

1 Timothy 4:12

by George Verwer

George Verwer emphasizes the vital role of youth in the church and the importance of being active soldiers for Christ in spiritual warfare.

Duration: 1:25:52

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:13, 1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Timothy 5:1, 1 Timothy 6:12, James 3:6

Topics: "Timothy"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by praising God for the many answers to prayer and professions of faith that have occurred through various ministries. He then references the book of Timothy, specifically chapters 4, 5, and 6, and encourages the audience not to let others look down on their youthfulness but to speak with authority. The speaker shares a personal testimony of his own transformation through Jesus Christ, acknowledging his past sinful nature and the impact of encountering God's spirit in a prison. He also reflects on the tendency of young people to judge and gossip, emphasizing the importance of speaking positively about others. The sermon concludes with gratitude for Indian believers and the speaker's own background, highlighting the journey from materialism to a passion for God.

Transcript

The Hymn of the Torah Dear friends, we are here to teach you The power of our soul, of our soul The power of our soul The blood of the Messiah The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior and has brought us together to fellowship and to learn. Just that our ears and our eyes and our hearts might be open to receive that which you have for us. For in general we are so closed and we are so unwilling, indifferent to receive what you have for us because it may mean a change in our lives.

It may mean a revolution in our way of thinking, in our way of acting. And so we pray that all of these elements will be overcome so that Jesus Christ will reign supreme. And have first place in everything.

We give you all the praise and the honor for each and every one that is sitting here, potentially, able and ready to move for the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray in Jesus' name that you will touch that potential and move in our ways. Amen.

Thank you. I would like to say a few words about what we are doing. Despite the fact that you are focusing on this work, focus on the work of the organization, and make sure that you do not become a burden to the community.

Amen. Most of us, most of you here, have known the MPs. I am very thankful to God for this opportunity to interact with you.

I remember very vividly my first youth conference here in Israel. I don't know if any of you were in Haifa at that conference in 1964. Of course, if you were, I am not sure if you are still qualified to be here at this conference.

Of course, if you were, I am not sure if you are still qualified to be here at this conference. But I know that in Israel the word youth has quite a long history. And since then I have never ceased before then as well to pray for this country.

And to wherever I have gone, try to communicate to others who need to pray for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ here in Israel. Actually, it was in that same year that I was on a ship going down the Suez Canal. I was on a ship going down the Suez Canal.

I was on a ship going down the Suez Canal. That the Lord was very much speaking to us about getting and trusting Him for an ocean going ship. In that same sermon, God spoke to us about the opportunity to set up a ship.

For six years that project was just in the prayer stage. But as some of you know, about three and a half years ago, it became a reality. And now, one of our big plans is our journey up the Suez Canal next year.

And we hope that there may be some of you that have faith to believe God wills for that reality. Actually, the ship was in Sudan a few months ago when things began to get exciting. The war broke out here, and they had a tremendous time in that country.

In fact, one of the leading government officials in that nation, he gave a speech, and he said he wanted to take the ship and put it outside the United Nations building as a demonstration of how really things should be done. As we have people on the ship from about 25 nations, every possible background, and we've seen how in the past three and a half years, it is possible to live together in love and unity. There are a number of people on the ship who would like to send their greetings.

One of them is Hanna Zach, who is not Hanna Zach any longer, but Hanna Miley. She ended up marrying the main leader of our work in Asia, who directs the entire ministry of the ship. So whether she likes it or not, she seems to be destined to live part of her life on a ship.

Just about a week ago, I left the ship in India, and the ship at present is in Malaysia. I'm not here to speak about the ship, but we hope you will pray for the coming six-month tour of the Lagos. As she goes back to Indonesia, and then to East Malaysia, and then to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, we will be able to take the ship right into the very downtown heart of the city of Saigon, the city of three million people. And of course, our own home port of Singapore, as we are a Singapore-registered ship. We now have one million personal visitors that have gone through the ship, and of course, there have been literally thousands of specific answers to prayer in this ministry.

Let me just give you one example, and then we'll move to something else. We were going back to Ceylon for the third visit. Ceylon is a little island with a very tiny population of only twelve million people.

Especially tiny when we're used to working in India that has 570 million. It takes us just three months in India to get a new population equivalent to Israel. So every three months, we have another three million souls added to the population.

So when we go down to Ceylon, we really feel a very small place. Economically, the country is in a very terrible state. But there's a great open door there.

The ministry of cultural affairs, meaning the Buddhists, were not happy about the visit. They put pressure on the Prime Minister, and we had a letter from her saying we could not return. We decided to take this matter to the King of Kings for further consultation.

We decided to re-discuss the matter at cabinet level. Never did we dream that our little ship would make such an impact on these countries that it would have to be discussed by the entire government cabinet. We soon received a very kind letter from the Prime Minister saying she had changed her mind and we could come back to Ceylon.

It's a tremendous thing to see how prayer can affect the highest level of government. In many other countries, we even had the head of state opening our book exhibition. Such was the case with Haile Selassie.

Over in the Philippines, President Marcos came to the ship with 200 armed guards and he went off with \$10,000 worth of books. We invited everybody over to the palace for tea. So we praised God for many many fantastic answers to prayers.

Especially for 2,000 or 3,000 people who have made professions of faith through various ministries of the ship. I mean this verse has just so often been such a great challenge. And over these past years, I've seen it many many times become a reality.

Now I'm sure most of you don't know who I am, and it's not really important that you do. But I think if I just give a few words of testimony, it'll help you understand better what I feebly try to say in these two days together. Please don't worry about my voice.

It always improves after the second hour. I just come from speaking in the churches of India. Especially with a man named Bakhtin.

They're never happy in their churches if you don't preach at least two hours. Last Sunday morning I was worshipping with them. After many meetings in their assemblies out in the villages.

And the meeting started at 10.30. The worship meeting. And these people really believe in worship. One thing I have appreciated about Indians, is that many of them are more caught up in this activism that we manufacture so well in New York, London, Chicago, Paris and other places.

And they know the reality of worshipping and waiting on God. They're not in a hurry. Like some of our churches tell us, in 45 minutes the meeting will be over.

But it started at 10.30 in the morning. I was supposed to be the final speaker after the worship meeting. I got to speak about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The meeting finally finished at 5 o'clock. Then they went out and opened their preaching. Actually at that point I felt sick.

That took me about two days to recover. When they came back from open air preaching they had food. And then they had an evening meeting.

I just praise God for these Indian believers and what I've been able to learn from them these past 10 years, spending a lot of my time in India. Let me quickly, however, give my testimony. My father and grandfather were born in the Netherlands.

My grandfather was an atheist. My father was just a materialist. He went to the United States.

And that's where I was born. My mother's side of the family, things were a little better. Her father was only an alcoholic.

He was from Scotland. So that gives you a little idea of my background. We were not a Christian home.

And even by the age of 11, my goals were very much set on material things and pleasure. And I went into business. And by 15 I had three small businesses.

None of which were really legitimate. And I had this great passion to get money. I also spent most of my weekends in the nightclubs of New York City.

And I was a very selfish person. And I think the biggest thing that marked my life was the inability to love people. This was seen in many ways.

I won't go into the details. But an elderly lady began to pray for me. And this is a really miraculous story.

This lady had been praying for the school that I was going to for 15 years. And she was praying that people would go from this school, a very ungodly high school, all over the world, and presenting the messages here. And she was praying for 15 years that young people would go from this ungodly high school.

And that young people would go from there and present the messages to all the children of the world. And then I received the Gospel of John through the mail. And I found out later that she sent it in the name of her son.

She had been praying for me for three years. Every year I got further from God. And that she would not give up his praise.

Then Billy Graham came to New York City. And I believe through her prayers that I got to hear him speak. And it was that night that I was converted to Jesus Christ.

Not to Christianity, but to Jesus Christ. I always like to emphasize that. Because I believe that Jesus Christ is here and Chris Kennedy is about 80,000 miles in the other direction.

And Jesus Christ, that night, began to change my life. Now some things took place immediately. For example, I had begun to peddle pornography.

Very, very beginning stages. But these books had warped my own mind. It was just a matter of minutes and the books were in flames.

But it's been 19 years that the Holy Spirit is trying to renew my mind and give me and keep my mind pure and lovely as the mind of the Lord Jesus. Not so easy in the world we live in today. So many things were

immediately changed in my life.

I had a very vicious temper. I was always fighting people. I'll never forget even getting in a fight with a girl once.

I don't know if she had been trained in the Israeli army, but she beat me up pretty bad. I don't know if she had been trained in the Israeli army, but she beat me up pretty bad. This changed very quickly in my life.

But learning complete inward patience and deliverance over irritability has been a long 19 year road. But learning complete inward patience and deliverance over irritability has been a long 19 year road. You know, sometimes the evangelists tell us, if we come to Christ, our problems are going to be solved, and it's going to be wonderful, and you know, everything.

When I came to Christ, my problems really began. And I discovered that there was a tremendous conflict going on of righteousness against evil that I had not been aware of very much before. And suddenly I discovered that I was part of one of the most mixed up and confused movements on the earth, the church.

And that almost finished me in the first year of my Christian life. As a young Christian, I expected a few things of other Christians. That was the first mistake you could ever make.

I expected Christians, first of all, to really love one another. I mean, this is what I read in my Bible. And of course, I was too naive and too young to realize that this wasn't working in most people.

And so in the early stages of my Christian life, there were many struggles. Now, I was fortunate in the first two years. And I just prayed God for me.

I met very few Christians. One of the major factors in my spiritual growth. The few Christians I met, especially when I went to college, and I went to a college that was basically anti-Christian, especially anti-Biblical.

And being a rebel, this was the best place I could go to. And I found just a few in that school who really loved the Lord Jesus Christ. One of them was Dale Roton.

Some of you have read some of his books. We began to meet together in prayer. It was in those prayer meetings that God first showed us we should launch out to Mexico and to other countries.

There was another young man who had been a refugee from Hungary. And his life was a mirror of Jesus Christ. It made a very big impact.

And later on, when I got into the mainstream of Christian work, and I began to see the tremendous inconsistencies in so many people. Somehow, by that time, my faith in God's Word had become so strong that those difficulties did not overwhelm me. In fact, as we really understand the Word of God, and then see the inconsistencies and the difficulties of believers, it only confirms what the Word of God really teaches us.

And what the Christian life, and living for Christ, really is. And I just praise God for this great salvation. My favorite verse after I was converted, and I began preaching when I was 17, was, we must be born again.

This is still my favorite verse. We must be born again. No matter what your background, whether your father is the president of the church, or an atheist, or whatever your background, you must be born again.

When this happened to me, of course, most of my friends said, Wow, this really just kicked it. One month, you'll be all alone. They were saying, you know, Philip Graham's old motionless.

And they used to say, well, don't worry, we'll just wait. Verbal will be back to the clubs. Well, I opened up waiting in any of those clubs.

Ninety years is a long wait. It's not just an emotional kick. It's reality.

And I can say, if I can't breathe, and by God's mercy, that every day, these 19 years, I have known this reality. Despite many failures, Jesus Christ is here. Constantly ready to forgive.

To me, the message of Christ is a message of forgiveness. And until we learn forgiveness on a deep, deep level in our lives, forgiving ourselves totally, knowing true forgiveness, will never really function the way God wants. Now, if we could come back to this verse.

Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers. In this version, let no one look down on your youthfulness. But rather, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Let's look over just those two things. In which we, as young people, are to be an example. If there's anything I've seen in the past 19 years, is that young people can be youth of God.

It is a great mistake to think that we have to wait until we are old, before we can be youth of God. I was just listening to an hour and a half report given by someone here in Israel about the Yom Kippur War. I was amazed to hear the average age of the young men and women who gave their lives in this war.

And you know how young those who were fighting out in Vietnam were. And in most of the wars in history. And how much had Alexander the Great accomplished before he was even 25.

And when we think of this, that it's expected that young people 18, 19, and 20 can go out in these battles with sophisticated weapons and lay down their lives. Whereas in the Church of Jesus Christ, so little responsibility is ever given to anyone who's 17 or 18 or 19 or 20. And one of the greatest weaknesses of the Church of Jesus Christ in many countries is that it is dominated and it is run and it is manipulated by old people, many of whom are outdated in everything they do.

That doesn't mean God doesn't use old people. And the wise, older person will always be seeking to move responsibilities into the hands of the young. In my work I already consider myself old.

My burden is to move the responsibilities already into the hands of younger men who can run faster than I can, especially drive three kids behind me. Of course in the Church of Jesus Christ we all need one another. We're not trying to pull a coup and kick all the old people out.

The captain of our ship is over 60 years of age and we're hoping he'll stay many more years. And we praise God for people of almost every generation that are united with us in our work. But I do believe that as the world is going to be disappointing here about this Lord Jesus, young people, people like yourself, are going to have to become absolutely serious about these principles.

It's not a matter of waiting. Now is the time. The war has already begun.

The spiritual warfare. You know as I was studying this past war, I was especially interested in reading about the weapons. And the tremendous scramble to get more and more and more sophisticated weapons.

And I was reminded of that verse in Corinthians that says the weapons of our warfare are not vile but mighty unto God to the pulling down of Satan. Personally I'd like to be able to forget about it. I wish none of it ever happened.

And yet as we study history and as we face the hard, cold, ugly realities of living on this earth, we have to face the realities. And as you know a full scale war is broken out really not very far from here right now between the Kurds and the Arabs in Iraq and it is getting worse every day. And in thousands of years of history on this earth there has hardly ever been a period in which man has not been killing man and which war has not been going on.

And yet somehow despite this, God has used some of the same terminology in the word of God. He has told us that we have weapons. He has told us that we are soldiers.

He has told us that we are doing our hardest as soldiers as He has told us. When I think of the bravery that has been thrown into these wars, I have often cried after them. Can we not find an army of compassion who are willing to throw just as much into righteousness and into love and into demonstrating Jesus Christ.

And I believe that tonight God is looking for men who will enroll us. We may not like the terminology but the Bible uses it. He calls us to be soldiers of Jesus.

He calls us to look at technical affairs where then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you into His arms. There are many other verses. I am sure most of you this evening are already believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are not the message for you is you must be born again. But though we are believers how many of us from the heart can say I am a soldier of Jesus Christ. I am an active soldier of Jesus Christ.

You know in God's army we seem to have a lot of early retirements. After about one year of combat men seem to decide they need retirement. They have barely just learned to use the weapon and then decide that they are going on the retreat.

No wonder we read about things like in this book Satan is alive and well on planet earth. You know we will never understand the Christian spirit until we understand that we have a real enemy. My favorite book as a young believer was Billy Grant's Peace with God.

One of the first Christian books put into Hebrew. By the way I was quite amazed that before my book ever came out in English to my own amazement it came out in Hebrew. The only problem is it never sold in copies.

Maybe we can start tonight. But as we think of this great truth it is another truth that we have never seen that many of our mind in the natural of its mind rebels against. This whole idea of safety.

The human mind especially the so called sophisticated educated 20th century mind rebels completely against this idea of safety. But Billy Graham in a very unusual way brings out the simple fact that if there is

no safety how can we possibly explain the evil and the wicked going on continually in this world. And which man is getting more and more educated more and more clever in everything.

I just finished the most unusual book. I only picked it up by accident. It's the first novel I've read in 18 years.

If I'm not reading a Christian book I read history and a lot of other kinds of books. But I don't like to read novels. I'm not against it.

I'll just leave that to my wife's department. She likes to read novels. And I thought this was a history book.

So I started reading. I found out when I finished 400 pages later that it was a novel. It was a historical novel.

Which of course is not an ordinary novel. But it's based very much on facts. And just the pattern is somewhat fictitious.

The name of this book is The Odessa File. Odessa File. Nothing to do with the city of Odessa.

You'll all be rushing hats to buy this book when you don't have it in the book table. Because it's the kind of book that when you pick it up you don't put down. Well I put it down just to get four hours sleep before I pick it up again.

It's the story of the SS men. These are the men who were responsible for more than anyone else the annihilation of all the Jews during the war. It's a very revealing story.

It shows how a vast percentage of the people who did the worst for us fell away with it. They had millions and millions and millions of Deutschmarks in the banks of the river. Before the war ended.

Their escapes were arranged to Egypt, to Argentina and they were out of the country and living like kings before the war was over. Many of them are living like kings today and they have their new names all over the world. It's an incredible story.

Of a German young man whose father was in the regular German army. Many of them didn't really know what was going on. And his own father in the German army was killed by an SS man.

Murdered. The story goes on to expose some of this. When I finished reading that book I believed in hell twice as much as when I started.

And I believed that there was a devil. There is no other explanation. And where will these people go when they die? And you know if we think if we are as foolish to think that this is only something that happened in Germany we certainly have not studied history.

I was in Bangladesh two years ago when the Pakistan-Bangladesh war broke out. And the same kind of atrocity and murder and savagery just happened all over again even though many people in the world never noticed. And two million Bengalis disappeared from the face of the earth.

The whole war was in the name of the most holy God. It was a holy war. 300,000 women were raped.

Muslim raping Muslim. And you know in Muslim society like Bangladesh when a woman is raped she is thrown out of society. Can you imagine what exists in Bangladesh right now? Just suffering beyond our

minds.

And what about Burundi? It's incredible, this has hardly been in the press. But in this past year in Burundi almost every Christian leader was systematically lynched. They were cut in pieces they were loaded in dump trucks.

Hundreds and hundreds of men and women this year again were put in dump trucks and slaughtered and burned and butchered and there are only a few lines in our terrible newspapers in the western world to tell us about it. Hundreds and hundreds of men and women were put in dump trucks and killed and raped and there are only a few lines in our newspaper. Hundreds of thousands were slaughtered, murdered and butchered this year in Burundi.

You know only the Christians the true believers the biblical men of God only can really understand. He is a thief. He is a liar.

He takes control of people. And when he takes over they will murder, they will kill they will do every possible atrocity that the human mind can imagine. I don't know about you but after my years of study I don't point any more finger because I know it is only by the mercy of God that I am not one of those kind of people.

I remember my first king in Mexico and I wasn't exactly a Christ like person the team was a bit of a mess and I remember my team members turning to me and saying you remind me of Hitler real words of encouragement. And I thought about that from time to time and I realized probably that without Jesus Christ I am a potential angel. Name the man who you feel has done the worst, Genghis Khan you can get a whole list hundreds of men who were murderers and you know you can put my name right on the end of the list.

Because you see when we are young we start just playing with sin but soon sin is playing with us and Satan is taking over. When I was 18 I went to preach in a large prison. Then in the prison I also went to the women's section.

And there I looked eye to eye with 30 women. All of them had murdered at least one. Some had murdered many more.

Do you think they planned it that way? When they were 7 or 8 they decided when I grew up I am going to be a murderer. No. But slowly Satan's power grew more and more.

So many young people that I have interviewed that I spoke to they wept. They explained. I am doing things I never wanted to do.

There is some power in my life I cannot explain. I hate my mother. I hate my brother.

Hate is a tremendous force. And I believe if hate is a tremendous force then it is love. Love is great.

God in these days is raising up an army of Catholics. People refuse to become cynical. Very easy for me.

People will refuse to allow the thinking and the current philosophy of the day to dominate their minds. To become an army of compassion. Recently Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went over to Pakistan.

Two years ago. Through Bhutto of Pakistan partly responsible for all that took place shook hands with Mujibur Rahman. And glibly said to the press we all make mistakes.

This is the world. What does he care? The heart of man. The vain philosophy of man.

No wonder the suicide rate is going up like a piranha turtle. Or a thermometer for the match under. So we have a real enemy.

Satan. We have this described in Ephesians. We have it described in Peter.

Where it says Satan has a roaring life. Seek it when you may devour. And even as we are here at this conference we can be sure the devil will do everything he can to keep the seed of his word from taking fruit in our hearts and in our minds.

He doesn't lack methods. He doesn't lack weapons. And I think in that verse that says that we as believers should not be ignorant of Satan's demands.

And he has many methods. So in the light of this warfare in the light of us having a real enemy in the light of our situation I like the words of Tozer. I hope you'll read some of his books.

He says the whole world is in a state of emergency. The whole world is in a state of emergency. The greatest problem in that last war was the element of surprise.

It was not expected on that day. And the greatest element Satan uses in our lives is the element of surprise. We didn't expect it in that way.

We didn't expect that particular method. Let's just look at that list as we come to a close. Some of the specific areas that we as young people in the warfare are to be an example.

First of all in speech. In speech. I did a 19 year survey of the tongue.

I read a sermon as a young Christian by Billy Graham called The Sins of the Tongue. And I was convicted. It was probably the greatest problem in my life.

That my tongue operated faster than my brain. I don't know if any of you have that problem. And the tongue is described in many places in the Bible.

In the book of Gideon it's a whole chapter trying to get into our heads truth about the tongue. It says it's a whirlwind. It says it lights fire.

You know I stand before you as someone other than you. And over these past years I didn't get more quick fixes in these areas. And the people that I have met I've tried to put many things.

I've risen to it. I've apologized. I've repented.

In some cases by God's spirit I wept. Because my tongue died. And as young people we are often quick to speak.

We often think we know. 2 plus 2 equals 88. And we speak.

We meet someone. And in a few minutes we judge him. He's this.

She's that. And we speak. And we backbite.

You know you can say 9 good things about someone. And then one bad thing. The only thing that will be repeated is the bad thing.

And it goes and it goes. You know we have lots of experience with this on the ship. We have international communications standard on the ship.

It's in the kitchen. On the ship you call it the galley. The captain says the galley telegram has just come.

Kitchen telegram. Once the captain says I'm going to go down to the kitchen and find out where the ship is going. What we have experienced on that ship just how incredibly fast force, gas and backbiting can just go.

And a girl, a married woman can discover she's going to have a baby before she even knows. We have 24 married couples on the ship. You can imagine what that's like.

Can you imagine all of us in this room will all go tonight and live together for two years on a ship. Bring your children and live together on the ship. You get out of the middle of the ocean 80% are sea sick.

80% are sea sick. And when we are under pressure when we are in the warfare one of the first areas that gets us in trouble is our tongue. If you can get victory with your tongue you are on your way to spiritual maturity.

That's what it says in Jesus. My favorite preacher or one of them is Alan Redpath. You may want to hear some of his messages.

And he speaks without self-control. That's into the tongue. He gives a very good piece of paper.

He said, when you get upset we all get upset. Some of us don't show it much of that. Some people can have an evangelical smile.

And everything is wonderful on the outside and on the inside they are just burning and growling and growling. It's a very interesting book. It really helped me to understand the spirit-controlled temperament.

The spirit-controlled temperament. It's worth reading. But Alan Redpath says this.

Alan Redpath says when you are upset whatever you do don't open your mouth. And I thought that's good. And I've been trying to practice that.

It's not easy. But I recommend it. Whatever you do when you get upset when someone offends you when your wife offends you don't open your mouth.

You can do many things. You can wiggle your toes. Anything but wiggle your toes.

You can pinch yourself. That's what I always used to do when I felt like bursting in laughter at some preacher in the church. I used to pinch.

And it reminds me when I was in Vietnam despite all my talk of warfare within I'm a real skinny cat for sure. And I was in Vietnam a few months ago and I was kind of nervous about the whole trip through all these different stories because rockets were going all over the place over in Cambodia. And I was laying in bed

there in Vietnam.

And about midnight a curfew siren goes off. And when that siren went off at midnight in Vietnam I went off the bed about two inches. But in this whole area of the Tombs we have got to declare war.

The psalmist said I put a watchman by my tongue. You see it's so easy to say well this is the way I am. I'm stubborn.

I'm outspoken. This is my personality. But I don't believe that we as believers can accept.

Freud would say that's true. You are what you are. You're not really going to change.

It's determinism. We don't believe that. We believe we can change.

The greatest encouragement in my life for 19 years has been to see God radically change people. Unloving outspoken people who hurt so many change into gentle Christ like loving individuals. If I didn't believe that God could do that I would not be here tonight.

It doesn't happen overnight. There will be much repentance. It's a long road.

But it starts with an identity. This is where we are being. Of course many many kinds of sins.

One of the sins is a sin of flippancy. Wasted words. Idle words.

Nonsense. Hours. Many times we stay up late at night.

Speaking all kinds of nonsense. As in when the morning comes. And we should be up as young men and women in the Word of God and prayer.

Prayer. And we soon get in a syndrome. And then we wonder why we have no victory.

Billy Graham said we can't. That's true. Many of us after his reputation has been destroyed by somebody's tongue.

Thought there was only one thing left. Nonsense. We can't.

Let God crucify us. We can be nailed to that cross. It's alright to talk about the crucified life.

Many messages on this. We have all conventions about the crucifixion. So what about doing it? We are taking each member of the body, starting with that little tongue and believing in allowing it to be crucified.

Then it says in conduct it presents a very broad term that I'm reminded of Paul's words to the Thessalonians. You can look at 1 Thessalonians. By just making a study of that epistle, it really is challenging.

You can look at verse 5. For when we brought you the good news, it was not just meaningless chatter to you. No, you listened with great interest. What we told you produced a powerful effect upon you.

For the Holy Spirit gave you great and full assurance that what we said was true, and you know how our very lives were full, further proof to you of the truth of our message. Your manner of life happens outside. It's not our talk.

It's not our message. It's our life. Some people ask, what's the goal of your work? Military distribution.

I said, no. Some countries, we hardly distribute. He said, whoa! Is it world eventual? I said, no, that's not the purpose.

We agree. I said, whoa! Is it planting new churches? Well, we've done that in many countries. But that isn't our goal.

God has shown us from almost the beginning in the midst of our many failures, that our number one goal must be our own personal life. And the second goal, the life of everyone who comes with us. This is a long run, long term program There is no shortcut to spiritual life.

I know a lot of people think there is. But there is one more kind of spiritual path, hell. But you'll find them five years later and see where they are.

One man of God said, there'll be no gain without pain. And he's true. But at any cost, we have to deserve it.

And if that is impossible, if we're all just destined to be a bunch of carnal individuals constantly living in the flesh, then what is this all about? We all have our favorite people. We have our favorite subjects. My favorite subject is history.

I read history books almost every week of my life. And my favorite man in history, the Jew named Paul. And I recommend his life.

It's found in this book, the Bible. Which among other things is a history book. And he studies the impossible.

Shows the perfect balance. He was zealous. He was intensive.

He was evangelistic. He was courageous. He was bold.

And all kinds of attributes in the name. And yet as you study further, you realize he was as a nursing mother. He was gentle.

He was meek. He was kind. He was compassionate.

To me, one of the most important words in the Christian life is the word balance. Take a little note to me with your address. I'll send you one of my latest booklets which I don't have any copies of anywhere in Israel.

It's called the revolution of balance. I'm so convinced that this word balance is very important to Christians. We're zealous, yet we're kind.

We're courageous, but we're gentle. And when you try to develop that kind of life until you're in for the greatest challenge ever. There are some things in the Christian life I found very easy.

It's not knowing what you're going to preach. You probably know what you're doing. I was an outgoing person.

I had a pig man. My mother used to save me. You had a pig.

And so, learning how to speak and to preach I found it very easy. But learning how to teach has to be hard. How to keep my mouth shut.

This is like climbing Mount Everest. And I praise God for many books. Books like None of These Diseases, which I believe is now Hebrew.

I saw it for the first time today. Books written by Eugenia Price. Books like Spirit Controlled Temperament.

Beginning of my marriage. I couldn't understand my wife. She was so incredibly strong.

And we couldn't even walk down the street together. I was always ten feet ahead of her. And she would only catch up when I stopped to get on track.

Which is hard because in many OM fields we're not allowed to get on track. And in so many things we were different. I was giving her all my messages.

And I just discovered that really I was not accepting my own message. I was sort of saying that when you become more like me, when you really get moving, then I will accept you. You know, we often do that with people that have to know where they're coming from.

Especially as evangelicals. When you become a follower then I will accept you. Meanwhile, of course, we will be friends.

And sometimes we even do it with ourselves. We don't really accept ourselves. We get a very high goal and because we're not reaching our goal we're always punishing ourselves.

Not accepting ourselves. And we all develop a good self-esteem. And that doesn't help us get to the goal.

To the contrary, that pushes the step and keeps us from being real people. And I think one of the greatest enemies of spiritual reality among us as young people is guilt. It's been a wonderful thing in this country.

If all the life's guilt could really get to the bottom then I think it would be very important. And so as I read some of these books all these principles in the word of God I realized my wife had a different set of principles. And I accepted that she was going to teach me.

And what a revolution. And also, more and more I began to accept myself. Because I got to a point where in an unhealthy way I hated myself.

I thought you are nothing but a no-good mouth. And I discovered when I accepted myself and I love myself in a healthy sense because it says love thy neighbor as thyself. And if you don't know how to love yourself you've not really accepted yourself.

Every time you look in the mirror you think God made a mistake. So you have a poor view of yourself. Despite all your evangelical push-ups you never will love others.

You'll end up another one of the many, many neurotics who fill our churches in the end. There must be a word neighbor for neurotic. Well, that's just what it was.

If you want to say anything, let us know.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/15/SID15440.mp3>
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/1-timothy-412/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net