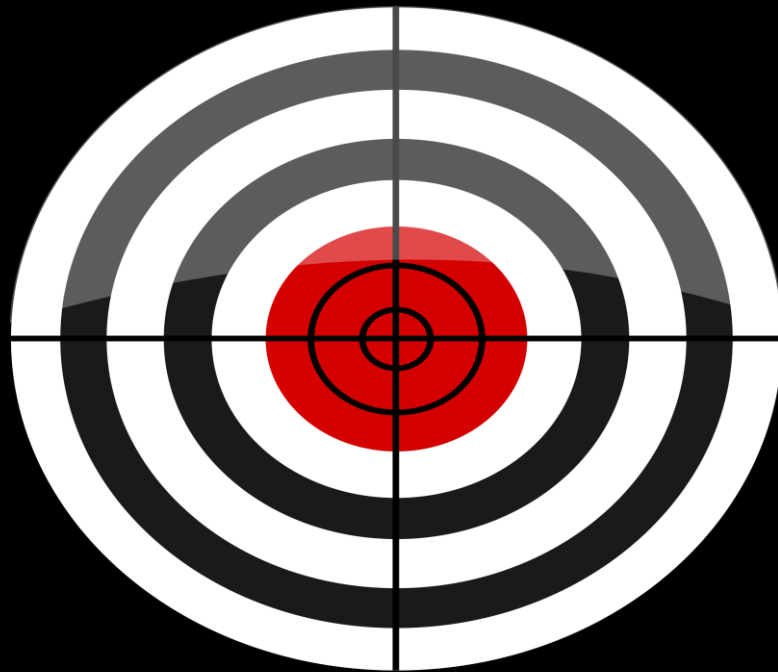


I Timothy 4:12-16

4 Guidelines For Effective Kingdom Ministry



Background/Context

- Author: Apostle Paul
- Audience: Pastor Timothy and believers in the church in Ephesus (Written AD 62-66)
- Setting: Ephesian Church burdened with false teaching; Timothy discouraged as result
- Themes: Importance of; sound doctrine, personal discipleship, effective kingdom ministry and service

Not Be Hindered By What We Think We Lack

- (v. 12a) Paul to Timothy and Church; Don't be distracted by lack as Jesus can overcome any need
- Despise: "to look down on, to think little of"
- Youth: "youthfulness", used to refer to any man under the age of 40! Bible Scholars, Timothy probably in his 30's
- Tempting to let what we think we lack keep us from serving and ministering

- Acts 10:34-35, “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”



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Letting Christian Life Show Jesus' Power

- (vv. 12b-13) Effective service enhanced best when believers' words and lifestyle represent Jesus
- “example” – pattern, mold, (minting of a coin)
- Paul gives several personal expressions of this; word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, purity
- (v. 13) Also, how this exemplifying is represented in Church; Reading (public reading of Scripture) , Exhortation (preaching), Doctrine (teaching ministry of church)

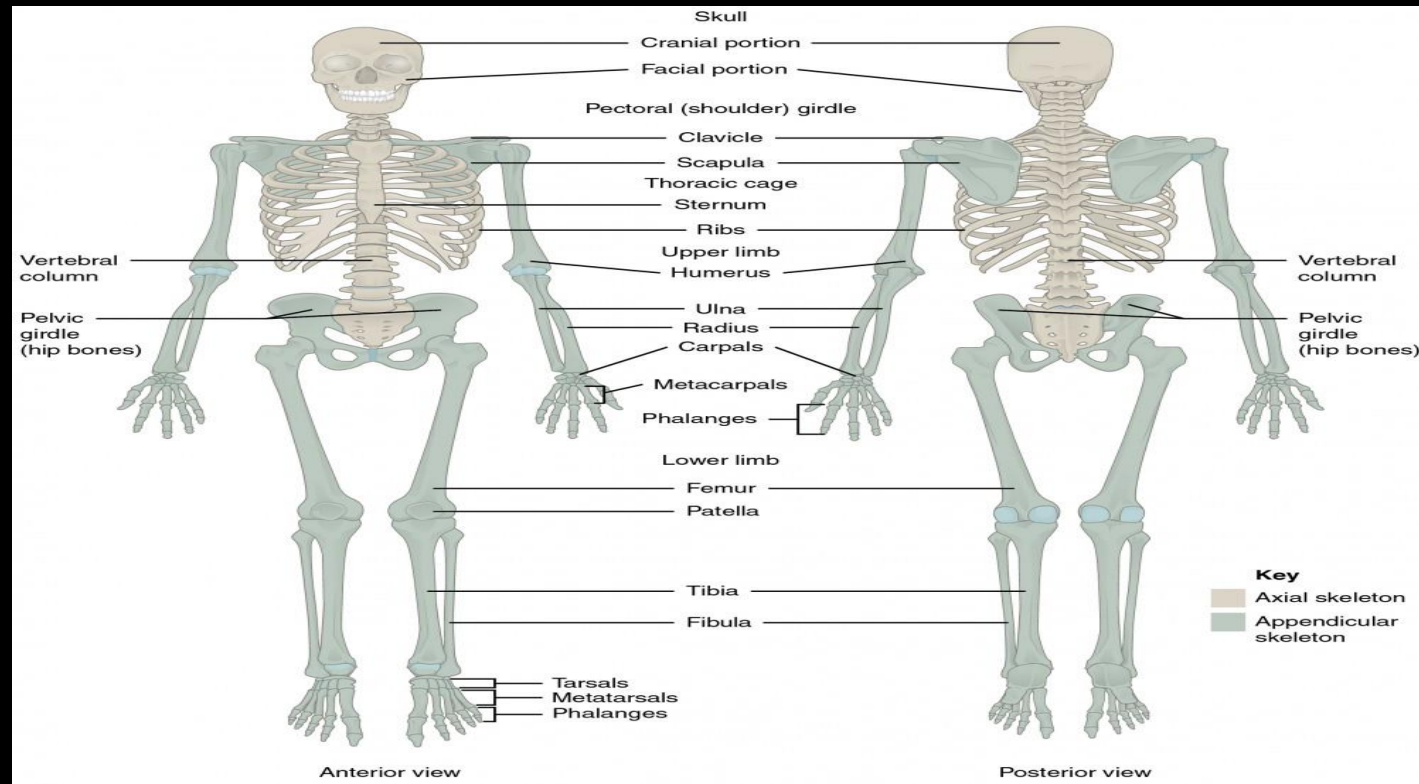
- I Thess. 1:5, “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sakes.”



Applying Spiritual Gifts

- (v. 14) Paul called to Timothy's mind his own giftedness
- Effective ministry is accomplished best through application of spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12)
- Paul, Tim you given divine enablements to minister by Jesus through the Holy Spirit
- Spiritual Gifts: not natural abilities, not genetic traits, not things just learned mentally
- Divine empowerments given to believers at moment of salvation for plugging in to Kingdom work

- I Cor. 12:18, “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
- Rom. 12:6, “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ...”



Determining To Seek Spiritual Maturity

- (vv. 15-16) Not just doing godly things, but being godly people
- “Meditate” – to take pains to plan and strategize for
- “give yourself entirely to” – to immerse in, to be absorbed with
- “progress” – military term used to describe an advancing army
- Timothy was to continue to grow spiritually and develop close, strong relationship with Jesus