

I Timothy 4-12

by George Verwer

George Verwer emphasizes the importance of youth in the Church and the need for young people to take responsibility and be an example to others in their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Duration: 1:25:52

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:29, Matthew 18:3, John 3:3, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 4:12

Topics: "Youth Ministry", "Tongue Control"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of young people being examples in their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. He shares personal experiences and anecdotes to illustrate his points. The speaker also highlights the power of God to transform individuals and encourages young people to believe that they can change for the better. He specifically addresses the issue of controlling the tongue and references the book of James to emphasize the significance of this issue.

Transcript

Dear friends, we are here together, with no power, except in the blood of the Messiah. When we lost him, the Messiah of our days, when we died, when we came to this world, that we are ready to receive from you all that you have to teach us. So we ask that each of you open your ears and eyes and hear that we can receive what you have to teach us.

Lord, we thank and praise you that you have brought us together and given us this opportunity to fellowship together. The greatest of all is that 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.

Lord General, we are so close and we are so so unwilling and 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. So we pray that all of these elements will be overcome so that Jesus Christ will reign supreme in our 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 heads. Amen.

Thank you. I'm 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'm not sure if you're still qualified to be here at this one. I know that in Israel the word youth is quite long.

I've never ceased before then as well to pray for this country. And to wherever I have gone, try to communicate to others the 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 that the Lord was very much speaking to us about getting and trusting Him for an ocean-going 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 and the war broke out here. And we 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 Hannah Zack, who is not Hannah Zack any longer, but Hannah Miley. She ended up marrying the main leader of our work in Asia, who directs the entire ministry of the ship.

And 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 that 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 then into Bangkok, 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 five hundred and seventy 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. And time and so on 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 levels of government. And in many other countries we even had the head of state opening our book exhibition.

Such was the case with Haile Selassie. And over in the Philippines President Marcos came to the ship with 200 armed guards and he went along with \$10,000 worth of books. And then invited everybody over to the palace for tea.

So we praise God for many many fantastic answers to prayers. And especially for 2 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 will help you understand better what I eagerly 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 meetings started at ten thirty. The worship meetings.

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 the US, in Chicago, Paris and other places. And they know the reality of worship and waiting on God.

They're not in a hurry. So like some of our churches where they tell us in forty five minutes the meeting will be over. But they started at ten thirty in the morning.

I was supposed to be the final speaker after the worship meeting. I got to speak about three o'clock in the afternoon. The meeting finally finished at five o'clock.

Then they went out and opened their preaching. Actually at that point I felt sick. I had six minutes, about two days to recharge.

When they came back from open air preaching they had food. Then they had to eat and leave. I just praise God for these Indian believers and what I've been able to learn from them these past ten 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 English. 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 seemed to be 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 eleven my goals were very much set on material things and pleasure. And I went into business. And by fifteen 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.

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 fifteen years.

And she was praying that people would go from this school, a very ungodly high school, all over the world, and present the message of Jesus. I received the Gospel just through the post, through the mail. I found out later that she sent it in the name of her son.

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

Then Billy Graham came to New York City. And I believe through her prayers, I went 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, 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.

And I don't know if she had been trained in the Israeli army, but she beat me up pretty bad. And this changed very quickly in my life. But learning complete inward patience, and deliverance over irritability, has been a long 19 year book.

You know, sometimes the evangelist, the evangelist 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 is the first mistake you get every minute. 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 them. 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.

One of them was Dale Rotar, and some of you have read some of his books on him. 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 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.

It's 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, religion has kicked me, one month you'll be old. They always say, you know, Billy Graham is all emotional, and they used to say, well, don't worry, we'll just wait, and we'll be back to the club. Well, I opened up waiting in any of those clubs, 90 years is a long wait.

It's not just an emotional kick. It's reality. And I can say, if I can't pray, and by God's mercy, that every day, these 19 years, I've known this reality.

Despite many failures, Jesus Christ has been real. Constantly ready to forgive. To me, the message of Christ is the message of salvation.

Until we learn forgiveness on a deep, deep level in our lives, forgiving ourselves totally, knowing true forgiveness, we'll 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 used of God.

It is a great mistake to think that we have to wait until we are old, before we can be used 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 is 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 only 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 driving 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 if the world is going to hear 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. Now. 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 West. And the tremendous scramble to get more and more and more sophisticated weapons.

And I was reminded of that verse in Corinthians. It says, the weapons of our warfare are not vile, but mighty unto God, to the pulling down. Boom.

Personally, I'd like to be able to forget about it. I wish none of it ever happened. Yet, as we study history, 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, in which war has not been

going on.

And 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. When I think of the bravery that has been thrown into these wars, I have often cried out to God, can we not find an army of compassion who are willing to throw just as much into righteousness and into love as into demonstrating Jesus Christ? And I believe that tonight, God is looking for men who will enroll in the army. We may not like the terminology, but the Bible uses it.

He calls us to be soldiers of Jesus Christ. We may not like the terminology, He calls us to be soldiers of Jesus Christ. We may not like the terminology, but He texts us to be soldiers of Jesus Christ.

For then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you into His heart. There are many other first sentences. 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. 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 G-d'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 they decide that they are going on a 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 Graham'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. Nothing like starting with the original languages these days.

The only problem is it never sold any copies. Maybe we can start tonight. But as we think of this great truth, it is another truth that many of our mothers in the natural, at least mine, rebelled against.

This whole idea of Satan. The human mind, especially the so-called sophisticated, educated, 20th century mind, rebels completely against this idea of Satan. But Billy Graham, in a very unusual way, brings out the simple fact that if there is no Satan, 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 at 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, I read a lot of other kinds of books, but I don't know that I 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 it.

I found out when I finished, about 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 out to buy this book when you don't have any on the book table. Because it's the kind of book that when you pick it up, you don't put it 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 crimes fell away with it. It shows how a vast percentage of the people who did the worst crimes fell away with it. They had millions and millions and millions of Deutschmarks in the banks of Switzerland before the war ended.

Many of them are living like kings today under 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 death. And I believed that there was a death.

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 happens 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, 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 Muslims.

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 of thousands were slaughtered, murdered and butchered this year in Burundi. You know, only the Christian, the true believer, the biblical man of God, only he can really understand. There is a thing.

He is a God. 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 fingers. 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 team in Mexico. I wasn't exactly a Christ-like person. The team was a bit of a mess.

And I remember my team member 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 true. That without Jesus Christ, I am a potential enemy. 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 grow up, I'm going to be a murderer. No.

But slowly. Satan's power. It grew more and more and more.

So many young people that I've introduced. That I've spoke to. They've wept.

They've explained. I'm 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 power.

I believe that hate is a tremendous power. And it is. 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 have passed. The 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 stomata turtle. Or 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 line. Seek it and you may be found.

And even as we're 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 of that verse that says we as believers should not be ignorant of Satan's demands. And he has many such demands. 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 Tolkien.

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 life 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. Speech.

I've been in a 19-year survey of a ton and 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. And 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 James, the whole chapter trying to get into our heads is truth about the tongue.

It says it's a world of anger. It says it lights fire. You know, I stand before you as someone utterly ashamed that over these past years I didn't get more quick fix in this area.

And the people that I have hurt I've tried to put many things I've written to them. 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 cryptic.

We often think we know. Two plus two 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 gossip.

And we backbite. You know, you can say nine 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 an international communications center on the ship. It's in the kitchen. On the ship you call it the galley.

And the captain says the galley telegram has just come. Kitchen telegram. Once the captain said I'm going to go down to the kitchen and find out where the ship is going.

But we have experienced on that ship just how incredibly fast swords, darts, and backbites can just go. And a girl, a married woman can discover she's going to have a baby before she even knew it. We have 24 married couples on the ship.

You can imagine what that's like. Can you imagine all of us in this room? We'll all go tonight and live together for two years on the ship. Bring your children and live together on the ship.

You get out of the middle of the ocean 80% are seasick. And you have some very interesting experiences. 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 Geth. 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 advice. He says, when you get upset we all get upset. Don't show it.

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 spirit controlled temperament. It's worth reading. But Alan Redpath says this 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 other things.

You can wiggle your toes. You can pinch yourself. That's what I always used to do when I felt like thirsting and luster at some preacher in the church I used to pinch.

It reminds me when I was in Vietnam despite all my talk of warfare within I'm a real scary cat for sure. And I was in Vietnam a few months ago. I was kind of nervous about the whole trip.

There were all these different stories. Of course 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.

A siren. When that siren went off at midnight in Vietnam I went off the bed about two inches. But in this whole area of the tongue 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. But we don't believe that. We believe we can change.

We raise encouragement in my life. For 19 years I've been with Steve Jobs radically changed people. Unloving, outspoken people who hurt so many changed 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. And I don't see this is where we are being judged. There are of course many many kinds of sins.

One of the sins is the 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 in prayer. And we soon get into a syndrome. And then we wonder why we have no vision.

Billy Graham said without God on earth we can't move. That's true. Many men after his reputation have been destroyed by somebody's touch.

We too. Thought there was only one thing. And that is to be here in time.

Let God crucify and be nailed to that cross. It's alright to talk about the crucified life. Many messages on this.

We have all conventions about the subject. But we're not doing it. Taking each member of the body starting with that little tongue and believing and allowing it to be crucified.

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

You can look at verse 5. For when we brought to 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 confidence 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 has to be that. It's not a talk.

It's not a message. It's our life. Hey people, what's the goal of your work? The virtue distribution.

I said no. Some countries we hardly distribute it. I said, whoa, is it world eventual? I said no, that's not the first goal.

No, we believe. I said, whoa, they're planting new churches out there. Well, we've done that in many countries.

But that isn't our goal. God has shown us from the moment to begin 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.

And they swallow all kinds of spiritual pills. 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.

But at any cost we have to do that. And if that isn't possible if we're all just destined to be a bunch of carnal individuals constantly living in the flesh then what is this book 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 is the Jew named Paul.

And I recommend his life. It's found in this book the Bible which is among other things is a history book and his study shows the perfect balance. I recommend he was zealous he was intensive he was evangelistic he was courageous he was bold and all kinds of attributes in that.

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. And if you'll write 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 called The Revolution of Balance.

I'm so convinced that this word balance is very important in the Christian life. We're zealous yet we're kind. We're courageous but we're gentle and when you try to develop that kind of life I tell you you're into the greatest challenge ever.

So some things in the Christian life I found very easy I was an outgoing person I had a big mouth my mother used to say to me you have a big mouth. And so learning how to speak and to preach I found that very easy but learning how to be kind how to keep my mouth shut this is like climbing Mount Everest and I praise God for many books books like Humanities and Diseases which I believe is now in Hebrew I saw it for the first time today books written by Eugenia Franks books like Spirit Controlled Temperaments 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 started to give her trash which is hard because in many OM fields we're not allowed to give out trash and in so many things we were different I was giving her all my love messages and I just discovered that really I was not accepting my own love 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 especially as he mentioned when you yes when you become a soldier then I will accept you meanwhile of course you'll be friends sometimes we even do it with ourselves we don't really accept ourselves we get this 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 us to step ahead 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 a wonderful thing in this country if all the life guilt could really get in the mouth it's really 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 perspective and I accepted her actually and what a revolution that was 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 Muhammad and I discovered when I accepted myself and I love myself in a healthy sense because it says love the other because it says love the other

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