



With this chapter, Paul's strategy for Timothy starts to emerge clearly. Timothy's mission was to deal with the false teachers. Paul sees, however, that fighting false teachers with ideology alone is fruitless. The real mission is that the church be healthy so that Jesus Christ is communicated through it. So he spoke of prayer and leadership first. With that foundation in place, Timothy will be able to turn his attention directly to the problems at hand.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Timothy 4:1-16](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Is there an older Christian in your family or church who has given you good advice? What was it?
3. What is the “nature” of the teachings described in [verses 2-3](#)?
4. Thinking of [verses 3-4](#), why is this teaching—which could seem to be "superspiritual"—really a doctrine of demons?
5. When you think of "false teaching," do you think of teachers who are morally too loose or too strict? Explain.
6. Re-read [verses 7-16](#). What was Timothy's personal life to be like?
7. How was it to differ from that of the false teachers?
8. Read [Galatians 1:6-9](#). What are some of the other false doctrines being taught in modern times? How do you know it is false?
9. Thinking of [verse 7](#), why do you think you are motivated at some times and not motivated at other times for training in godliness?
10. Timothy's primary ministry was teaching. What are your top 3 Spiritual gifts? What in this passage encourages you to develop and use your Spiritual gifts in service to God and others?

MOVING FORWARD

Pray for those who might be under the hold of false teachers, that the truth would be revealed to them. Pray that God will use them to lovingly reveal truth and lead them to victory over deceit and false teachings in their lives. Pray that God will use your Spiritual gifts to serve Him and serve others in your local church body.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“⁷ But have nothing to do with irreverent and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness, ⁸ for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”](#)

[2nd Timothy 4:7-8](#)