

Introduction – Coaching tip #1: Everyone **NEEDS** a coach.

- Good coaches have lived through more, care about you, and have an objective lens.
- Good coaches speak the truth when you desperately need to hear it.

The context – historical and relational

From whom, to whom, why, and when?

Paul is writing to Timothy during the time Christianity is just getting birthed and when Nero is persecuting Christians around 62-64 A.D.

Paul’s coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 1

- A tender tone. 1 Timothy 1:1-2
- A strong reminder. 1 Timothy 1:3-5
- A brief teaching. 1 Timothy 1:6-11
- A personal testimony. 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- A personal challenge – Fight the good fight! 1 Timothy 1:18-20

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

1. The goal of our instruction is love from: 1 Timothy 1:5

- A **PURE** heart.
- A **GOOD** conscience.
- A **SINCERE** faith.
- Love is giving another person what they need the most when they deserve it the least at great personal cost.

2. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners 1 Timothy 1:15

Our response: 1 Timothy 1:18-19

- **FIGHT** the good fight.
- Keep the **FAITH** and a good **CONSCIENCE**.
- Some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their **FAITH**.
 - Be careful with what you allow into your mind; don’t allow faith to drift or be pulled away.

Paul's coaching for us

The subject: False teachers and teaching.

The underlying issue: Truth – According to the Gospel.

The underlying question: Am I willing to defend the truth of God's Word in a hostile environment?

The action required: Step **UP!**

The unspoken need: To develop **CONVICTIONS**.

How?

1. **Head** = Know the Truth – Word

John 17:17
2 Timothy 2:15

2. **Heart** = Live the Truth – Mentor

John 8:31-32
Hebrews 3:13

3. **Hands** = Share the Truth – Practice

Matthew 28:18-20
2 Timothy 4:1-2

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is someone in your life that has coached you in some sort of way? What was most impactful about their coaching?
2. We all need people that will: tell us the truth, love us when we don't deserve it, help us understand our season of life, and motivate us to take the next step. Are you doing this for someone? Who is God leading you to coach? What steps can you take this week to start investing in that person?
3. Where is God calling you to step up in your family? At work or school? In your neighborhood? At church? What are some practical steps you can take to be a mentor in each of these areas?
4. Is what you are putting into your mind leading you to keep the faith and a good conscience? What changes do you need to make so that you can "fight the good fight?"
5. How are you defending the truth of God's Word in a hostile environment?

Introduction – Coaching tip #2: Coaching only helps **HUMBLE** learners.

The context – the historical situation

- Nero is the emperor.
- Women are viewed as property.
- Cults are flourishing.

Paul’s coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 2

- An urgent priority – Prayer 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- God’s bigger purpose – Salvation 1 Timothy 2:3-7
- Application for men in the house-church worship. 1 Timothy 2:8
- Application for women in the house-church worship. 1 Timothy 2:9-15

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

*³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires **all** men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

1 Timothy 2:3-7

Our response:

*⁸ Therefore I want the men in every place to **pray**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.*

1 Timothy 2:8

Paul's coaching for us

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The subject: Power – “How to fight the good fight” in a culture of persecution and suspicion.

The underlying issue: Love from a pure heart – revealed in conduct and practices to promote the Gospel ahead of personal.

The underlying question: Am I willing to follow Jesus' example of love and return good for evil to those in positions of authority in my life?

The action required: Step **DOWN!**

- Kneel and pray.
- Release anger and resentment.
- Refuse to verbally attack or disrespect those who oppose you.

The unspoken need: To develop **HUMILITY**.

How?

1. **Head** = Know the Truth – Word

Matthew 5:43-48
Philippians 2:5-11

2. **Heart** = Live the Truth – Mentor

Mark 10:45
Philippians 2:3-5

3. **Hands** = Share the Truth – Practice

Luke 10
Romans 12:14-21

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important to pray for *all* people? How can you humbly pray, intercede, and give thanks for those whom you disagree with?
2. How do you exert power from the inside out (being “salt and light”) to bring about change in a culture of persecution and suspicion?
3. What practical steps can you take to humbly follow Jesus’ example of love and return good for evil?
4. A wise mentor told Chip, “Stop trying to be humble and be a servant.” How is God asking you to serve the people in your life?

Review:

Coaching tip #1: Everyone needs a coach.

Coaching tip #2: Coaching only helps humble learners.

Coaching tip #3: If you aim at **NOTHING**, you'll hit it every time.

The context – Leadership crisis in the Church

Paul's coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 3

- Church leadership is a high, noble calling. 1 Timothy 3:1
- Qualifications for elders. 1 Timothy 3:2-7
- Qualifications for deacons. 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- Second personal challenge – develop Christ-like leaders! 1 Timothy 3:14-16

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

¹⁵ ... I write so that you will know how one ought to **conduct himself in the household of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

¹⁶ By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

*He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.*

1 Timothy 3:15-16

Our response:

¹ ... if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do. ² An overseer, then, **must be above reproach**...

1 Timothy 3:1-2a

Paul's coaching for us

The subject: Leadership in the Church

The underlying issue: Integrity – beyond being honest; the integration of your faith in every area of life and relationships.

The underlying question: Am I willing to “set my heart” to become a godly person and fulfill God’s purpose for my life?

The action required: Step **IN!**

- Do a personal inventory.
- Revisit your life goals.
- How does God measure success?

The unspoken need: To develop **CHARACTER**.

How? = B.I.O. – The path to spiritual maturity

1. Come **Before God** daily = to make knowing Christ your #1 priority.
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 6:33
2. Do life **In community** weekly = to go deep, be honest, and get support to live out your faith every day in every way.
Romans 12:9-13
3. Be **On mission** 24/7 = serve your family, neighbors, and workers, and deploy your spiritual gifts in the body.
Romans 12:3-8

Discussion Questions:

1. What do your actions, time, and finances reveal about what your heart is set on?
2. How are you conducting yourself in the “household of God?” How can you integrate your faith in every area of life and in your relationships?
3. What’s keeping you from “setting your heart” to become a godly person and fulfill God’s purpose for your life?
4. Chip talked about *B.I.O.* being the pathway to godliness. Write down how you will practically live it out:

Before God daily: offering your body as a living sacrifice and seeking God’s Kingdom first.

In community weekly: going deep, being honest, and being authentic.

On mission 24/7: showing up as a servant.

Introduction – **Coaching tip #4:** Adversity will either **MAKE** you or **BREAK** you.

The context – why some “fall away”

Paul’s coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 4

- Description of false teachers. 1 Timothy 4:1-5
- Prescription to be a true teacher. 1 Timothy 4:6-10
- Third personal challenge – lead by example! 1 Timothy 4:11-16

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

...**some will fall away** from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons

1 Timothy 4:1

For it is for this we labor and strive, because **we have fixed our hope** on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

1 Timothy 4:10

Our response:

• ...**Discipline yourself** for the purpose of godliness 1 Timothy 4:7

• **Do not neglect** the spiritual gift within you... 1 Timothy 4:14

• **Take pains** with these things; **be absorbed** in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. **Pay close attention** to yourself and to your teaching; **persevere** in these things...

1 Timothy 4:15-16

Paul's coaching for us

The subject: Godly leadership amidst spiritual warfare.

The underlying issue: Timothy's personal growth and development.

The underlying question: Am I willing to pay the price to be a godly person and fulfill God's calling on my life?

The action required: Step **OUT!**

- Go into spiritual training.
- Discover your spiritual gift.
- Find a mentor, friend, a band of brothers/sisters.

The unspoken need: To develop **DISCIPLINE**.

How?

1. **Head** = Know the source of discipline – Grace

Titus 2:11-13
Galatians 5:22-23

2. **Heart** = Embrace the process – Accountability

Hebrews 12:11
1 Corinthians 9:23-27

3. **Hands** = Practice the habits – Consistency

Romans 12:2
Colossians 3:12-17

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you typically respond to adversity?
2. What hinders you from fulfilling God's calling on your life?
3. How is God calling you to step out to be an example and not worry about what others think?
4. Do you know what spiritual gift God has equipped you with? How is He calling you to use it? (For more information on spiritual gifts, check out *Your Divine Design* resources at livingontheedge.org)
5. Write out the habits of discipline you will start to put into practice this week.
6. Who will you ask to keep you accountable? And who can you keep accountable?

Introduction – **Coaching tip #5:** No amount of gifts or brains can make up for a lack of **EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**.

The context – people and problems in Ephesus

Paul’s coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 5

- How to treat all people. 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- How to treat widows. 1 Timothy 5:3-16
- How to treat elders. 1 Timothy 5:17-20
- Fourth personal challenge – lead wisely and fairly! 1 Timothy 5:21-25

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

*...to **maintain these principles** without bias, **doing nothing** in a spirit of partiality.*

1 Timothy 5:21

Our response:

*¹ **Do not sharply rebuke** an older man, but rather **appeal to him** as a father, to the younger men as **brothers**, ² the older women as **mothers**, and the younger women as **sisters**, in all purity.*

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Paul's coaching for us

The subject: Relationships in the Church.

The underlying issue: Wisdom – what to do, when, how, and why.

The underlying question: Am I willing to address the relational challenges in my home, work, and church?

The action required: Step **INTO!**

- Memorize 1 Timothy 5:1-2 until it's in both your head and heart.
- Get wise, outside counsel.
- Develop a plan and timeline to act.

The unspoken need: To develop **COURAGE**.

How?

1. **Head** = Know the Truth – Word

Joshua 1:9
Proverbs 17:17

2. **Heart** = Live the Truth – Mentor

Matthew 7:1-6
Galatians 6:1-2

3. **Hands** = Share the Truth – Practice

Proverbs 27:17
Ephesians 4:11-16

Discussion Questions:

1. According to 1 Timothy 5:1-2, we're to treat all people with respect. How are you doing with that? Where do you need to improve?
2. Chip defined emotional intelligence as "being able to relate to people by understanding where they're coming from, and then doing the right thing, at the right time in the right way." Why is that important?
3. To develop courage we must know, live, and share the truth. Which one of these areas do you need to *step into* today?
4. Is God calling you to courageously address any relational challenges at home, work/school, or church? How will you lovingly step into it?

Introduction – **Coaching tip #6:** Know your opponent **WELL**; and your own weaknesses **BETTER**.

The context – Teaching, trials, and temptation

Paul’s coaching for Timothy

1 Timothy 6

- The truth about false teachers. 1 Timothy 6:3-8
- A warning and positive charge. 1 Timothy 6:9-16
- A word to the wealthy. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- Fifth personal challenge – finish well! 1 Timothy 6:20-21

The coaching “nuggets” – If you don’t remember anything else...

The truth:

*¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and **only Sovereign**, the **King of kings** and **Lord of lords**, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. **To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.***

1 Timothy 6:14-16

Our response:

*¹⁰ For the **love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and **some by longing for it** have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*¹¹ **But flee from these things**, you man of God, and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.** ¹² **Fight the good fight of faith**; take hold of the **eternal life** to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

1 Timothy 6:10-12

Paul's coaching for us

The subject: God and money – false and true teaching.

The underlying issue: Motives and loyalty to Christ to the very end.

The underlying question: Am I willing to be content with what I have at any given time? Do I make decisions based on God's will, or the world's values?

The action required: Step **AWAY!**

- Do a personal inventory of your finances.
- Read or take a course on biblical finances.
- Align your money with God's principles.

The unspoken need: To develop a **SPIRITUAL FINANCIAL GAMEPLAN.**

How?

1. **Head** = Know the Scripture's teaching on money – Word
Matthew 6:19-24
Psalm 50:10-12
2. **Heart** = Live the 10, 10, 80 plan – Faith
Luke 6:38
Proverbs 3:9-10
3. **Hands** = Share your entire financial plan with a mentor – Practice
Matthew 13:22
Proverbs 3:13-22

Discussion Questions:

1. According to your finances and where you spend your time, where does your contentment come from?
2. What does the Scripture teach about money according to Matthew 6:19-24? How do these truths change your perspective on money?
3. What changes do you need to make to live the ten-ten-eighty principle (give the first ten percent to the Lord, save the next ten percent, and live on the eighty percent)?
4. How will you structure your life and money to protect your heart from being deceived?

Introduction: The paralyzing power of fear

The context – historical & relational

2 Timothy 1:1-2

- From whom, when, and why?
- To whom, where, and why?

The importance of mentor/mentee relationship

2 Timothy 1:3-5

- The content = deep, real, vulnerable, affirming
- The principle = real discipleship always flows from the heart.



Paul's 1st challenge to Timothy – “Be bold in fulfilling your calling”

- Timothy's responsibility 2 Timothy 1:6
- God's provision 2 Timothy 1:7
- The principle = we must constantly **REMIN**D one another of powerful experiences in our **PAST** and the **POWER** given to us by His Spirit.
- Aside to parents and grandparents – Make your kids and grandkids your number one group to disciple

Paul's 2nd challenge to Timothy – “Don't be ashamed of your Lord”

- The command = “Do not be ashamed...” 2 Timothy 1:8a
- An appeal = “Join me in suffering...” 2 Timothy 1:8b
- Reasons to obey. 2 Timothy 1:9-10
- An example to follow. 2 Timothy 1:11-12

Paul's 3rd challenge to Timothy – “Don't be ashamed of His Word”

- The command = “Retain and guard the truth...” 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- A motivating negative example 2 Timothy 1:15
- A motivating positive example 2 Timothy 1:16-18

Summarizing and pondering – What is God saying to you and me?

- Try to imagine how Timothy must have felt receiving this letter. His long-time mentor and father in the faith is going to die, persecution is at an all-time high under Nero, and Timothy is to take on Paul's role, to “pass the baton” of a very clear set of teachings (doctrinal and the practical outworking of a godly life in a secular culture with false teachers invading the Church).

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul started his letter the way he did? What in verses 1-7 would be a source of confidence for you?
2. Why do you think Paul emphasized not being ashamed of the Gospel? How do you “shrink back” from what you really believe? What can you do to change that?
3. Paul used the word “treasure” or “deposit” when referring to the core teaching and “the truth” handed down to Timothy. Why is doctrine (i.e., what we believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, eternal life, morality, heaven, and hell) so important?
4. Down through history, countless people have protected the Gospel and “retained the standard of sound words” that Paul talked about. How does this challenge you today?
5. How can you “fan into flame” God’s gifts and ministry purpose for your life? Who are you personally discipling?

Introduction: The deceptive power of “other things”

How can a person remain true to their calling, their Lord, and His Word in a hostile, anti-Christian culture while dealing with our own personal inadequacies and problems?

The answer = Paul's “action plan” for Timothy and us – To be strong in difficult times

1. Make abiding in Christ your #1 priority every day 2 Timothy 2:1
 - The command = “Be strong in grace” Ephesians 6:10
John 15:5
 - The application = “Watch over your heart with all diligence...” Proverbs 4:23
Romans 12:2

2. Make personally investing in F.A.T. people your #2 priority 2 Timothy 2:2
(F = Faithful, A = Available, T = Teachable)
 - The command = spiritual reproduction

3. Develop a “never give up” attitude by actively meditating on three specific metaphors. 2 Timothy 2:3-7
- The singular **FOCUS** of a *soldier* to combat distractions. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
 - The continual **DISCIPLINE** of a victorious *athlete* to combat dissipation. 2 Timothy 2:5
 - The patient **PERSPECTIVE** of a *farmer* to combat discouragement. 2 Timothy 2:6
 - Application = where do you struggle? How does v. 1-2 apply to these practices?

Remember, remember, remember, who and what really matters

- Remember Jesus, the Person 2 Timothy 2:8
- Remember the power of God's Word 2 Timothy 2:9
- Remember those who taught and helped you 2 Timothy 2:10a
- Remember the eternal implications 2 Timothy 2:10b
- Remember to keep preaching the Gospel to yourself 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Make diligent study and accurate communication of God's Word your #3 priority

- Dig deep and humbly teach the truth boldly 2 Timothy 2:15, 18, 24

- Refuse to get “sucked into” pointless debates 2 Timothy 2:14, 16, 19

- If making a difference is your priority, then take your personal growth in godliness seriously 2 Timothy 2:20-23
 - The prerequisite = “cleanses himself/herself, made holy”
 - The motive = “usefulness to the Master”
 - The practice = “flee... pursue... with those...”
 - The practice = “refuse foolish and ignorant speculation...”

- “The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but kind.” 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Summary

Real discipleship is a marathon race, it is filled with obstacles, distractions, temptations, and hardships occurring in a spiritual, invisible battle for your soul and those you love! It requires God's strength, infusions of His Word, power from His Spirit, an eternal perspective, and comrades in arms who will join you in a long obedience in the same direction – and it is so worth it!

Discussion Questions:

1. What of Paul's "action plan" most resonated with you and why?
2. Which of the 3 metaphors do you need to meditate and apply to your life? Are you most prone to be distracted, undisciplined, or impatient?
3. The Bible is powerful, timeless, eternal, and anchors our faith. It keeps us grounded, and sustains us through the hardships, injustices, and challenges we all face. What would it look like for you to "go deeper" in God's Word? (2 Timothy 2:15) How does your mental diet need to change to bring the peace and perspective God wants for your life?
4. How have you responded to people who oppose your faith and values? Read verse 23-26. What do you need to change about your reaction to those you disagree with? How can you better love them?

Introduction: The disorienting power of “unexpected” evil

Don't allow current and future events to undermine your confidence in God's purposes and promises for you and the world.

- Paul warns of increased wickedness in the “last days.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - What are the “last days”? 2 Timothy 3:1
Hebrews 1:1-2
2 Peter 3:3-9
Isaiah 5:20
 - What characterizes increased wickedness? 2 Timothy 3:2-4
 - How are we tempted to interpret these developments?
 - How are we to respond to these developments? 2 Timothy 3:5
- 2 temptations: compromise or isolate

Application

- Paul gives Timothy current and ancient examples to boost his confidence and ours
 - The current 2 Timothy 3:6-7
 - The ancient 2 Timothy 3:8
 - The outcome of both 2 Timothy 3:9

Don't be afraid; keep pressing ahead

- How?
 - Remember your PAST progress. 2 Timothy 3:10-11
 - Remember persecution is NORMAL. 2 Timothy 3:12-13
 - Remember God's Word is POWERFUL. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Summary

In a world where evil is called good and light is called darkness, we are tempted to wonder: “where is God and how could He allow such wickedness, destruction, and evil to reign?”

We are in the last days and the intensity of evil is rising, even as the gospel’s progress is exponentially expanding around the world. We can’t be shocked by the persecution and must remember we have all we need in His Word, His Spirit, and one another to be faithful, strong, and prepared to do His will.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you responded to the current rapid decline in morality and increase in violence in our world?
2. Why is it vital that we relate to our world out of a “hope focus” rather than a “fear focus”?
3. How did Timothy develop the conviction to stay strong even amidst his fears according to v. 10-11? How does this encourage you today?
4. How will following Paul’s counsel in verses 14-16, impact your personal walk with God, and your relationships with your kids and grandkids?

Introduction: The insidious power of wanting to be “accepted by the crowd.”

The antidote to peer pressure is God pressure

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Timothy 4:1

We are commanded to be ready to communicate and apply God's Word in unpopular ways with great patience in a hostile environment

- The command 2 Timothy 4:2
 - Preach the Word.
 - Be ready in season and out of season.
 - Correct, rebuke, and exhort.
 - Do it with great patience and instruction.

- The challenge 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- The calling 2 Timothy 4:5

- The reason 2 Timothy 4:6-7

- The reward 2 Timothy 4:8

We never outgrow our need for others

- Paul's plea – “Come soon” 2 Timothy 4:9, 21

- Paul's reasons 2 Timothy 4:10-21
 - Abandoned 2 Timothy 4:10a
 - Delegated workers elsewhere 2 Timothy 4:10b-12
 - Practical needs 2 Timothy 4:13

- Paul's warning = “Watch out for Alexander” 2 Timothy 14-15

- Paul's testimony = “Jesus stood with me” 2 Timothy 4:16-18

- Paul's heart = To the very end 2 Timothy 4:19-21

Summary

Faithfulness to endure whatever suffering, hardship, or persecution can only be accomplished by God's supernatural enabling (grace) and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit within us.

2 Timothy 4:22

Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 1, Paul alluded to the coming judgment for all believers. How often does the reality of that event, counterbalance our own human inclination to compromise under peer and cultural pressure?
2. The authority of God's Word is challenged today not only in the culture, but also within the church. On what issues do you find yourself struggling to communicate God's Truth? (i.e. life, marriage, gender, and sexuality)
3. What kind of attitude is Timothy told to maintain even as the reception to God's Truth is rejected inside and outside the church?
4. What's God saying to you? Who and what do you need in your life to be bold, strong, prepared, and faithful in the days ahead?