his own household well, keeping his children under control, with true dignity, commanding their respect in every way *and* keeping them respectful.
- ⁵For if a man does not know how to rule his own household, how is he to take care of the church of God?
- ⁶He must not be a new convert, or he may [develop a beclouded and stupid state of mind] as the result of pride [be blinded by conceit, and] fall into the condemnation that the devil [once] did.
- ⁷Furthermore, he must have a good reputation *and* be well thought of by those outside [the church], lest he become involved in slander *and* incur reproach and fall into the devil's trap.
- ⁸In like manner the deacons [must be] worthy of respect, not shifty *and* double-talkers *but* sincere in what they say, not given to much wine, not greedy for base gain [craving wealth and resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods of getting it].
- ⁹They must possess the mystic secret of the faith [Christian truth as hidden from un-godly men] with a clear conscience.
- ¹⁰And let them also be tried *and* investigated *and* proved first; then, if they turn out to be above reproach, let them serve [as deacons].
- ¹¹[The] women likewise must be worthy of respect *and* serious, not gossipers, but temperate *and* self-controlled, [thoroughly] trustworthy in all things.

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- ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of but one wife, and let them manage [their] children and their own households well.
- ¹³ For those who perform well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and also gain much confidence *and* freedom *and* boldness in the faith which is [founded on and centers] in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁴ Although I hope to come to you before long, I am writing these instructions to you so that,
- ¹⁵ If I am detained, you may know how people ought to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and stay (the prop and support) of the Truth.
- ¹⁶ And great *and* important *and* weighty, we confess, is the hidden truth (the mystic secret) of godliness. He [God] was made visible in human flesh, justified *and* vindicated in the [Holy] Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, [and] taken up in glory.



Their qualifications (vv. 1-16). "One wife" (v. 2) probably is meant to exclude, not single men, but polygamists. Paul was a single man (1 Corinthians 7:8). "Pillar of the truth" (v. 15): without the church. Christ's name would disappear. V. 16 is thought to have been a fragment of a Christian hymn.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; history and commentaries; page 838)

The third chapter of 1 Timothy gives an extensive list of character qualities people need to develop if they want to lead in the body of Christ. All of these requirements point to one overall qualification as a leader: We must be *faithful*. Just as God tested the Israelites in the wilderness, we must learn how to be faithful in the wilderness, faithful in the hard times. We must be faithful to keep on doing what is right, even when everything around us is wrong.

God works through and blesses faithful people, those who are faithful in the wilderness as well as in the Promised Land. Being faithful is being devoted, supportive and loyal. Faithful people are worthy of trust or belief; they are reliable, consistent, constant, steady, and steadfast, meaning that they will stay wherever God places them and be true to those with whom God has given them to work. There is a reward for such people.

If we want to exercise authority, we must also know how to come under authority. We must learn to be faithful and stay wherever God has placed us until He moves us. We must respect and obey those in authority over us. We must do the right thing simply because it is right, even though we may never understand why—which is a real test of our faithfulness and obedience.

If you want to be a spiritual leader, you desire a good thing. Expect to be tested in your faithfulness and obedience as God works these qualities in you so that you will develop the faithfulness necessary for a good leader to possess.

First Timothy 3:2 tells us that a spiritual leader must live his life in such a way that no one has grounds to accuse him; he must be above reproach. In other words, he must behave so well that people cannot find any reason to blame him for wrongdoing.

Notice that the leader must be circumspect, temperate, self-controlled, and *sensible*. I love that! The biggest problem with many people, including some in the body of Christ, is that they are just plain goofy. They frequently do not use common sense in decision making. Sometimes it seems that when people become born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, or filled with God's power and ability to fulfill His will for their lives, some think they have to throw all common sense out the window in order to be "spiritual." Just the opposite is true. If a person is going to build a ministry, he is going to need a lot of plain old common sense. Notice also that a leader must be well behaved and dignified, leading an orderly and disciplined life.

A leader needs to be hospitable and friendly, especially to foreigners or those who are outsiders. For example, at social gatherings a good leader will go out of his way to make people outside of his circle of family and friends feel comfortable and accepted.

Finally, a leader must be a capable and qualified teacher. This involves teaching by example. People want to see Christians who live good, clean lives. They want to be able to trust someone, and it is our job to set a good example and pass along the principles of godly living to others

Paul asks a very important question in 1 Timothy 3:4, 5: How can a person rule the church if he does not know how to rule his household? Paul is not talking here about dictatorial, controlling, or iron-fisted rule. The successful leader is capable of guiding, and nurturing his household with godly wisdom, love, and understanding.

In 1 Timothy 3:10, Paul warns against putting people into leadership positions too quickly. Before they lead, they need to be they need to be "tried and investigated and proved."

Preparation for ministry involves going through some tests and some hard, dry places. Hard times change us. They can make or better. Hopefully they develop our character; they mature us; and they force us to look to God instead of to ourselves, to people, to things. We have a choice to make about how we will respond to hard times. I encourage you to make choices that will help you for the great future God has planned for you.

(Amplified Bible: The Everyday Life Bible; 2005; Joyce Meyers Ministry; Scriptures & commentaries; Pages 1996-1998)

The Journal of John Wesley.

1740. Thursday, January 3.—I left London and the next evening came to Oxford, where I spent the two following days in looking over the letters which I had received for the sixteen or eighteen years last past. How few traces of inward religion are here! I found but one among all my correspondents who declared (what I well remember, at that time I knew not how to understand), that God had "shed abroad his love in his heart" and had given him the "peace that passeth all understanding." But who believed his report? Should I conceal a sad truth or declare it for the profit of others? He was expelled out of his society as a madman; and, being disowned by his friends and despised and forsaken of all men, lived obscure and unknown for a few months, and then went to Him whom his soul loved.

Monday, 21.—I preached at Hannam, four miles from Bristol. In the evening I made a collection in our congregation for the relief of the poor, without Lawford's gate; who, having no work (because of the severe frost) and no assistance from the parish wherein they lived, were reduced to the last extremity. I made another collection on Thursday and a third on Sunday, by which we were enabled to feed a hundred, sometimes a hundred and fifty, a day, of those whom we found to need it most.

Psa 119:105
Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path.



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