***The Foci of a Faithful Follower***

**1 Timothy 4:7-16 - 3/10/19**

*What should faithful followers of Jesus focus on?*

**1 Timothy 4:7-10**

1) Godly Discipline

Many of us would likely agree that discipline is one of the key factors for success in life.

How do we go about this "spiritual discipline"?... It is the same as you would do with physical fitness - you need to be intentional.

There should be a plan - time set side, effort and sacrifices made for the purpose of forming discipline with godly, Christ-like results.

Begin with a good book, Donald Whitney's, *The Spiritual Disciplines*.

Each discipline is worked toward "for the purpose of godliness"!

**1 Tim.4:10*a+b***

We can't just read about it, we have to implement them.

As with working out and eating well, this is to be both a progression and a lifestyle change.

**1 Timothy 4:11+12**

2) Being An Example To Other Believers

Christian youth (as well as adults!), should be examples to the flock in our speech. **Ephesians 4:29**

The same is to be true in our "conduct" ­- one's "behavior, way of life, or in their dealings with others".

We are to be examples in our "love". We should want to love like Jesus did... Being selfless, sacrificial, and pouring into others.

In a society that degrades and demeans purity, we need to be examples to a culture that desperately needs to see God's ways lived-out.

**1 Timothy 4:13**

3) We Are To Focus On The Bible

This needs to be said, stressed, and insisted upon as Christ's Church moves forward.

This has to be of God and not man, with a focus on His power and words, and not our own... Drawing people to Him for His glory and not to us, for ours. **1 Corinthians 2:4+5**

**2 Timothy 3:16 -** **Psalm 119:160** **- John 8:32 - Hebrews 4:12 -** **Romans 10:17**

We would do well to make time for the Bible in the midst of our busyness, as no one is truly too busy to do so.

**1 Timothy 4:14**

4) We Should Be Focusing On Our Spiritual Gifts, Both For Jesus & His Church

If you know Jesus then at some point, either at your conversion or thereafter, you received a spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit Himself.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - Romans 12:3-8 - Ephesians 4:11-16**

Everyone has a part to play; whether your gift is large or small, varied or single, of great degree or lesser degree - we need you as the Master's chosen you!

We may feel like we don’t have much to offer or that if we stopped our ministry, no one would notice. But the Great Conductor notices and wants us to complete his orchestral masterpiece!

**1 Timothy 4:15+16**

5) Practicing, In Order To Progress, While Persevering In Proper Doctrine

The things we've talked about should be put into practice as we consistently monitor our thoughts and our hearts... While being desirous of dead-on doctrine.

It is our trust in God and His Word that will bring us results. **Jeremiah 17:7+8**