

1 Timothy Part 4

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to 1 Timothy 3

To continue with our study of 1 Timothy 4, we will start with the context that was set in chapter 3.

1 Timothy 3:14

14 I (Paul) hope to come to you soon (*remember, this letter is addressed to Timothy*), but I am writing these things to you so that,

15 if I delay, you may know how ~~one~~ (*you as a visionary*) ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress (*foundation*) of **the truth**.

Paul has plans to come to see Timothy, but he is not sure if these plans will work out. Is he being negative here, by saying that he has “hope” to come see Timothy? No, not at all! Remember in 1 Thessalonians Paul wrote to the believers and stated:

1 Thessalonians 2:17

17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, **18** because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

That is the reality of life; we are in a spiritual war with the rulers of the darkness of this age. We are in a fight, and sometimes our plans, our godly desires are hindered.

Paul reveals to Timothy the purpose of this epistle, that **Timothy** will know how **he**, as a visionary, ought to behave, move, function, serve, in the household of God.

Turn to Ephesians 2

Whose household, whose church is it? It is God's household. These people who make up the Church are God's people who exist in a certain geographic location and live in a particular culture. Collectively, the believers make up God's habitation. This is what 1 Corinthians 3:16 states.

Ephesians 2:18

18 For through him (*Christ*) we both (*Jew and Gentile*) have access in one Spirit (*the gift of holy spirit, Christ in You, the newly created spiritual self*) to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** (*we are already citizens of heaven*) with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Turn back to 1 Timothy 3

The Church, the body of Christ, the household of the living God, this is all part of the great mystery. No one ever thought or imagined that the Jew and Gentile would ever be combined into one new

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man and be built together to form God's household. God never intended, planned or willed for any organization of men to build him physical houses of wood and stone on every street corner in our cities and towns. These physical structures are monuments of corrupt fruit produced by the heresies and doctrines of devils which have infected our world since Genesis.

Paul continues on in verse 16 with a summary of the great mystery regarding the Church, the household of the living God.

1 Timothy 3:16

16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of ~~godliness~~ (True faith – this is the opposite of religion. The Aramaic text has “righteousness” here):

He (“He” is a trinitarian forgery) Which was manifested in the flesh,

(When? At Pentecost when salvation by the new birth was first available)

vindicated (justified) by the Spirit,

(mankind, Jew and Gentile, received complete justification by the accomplishments of Jesus Christ)

seen by angels,

(Seen by devil spirits. We fight against the devil and his power! Ephesians 3:10, 6:12.

Despite their efforts, this mystery of righteousness was)

proclaimed among the nations (the gospel of the grace of God was proclaimed to the Gentiles),

believed on in the world,

(those Gentiles who heard the gospel and believed, they received the new birth and the knowledge of the truth, including the knowledge of the mystery)

taken up in glory.

Now there are two aspects to “taken up in glory”. We, the believers are identified with Christ.

Ephesians reveals that we are, right now, seated with Christ at God's right hand. The other aspect is the hope of righteousness, which is the return of Jesus Christ to gather together the believers.

That is when we will meet him in the clouds and receive our new spiritual bodies.

In spite of all the efforts of the rulers of the darkness of this age, the Church continues to be built today. It is built, not by the works of mans hands, but by the spirit of the living God working in the believers.

This household of the living God is where Timothy the visionary was to work and serve. He was to equip the saints for the work of the ministry of the building up of the body of Christ, the Church.

Paul wrote to strengthen and equip Timothy for success, so he would know how to conduct himself among the believers, the body of Christ, the Church of the living God. In order to know how to conduct himself, Timothy needed to be reminded of what he would be encountering.

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times (the time since Pentecost) some will depart (forsake, desert, turn away) from the faith (Christian practice, walking by the spirit) by devoting themselves (giving heed, surrendering their minds) to deceitful (deceiving) spirits and teachings of ~~demons~~ (devils),

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The revelation speaks very plainly and openly, exposing the true source of the religious doctrines which are contrary to the knowledge of The Truth which God desires for us to have. The deceiving devil spirits are the evangelists of the devil, skillfully teaching and moving his lies. In this verse the nature of our warfare with the rulers of the darkness of this age is communicated. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood. However, flesh and blood is involved. Some people, believers, will turn away from the faith. To our physical eyes we just see a person. By spiritual perception we can perceive operation of the deceiving spirits, which is the cause of the turning away. Now, verse 1 speaks of those believers who have turned away and have surrendered their minds to deceiving spirits and teachings of devils. Not all those who have done this are necessarily possessed. The teachings by way of a 3rd party have influence them to turn away. This other person is mentioned in verse 2.

1 Timothy 4:2

2 through the insincerity (*hypocrisy*) of liars whose consciences are seared,

Turn to Acts 13

This is the agent, the host of the deceiving spirits, moving hidden in the background who is endeavoring to turn away the believers from the faith.

Their consciences are seared with a hot iron, which means that they no longer have a conscience, they do not have the ability to know right from wrong. Paul and Barnabas confront such a man in Cyprus.

Acts 13:4

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit (*by revelation*), they (*Barnabas and Saul*) went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish **false prophet** named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul (*the man in charge of the island*), Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to **turn the proconsul away from the faith**. 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit (*Paul is operating holy spirit, invoking the power of God*), looked intently at him 10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you (*not for blessing, but it will be against him – how is that for the laying on of hands?*), and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Turn back to 1 Timothy 4

It was not by the senses that Paul knew what Elymas was doing. The working and functioning of Elymas was in the background, where no one could see what was really going on. It required the

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operation of holy spirit to negate the functioning of this son of the devil. Timothy was familiar with this account. He knew about the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.

Paul continues his discourse, listing what the deceiving spirits are teaching in Ephesus at that time.

1 Timothy 4:3

3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Can we apply these verses in our day and time? Of course; these verses reveal valuable truths that counter similar teachings of devils which are moving through our culture as well.

By revelation, Paul has charged and instructed Timothy regarding his service in Ephesus. Notice that there are no instructions regarding increasing membership in the Church or demanding that people give more money. There are no instructions regarding Church buildings or influencing people to follow Timothy so he can prove his leadership skills.

So, how is Timothy to know that he has succeeded in his work? How will he know that he has been a successful visionary? Paul answers this question in the next verse.

1 Timothy 4:6

6 If you put these things (3:16 – 4:5) before the brothers (*and sisters*), you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of **the** faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

Timothy was to teach the truths we have just learned regarding the mystery of righteousness, the operation of the spirit of God in each one of us, and the operation of the deceiving spirits in children of the devil. Doing that work, he would be a good and successful servant of Christ Jesus. Success is not measured in popularity, in the number of followers he attracted, or how well he motivated people to obey his commands. Success is not measured in money, social status, or how many miracles and mighty works he performed. No, success is measured in setting before the believers the spiritual nourishment that they need to grow; it's the teaching that they need in order to be furnished to do the ministry of building up of the body of Christ. Success is measured according to God's standards, not the standards of this world.

Do you think that everyone wanted to hear this good doctrine? Do you think that the believers who had turned away from the faith would welcome such a message? Do you think those deceiving spirits enjoyed being exposed for all to see? No they would not! Whenever devilish error is confronted, the devil spirits get mad and start falsely accusing the visionaries of causing division and making trouble. They accuse the believers of the very thing that the spirits are working.

1 Timothy 4:7

7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness (*righteousness*);

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These “old wives tales” or “superstitious myths” or fables were being told. Timothy was to have nothing to do with these. This does not mean he was to ignore them, but he stood against them by teaching The Truth.

Timothy had been trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that he had followed. This included the written and spoken word of God. Now he is to train himself in righteousness. This training is the application of the instructions Paul is imparting in this section of the epistle.

1 Timothy 4:8

8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness (*righteousness*) is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

The benefit of bodily, physical training ends long before the physical body dies. However, righteousness is beneficial now and forever more! The life to come is that life we will live in eternity in our new spiritual bodies.

1 Timothy 4:9

10 For to this end we toil and strive (*this training in righteousness is WORK*), because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things.

12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

It says to “let no one despise you for your youth”. That “no one” includes Timothy; it starts with himself. Instead, he is to be an example to the believers, in his manner of speech, especially what he says. He is to be an example in his conduct which includes walking by the spirit. He is to be an example in Love and Faithfulness which are both aspects of the fruit of the spirit. He is to be an example in purity; no spiritual pollution is to affect his life.

1 Timothy 4:13

13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Others devoted themselves to deceiving devil spirits. Timothy was to devote himself to the revelation given in this epistle. He was to publicly read the scripture. In the first century, the printing press and the internet did not exist. There were not enough copies of the written word to go around. The public reading of scripture was very important.

Exhortation is given by revelation, and by way of the spiritual manifestation of prophecy. Timothy is to devote himself to teaching the words which are commanded by God. All these instructions are fulfilled as he walks in newness of life by way of the newly created spiritual self. No one can do these things accurately by means of the senses.

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1 Timothy 4:14

14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by (*through*) prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

The NET Bible has a note regarding this verse:

Here the preposition “through” (*or by*) denotes not “means” but accompanying circumstances: “accompanied by prophecy.”

The words of prophecy and the elders laying their hands on Timothy were the confirmation and recognition that he was given as a gift of God's grace to the body of Christ.

To serve according to Paul's instructions, walking by the spirit, is how Timothy would stay spiritually fired up and functioning as a visionary.

Now, Timothy was called to serve as a visionary and the elders recognized his calling. This kind of recognition is never guaranteed. If, as a visionary, you receive recognition and the freedom to openly function among the believers as a visionary, be very, very thankful. More often than not, this kind of recognition is never given to, or obtained by, the genuine visionary.

Whether there is any recognition or not, those who are called to serve as a gift of God's grace within the body of Christ are to serve. It is God who does the calling, not man.

The man of God, Noah, is called a “Herald of Righteousness”. He preached for decades, but aside from a few believers who died before the flood, no one outside of his own immediate family listened to him or believed what he had to say. Yet he served his heavenly Father with all his being. Jeremiah, the priest, was not recognized as a genuine prophet except by a very few. He was mercilessly persecuted by the religious and political authorities of his day. Yet he served his heavenly Father with all his being.

Jesus Christ was not recognized as a genuine man of God or as a prophet by the majority of the people of Judea, by the religious or political authorities. At best he was considered a bastard and a dangerous madman. He was mercilessly persecuted by the religious and political authorities of his day and finally murdered by those he came to serve. Yet, he served his heavenly Father with all his being.

I do not point out these truths to be discouraging. These truths are held forth to reveal God's standard of success. All these men of God, Noah, Jeremiah, Jesus Christ and Paul were successful men of God. Think of it, the success of a visionary or an elder is not held captive by the response of those who are served. A servant of God serving in the household of the living God is not accountable for anyone's response to his or her service.

Recognition by the believers, by the religious authorities or by the world, is not a prerequisite to serving your heavenly Father. I repeat – **recognition is not required**. What is required is your willingness and your heart to serve. By the grace of God we have these magnificent records of these wonderful men and women of God who answered God's call and spent their lives serving with all their heart. The study of the lives of these men and women is time well spent.

1 Timothy 4:15

15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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Timothy is to practice this wisdom that Paul has imparted by spiritual believing to Timothy. Timothy will not apply this wisdom perfectly, every time, all the time. He is to practice. Perfection is NOT required. As he practices, the believers he serves will begin to see his growth and his progress.

When Paul was speaking to the elders of Ephesus in Acts 20, he told them to "...pay careful attention to yourselves...". Timothy is to keep a close watch on himself and the teaching. This is a repeated charge to do what has been instructed in verses 12 through 15. As he persists, he will save himself and those who take heed to his teaching and ministering. What are they saved from? This is certainly not referring to the new birth and salvation. The context indicates that they will be saved from the deceiving devil spirits, the teachings of devils, and those who promote such things.

Those serving as visionaries are adept at spiritual discernment, spiritual judgment. He or she is adept at perceiving how the devil spirit realm is moving against the believers, and how to stand against the spiritual attacks. Then the visionaries are to teach the elders, administrators and the believers about the attacks, how to move and how to stand against the attacks. Together, Paul and Timothy are fulfilling this responsibility in Ephesus, in the first century, in the Hellenistic culture. The visionaries of the 21st century have the same responsibility within the household of God, whether anyone recognizes them or not, whether anyone listens or not.

Chapter 5 contains specific administrative instructions for the elders in the Church at Ephesus. Paul is continuing to teach Timothy how to function and serve in the household of the living God. The word "honor" is used four times in chapters 5 and 6. This word honor means "esteem, honor, respect". Once it is used in reference to the elders who rule or lead well. Once it is used in reference to the masters of slaves. Once it is used in reference to God. Let's remember that the instructions here are not law or commandments contained in ordinances.

1 Timothy 5:17

17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double **honor**, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Verse 17 starts with "...the elders who rule well...". This calls for a value judgment. Who is to make this judgment or evaluation? Those serving as visionaries. That is exactly who Paul is instructing by revelation, the visionary who is to carry out these instructions.

In 1 Timothy 6:1 it says

1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all **honor**, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

In both accounts, the word "honor" is the same usage, so we know at minimum it means esteem, honor, respect.

We cannot forget the spiritual battle that is going on in Ephesus at this time. The elders who lead well, who labor in preaching and teaching are to be highly valued, held in great esteem and honored. Who is to do this honoring, who is to hold them in high esteem? Timothy! He is not to

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withhold his honor, his esteem or his service from these elders.

In the midst of the spiritual attack at this time, accusations were being made. It required spiritual knowledge and spiritual wisdom by way of the gift of holy spirit to sort things out. Here are the instructions for Timothy, on how to weed out the accusations:

1 Timothy 5:19

19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. *(even if the charge comes from another elder who leads well)*

20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 5

Timothy the visionary is to act as a judge as Paul set forth to the visionaries in 1 Corinthians 5 and 6. He is to be impartial in his evaluation of the elders who lead well, and his judgment of those elders who have accusations lodged against them. He is to be impartial in his discernment and treatment of those who persist in sin.

1 Corinthians 5:12

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom **you** are to judge?

13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?

5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,

6 but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

Turn to 1 Timothy 5

The visionaries are to take care of the situations when one believer has a grievance against another believer. Timothy was to take great care to be impartial in his handling of such cases. Note that he was not to ignore the grievances against the elders; he was to handle them impartially!

1 Timothy 5:22

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands *(this is to be done by revelation as he walks by the spirit)*, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure *(no spiritual pollution)*.

23 (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and

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your frequent ailments.)

1 Timothy 5:24

24 The sins of some men are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. (*To whom do these sins appear? To the one serving as a visionary*)

This is referring to those who are not walking by the spirit, but are stubbornly walking by the flesh. Romans 6 is a good reference to read about how we as believers are to reject walking by the flesh and instead to walk by the spirit.

Some who walk by the flesh can be discerned right away. Others are covering their works in spiritual darkness and are more difficult to spot. This requires the operation of spiritual discernment. We are not to be tricked into providing a cover of darkness for the works of the flesh. We do not allow our good habits and our love for the believers to be used against us. (Example: In Galatians 2:11 – 14, the believing Jews were led astray by Peter when he behaved with hypocrisy. This spiritual attack used their good love and respect for this man of God against them. They were tricked into following Peter when he was wrong. By not speaking up for what was right, they unintentionally provided a cover for darkness. Paul spoke up and exposed the error). Timothy was to follow through on his responsibilities to handle these matters which required judgment regardless of how things appeared to his physical senses. He was to be impartial and walk by the spirit.

1 Timothy 5:25

25 So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

(*Again, to whom do these good works appear? To the one serving as a visionary*)

1 Timothy 6:1

1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things.

These are not laws or commandments contained in ordinances. No visionary has the right or ability to force anyone to do anything. Timothy can teach and urge these things. Those who hear the teaching and urging can make up their minds for themselves whether to take heed, or not.

1 Timothy 6:3

3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness (*righteousness*),

This does not refer to the words of Jesus marked in red in the four gospels. Remember 1 Timothy 3:16 which speaks of the great mystery of righteousness? That is what is being referred to here. This mystery was revealed to the apostles and prophets after the day of Pentecost and is part of the gospel of the grace of God. It is in the Church epistles where the great mystery is revealed. It is in the Church epistles where we learn that by grace we have received the righteousness of God. These Church epistles are composed of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are given in

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fulfillment of John 16:12 – 15.

Now, although these verses are directly addressed to Timothy at Ephesus in the first century, could these verses apply to the 21st century? Has the gospel of the grace of God changed? Has the great mystery changed?

So, think about these verses in terms of those whose teachings do not agree with the gospel of the grace of God and the knowledge of the great mystery.

1 Timothy 6:4

4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness (*righteousness*) is a means of gain (*physical wealth, riches, status, acclaim*).

Some in our day and time teach that the way to having our physical need met and more is by our spiritual and religious efforts. If we claim the right promises of God and do things just so, we can invoke the power of God for our own physical and financial benefit.

There are others who make use of corrupt forms of the gospel as a career, hoping to attract disciples and followers in order to enrich themselves.

These teachings produce the works of the flesh, which are listed briefly here. There is another listing in Galatians 5:19 – 21. All these works of the flesh are present and cultivated in religion. Paul sets things straight once and for all – no aspect of righteousness is a means of financial gain. It is not the road to great physical riches.

Paul is teaching Timothy how to close the door on a category of great evil in life; covetousness, which has no place in the life of a visionary. Covetousness is idolatry, the worshiping of other gods which are not gods.

1 Timothy 6:6

6 Now there is great gain in godliness (*righteousness*) with contentment,

7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

9 But those who desire (*it is their first priority in life*) to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare (*an inescapable trap*), into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all evil ~~kinds of evils~~. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves (*all the way through*) with many pangs (*sorrows*).

A person can never get enough of what they really love. If you love money, you can never get enough. If you love the written, spoken and revealed word of God, you can never get enough.

1 Timothy 6:11

11 But (*in contrast to loving money*) as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

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1 Timothy 6:12

12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life (*This is in the gift of holy spirit. Its fulfillment is our hope.*) to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

To flee the love of money, to pursue these things and fight the good fight all require the visionary to serve by the power of God resident in them. It requires walking by the spirit, faithfully and consistently.

1 Timothy 6:17

17 As for the rich in this present age (*this is the wealthy*), charge them not to be haughty (*proud*), nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

Riches are uncertain; you can be wealthy one day and poor the next. We do not set our hopes on riches! We set our hopes on God. God expects us to enjoy everything that he provides for us.

1 Timothy 6:18

18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,
19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Wealth and possessions are NOT a standard which indicate that one is successful or godly. How are they to figure out what is good works and what is not? This requires that they walk by the spirit, just like the other believers.

1 Timothy 6:20

20 O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. (*how?*) Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” (*counterfeit knowledge, the teachings and doctrines of devils*)

21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.
Grace be with you.

As written in Ephesians 4:12, the service of the visionaries is to equip the saints, the believers for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

1 Timothy gives specific instructions, by revelation, from Paul to Timothy, so that Timothy would know how to serve in the Church at Ephesus in the 1st century.

Now to summarize this series on 1 Timothy.

Remember that Paul explicitly states two reasons for this epistle.

First, the aim or goal of Paul's and Timothy's service in Ephesus:

1 Timothy 1:5

5 The aim of our charge is love (*the love of and for God that has been poured into the believers hearts*) that issues from a pure heart (*no spiritual pollution, no hypocrisy; this is walking by the spirit, loving as God would have us to love*) and a good conscience (*sound mind*) and a sincere (*no pretense, no hidden agenda*) faith.

Timothy is to deal with those who are out of order, those who have been deceived and those who are deceiving, to open their eyes so that they can again turn away from the power of satan to God

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and His power.

The second reason:

1 Timothy 3:14

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, **15** if I delay, you may know how one (*you, Timothy, as a visionary*) ought to behave (*function, serve*) in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

This epistle of 1 Timothy contains specific instructions on how Timothy should function and serve in the household of the living God, so that he can effectively equip the saints for their work.

In this series, we have learned that, among other things, the visionary's duties include:

- Serve and lead by example, not lording over the believers as a ruler or dictator
- Serve as a watchman and declare the entire counsel of God
- Wage a good spiritual warfare
- Teach the believers how to practically function and move within their culture and society
- Teach the believers how to stand and resist the current spiritual attacks of the devil
- Determine the qualifications for the duty of the administrators and elders
- Appoint, instruct, and oversee the administrators and elders
- Discern which administrators or elders are serving well, and doubly honor them
- Handle judgments which are needed when believers have grievances against each other. Be completely impartial in these matters
- Serve regardless whether any of the believers recognize the calling and service of the visionary, or not
- Remember the standard of success for the visionary

This is not an exhaustive list of the duties of a visionary.

The visionary cannot accomplish any of these duties or responsibilities with five senses resources or abilities of the flesh. He or she must rely upon the resources which are resident in the newly created spiritual self, Christ in You, the gift of holy spirit.

God continues to call and appoint visionaries, as gifts of His grace, to serve in the body of Christ. God continues to work in them mightily, so that they can accomplish their calling in the Church of the 21st century. The believers in this Church need and require the service of the visionaries, so that they (the believers) can accomplish their work of the ministry, which is to build up the body of Christ.