

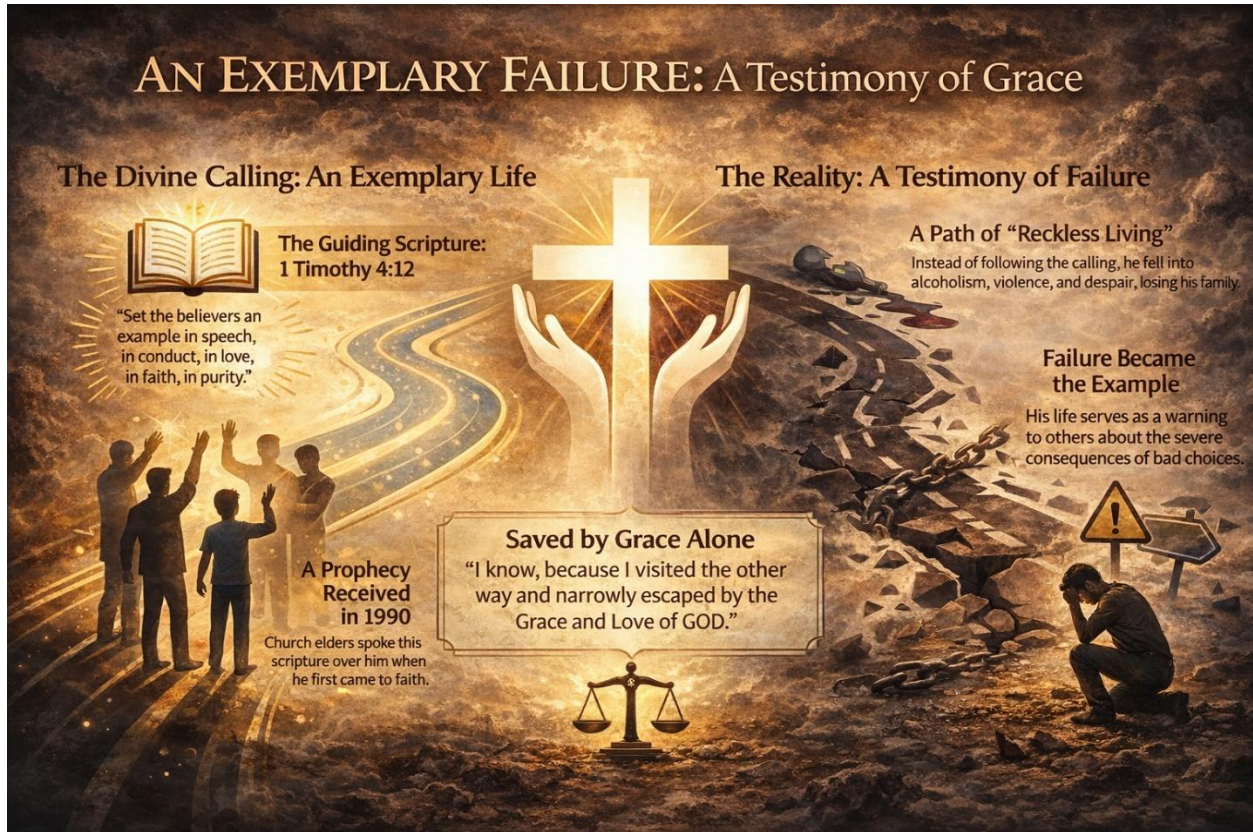
Exemplary Living

Note for 20260111 – 1 Timothy 4:12

1. Opening

Welcome to the Devotionals of The House of Bread. In the Word we read that we are to receive the Word of GOD by the Spirit, so I strongly urge you to pray before you receive the Devotional. Let Christ take the lead in your Spiritual Development.

Watch on Your Tube at: <https://youtu.be/0z47vnpUazM>



Introduction

I have a high affinity towards the Verse of the Day from my personal life in faith. It is with embarrassment of all my failures that I do not speak of it more often.

2. Scripture Text

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

"[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."

<https://bible.com/bible/59/1ti.4.12.ESV>

3. Devotional Reflection

The section from verse 11 to the chapter's end was prophesied over me when I first came to faith in 1990, as it is written here, where the elders of the church I attended physically and spirituality spoke it out over me.

Embarrassingly, I say, because from there I did not follow what was spoken over me, but fell for so many temptations that I would not be able to count my transgressions. Embarrassed and ashamed, I lived my life for years showing only every trapdoor this world can present. So, yes, for a long time this scripture stood as a testimony against me for reckless living. As I have testified before, my choices lead to some consequences that to this day I am grateful to the LORD, that He brought me through. With scar and shame, nonetheless, through it, not escaping, but surviving by the Grace of GOD alone.

As powerful as the verse of the day is, it does not stand on its own. In fact, this is from a letter written to Timothy (without chapters and verses) by Paul. The entire letter should be seen as one teaching. We must break it up because the substance of it is too much to bring in at once.

Let us just backtrack a little this morning and read from the previous chapter.

1 Timothy 3:14-16 ESV

"[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 ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. [16] Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

1 Timothy 4:1-10 ESV

“[1] Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, [2] through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, [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. [6] If you put these things before the brothers, 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. [7] Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; [8] 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. [9] The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. [10] 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.”

1 Timothy 4:11 ESV

“[11] Command and teach these things.”

(Now comes the Verse of the Day)

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

“[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.”

<https://bible.com/bible/59/1ti.4.12.ESV>

It doesn't stop here; know that these last two verses are directed to Timothy as the minister of Christ in Ephesus. The scripture I quoted above is further preceded by other matters concerning the church, elders, and deacons. It continues...

1 Timothy 4:13-16 ESV

“[13] Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. [14] Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. [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.”

This is an enormous teaching to Timothy that we should not "chop up" for "one liner" application. The letter sets the example that Paul is referring to in the Verse of the Day. The walk and talk of Timothy connected to the doctrine he received, specifically written in the letter as a reminder of it. That is the example Paul is talking about.

Now what might this mean to a teenager in a small town somewhere on the near forgotten flats of South Africa? What example was there that I had to live out? For that we need maybe look at a statement of King David, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

Scripture, and that is where I failed. My testimony has become an example of failure. Do you understand? And maybe now my dedication at this late hour of my life might make more sense too. Returning to my "First Love" found so profoundly in that small church in the Southern Point of Africa.

If then any example to be left, it is that failure in our choices leads to troublesome outcomes, to the point where the physical flesh might become the soul's greatest enemy within. That a self-controlled choice, placing GOD'S way above your own is submission to the Most High and His Son, Jesus Christ. Not my way, but the Will of GOD be done, because I know without doubt that the carnal man stands in enmity with GOD, just as the scriptures explained.

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

“[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.”

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4. Closing Paragraph

It is a way of life in submission to the Word of GOD. I know, because I visited the other way and narrowly escaped by the Grace and Love of GOD.

I speak here so you don't have to learn the hard way, as I did.

Selah, Shalom.

5. Resources

Playlists:

Over the last few months and years, we have compiled a few playlists on SoundCloud. Feel free to explore it, download it and share with friends and family.

Find playlists at: <https://soundcloud.com/houseofbread4u/sets>

NEW: Download Music



We have added the ability for you to download the music you heard in the devotionals. You can listen to the song before hitting the “Download” button to know it is the right song you wanted. For now, at least, these are free downloads, and my hope is that I can keep it free. Enjoy!

Link: <https://music.thehouseofbread.co.za/index.php>

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