

**Sermon Title: The Attributes of Genuine Faithfulness**

**Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-5**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to begin, to live, and to finish with a life that demonstrates genuine faithfulness.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 6 ways to motivate a disciple to live a life of genuine faithfulness.**

**I. The 1<sup>st</sup> motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated authority. V.1-2**

A. The call of Paul. V.1a (**Acts 22; 26**)

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

B. The cause of Paul. V.1b

C. The communication of Paul. V.1c

D. The council of Paul. V.2

There is a cardinal rule often neglected in some areas of Christianity today. *"Intimacy never precludes authority."* Intimacy, friendship, fellowship, love bonds, all that does not preclude authority.

There should be intimacy, there's love, there's bonding together, but these never preclude the divine hierarchy of delegated authority. There can be a deep spiritual bond, a love from man to man like a father to a son, but Paul is still the one who speaks the Word of God.

The key to any discipling relationship, is when you speak the Word of God, you go into a command mode, that's just part of it. This letter is packed with commands. The following are examples, of commands from Paul to Timothy: "Kindle afresh the gift of God . . . do not be ashamed of the Lord, retain the standard . . . guard the treasure . . . be strong . . . entrust to faithful men . . . suffer hardship etc. These and the other exhortations are all commands and presuppose authority. Paul never compromises. He has rank when he speaks for God. He was under orders from God to speak to Timothy. Any time you have a discipline or discipleship relationship, you're under orders like that from God. And you speak His Word from a position of authority. He was a man under orders. He was the Lord's general and the one who listened to him is listening to God.

This applies in the discipling process in the home, church, or whatever area of discipling you're involved in. We can become friends, we can share fellowship, we can enjoy love, but we can never allow intimacy to supercede authority, and our authority is based on our calling, our cause, and our message we sent to communicate.

**II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> motivation for genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated altruism. V.2b**

This is simply the picture of unselfish concern for and devotion to the welfare of others. The idea communicates, demonstrates, and participates in being concerned for the good of others.

A. Grace refers to God's undeserved favor, undeserved love, undeserved forgiveness given to sinners to free them from sin and enable them to live and serve God.

B. Mercy refers to God's undeserved compassion in freeing sinners from the misery that their sin creates.

C. Peace refers to the heart tranquility and settled relationship that results from grace and peace, grace and mercy.

There is grace to cover our sins. Mercy to overcome our misery, and peace to dominate your life.

D. Source refers to the equal deity of God the Father, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

What do you wish for the Timothy's in your life? If you want to motivate a disciple, prove to them that the most important thing to you is their spiritual welfare and growth.

**III. The 3<sup>rd</sup> motivation for genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated appreciation. V.3**

A. Appreciation is demonstrated by a thankful heart. V.3a

B. Appreciation is demonstrated by following the example of the Godly. V.3b

Paul is incarcerated in a dark filthy stinking dungeon, crowded with criminals, facing an unjust execution, and yet he's thinking about his beloved son in the faith.

Paul thanks God who he is continually serving, lit. (latreuo), is translated worship, it has to do with temple service, is done with a clear conscience. His conscience is not accusing him. It's not pointing out some sin of which he is guilty and for which he should die or be imprisoned in chains.

Paul's reference to his self-judging conscience being clear, probably is there to remind Timothy and everyone else who might say, "Well, he's probably in prison because God is disciplining him for some sin. Paul states, there was nothing in his heart accusing, nothing in his heart throwing guilt in his face. Paul is saying I'm in prison waiting to die, my conscience is clear, all the accounts are right with God and I have faithfully carried out my assignment.

#### IV. The 4<sup>th</sup> motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated appeals. V.3b

Paul constantly prayed for Timothy, without interruptions, without ceasing. The phrase is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (*1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing.*) pray without ceasing. Paul is constantly reminding God of Timothy's needs, Paul pleads for Timothy.

The word prayer here is (deesis), petition, pleading to God on Timothy's behalf. Paul not only pleaded for Timothy, but read the other letters and you'll see how many times he states about praying unceasingly for the Roman church, the Corinthian church, the Philippian church, the Colossian church, the Thessalonian church and also for his friend Philemon.

This should be very compelling and exciting for a disciple, a fellow laborer in the ministry.

**James 5:16** Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

#### V. The 5<sup>th</sup> motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated affection. V.4

The word "longing" or "desiring" is an intense word, (epipotheo), it means to have a strong desire for, to yearn for, it's a compound word, intense in its meaning. He hurts because he wants so much to fellowship and see Timothy. (**1 Timothy 4:9-13, 21**)

Paul recalls their last meeting, a time of weeping.

**Acts 20:37** Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him,

*The bond the early Christians had, was because they gave their lives away to each other, not protected their lives from each other.*

If you want to influence someone, let them know how deeply you love them. That will motivate them if they are a true son, a disciple, a Christian. For who can resist the compulsion of a strong affection? Who can resist the love of God?

#### VI. The 6<sup>th</sup> motivation of genuine faithfulness is respect for delegated affirmation. V.5

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in this section of scripture, where Paul remembers something about Timothy, once in verse 3, once in verse 4, and again in verse 5. Paul is reminded of the evidence of Timothy's demonstrated true faith, real saving faith, his genuine faith. It is as if Paul is saying you can do this Timothy, I affirm your great potential, I know your character, I know your true faith. The phrase "I am mindful" is a passive action. The word "genuine," (anupokritos), means unhypocritical, no hypocrisy, no phonies, genuine.

Acts 14:16 is where Lois and Eunice were introduced to Paul and Barnabas on their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. (**2 Timothy 3:15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.) Timothy was the beneficiary of a rich deeply rooted Christian heritage that come from his mother and his grandmother, his father – no doubt – being dead because he is not mentioned.

Anyone in a leadership position, anyone discipling another person spiritually ought to know these six attributes, because they have been done with him or her, they can now duplicate the process with someone else.

If you want to motivate people to respond to spiritual truth and to grow up into Christ likeness,

- 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> step is to establish a position of authority. They need to know they are bound to respond when you speak the Word of God.
- 2) Secondly, you want to convey to them an attitude of concern or altruism, that is they must know you have their best interest in your heart.
- 3) Thirdly, an attitude of appreciation. They need to know you thank God for them in your prayers.

- 4) Fourthly, an attitude of appeal, which means you constantly pray for them.
- 5) Fifthly, an attitude of affection, the affection says you care about them in a deep, loving relationship.
- 6) Sixthly, an attitude of affirmation, you can do it.