

The Benefits of Being Young

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 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.

1 Timothy 4:12-16 - ESV

Paul is encouraging Timothy in this letter to continue on in the gifts that God has given him. You see Paul recognized that Timothy would come up against some doubt and resistance due to his age so he gave him instructions on how to deal with it.

The instructions have two sides. First, Timothy is to keep going with his gifts. He is to work in that area God has called him in. He is to persevere regardless of what is going on around him. He is to not buckle under to those who doubt him because of his age.

But, don't miss the second instruction here. You see Paul didn't tell Timothy to sit around and defend himself and tell everyone how cool he is; he told Timothy to completely consume his life with the things of God and to be an example. He told him to keep an close watch on himself - to pay attention to his actions.

Paul understood that as a young man Timothy could have a huge impact on those around him by leading by example.

So many people today have low expectations for teenagers these days; imagine the impact of one teenager who chooses to set them self apart and live by the Word of God. Imagine the impact on the parents of that teen if they saw a powerful move of God in the life of their child.

Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers



O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.

Psalms 71:17-21 - ESV



The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth-- Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Proverbs 1:1-9- ESV



Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

1 Timothy i 4:7-11 - ESV