

DISCIPLINES PRACTICAL PDA



KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4.6-9

PURSUE GOD

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

These things Paul addresses are sound teaching, clear theology, and good doctrine. It was knowing Jesus, but also knowing the why behind the Who. It was having a sense that faith wasn't something limited to what they did on Sundays, but a lifestyle woven into everyday. A faith that was new and fresh, and wasn't just inherited from the previous generations. Which is part of the reason for Paul's concern. Because this faith in Jesus was so new, it was also fragile, and didn't have a lot of teachers leading the way. And when teaching isn't clear, or understood, it's easy for truths to become twisted. So Paul charges Timothy to refute and supervise the affairs of the growing church. And it was *these things* that would help Timothy stay true to who God is.

We all have *these things*. *These things* we believe. *These things* we grab a hold of and gravitate towards. *These things* we claim and run to when it comes to God's Word and how we live our life. Verses, passages, chapters, stories, characters in the Bible, they all make up *these things* that help shape our faith.

Then there are *these things* that get in the way of our faith. *These things* that keep us where we are, puff us up, lie to us, and fill us with fear, hate, rage, and anxiety. They kill our voice, and silence us when we should speak up. *These things* are not from God, not honoring to God, and do not reflect a life changed by the gospel of Jesus. Jesus, who died so we would not have to live in bondage or held captive to *these things*, but whose death set us free to live a life of grace and truth in sound teaching of *these things*.

LOVE LIFE

What are some of your *these things*? List them. The good and the bad.

What are your *these things* you need to cut from your life or have become twisted?

What are your *these things* you need to hold onto?