

Title: Too Young – 1 Timothy 4

Read:

¹⁻⁵The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars. These liars have lied so well and for so long that they've lost their capacity for truth. They will tell you not to get married. They'll tell you not to eat this or that food—perfectly good food God created to be eaten heartily and with thanksgiving by believers who know better! Everything God created is good, and to be received with thanks. Nothing is to be sneered at and thrown out. God's Word and our prayers make every item in creation holy. ⁶⁻¹⁰You've been raised on the Message of the faith and have followed sound teaching. Now pass on this counsel to the followers of Jesus there, and you'll be a good servant of Jesus. Stay clear of silly stories that get dressed up as religion. Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we've thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We're banking on the living God, Saviour of all men and women, especially believers. ¹¹⁻¹⁴Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanour, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.

Think:

How old are you? Too young to drive? Too young for this, too young for that. Do you ever feel that the whole world is telling you that you are too young to be any use? When is it going to change? When will people understand that that being young isn't some type of handicap, which means you can't be of any use? God understands. God knows that's being young is actually a major benefit when it comes to doing God's work. It means you have energy, it means that you have enthusiasm. That's what Paul is telling Tim in this letter. He's saying "Hey Tim, don't worry about being young; don't worry about the old guys not understanding why you are there." Paul goes on as well, and tells Timothy that he will mature and get wiser before the very eyes of those around him. That's just like you. Don't worry about people that look down on you, just because you are young. You can spread the fantastic news about Jesus, as well as anyone else. Jesus' final task, to tell the world about him was meant for you as well as them. Not only that, as you go about doing God's work of telling the world about Jesus, you will grow in wisdom and maturity before their very eyes.

Pray:

Lord thank you for my life and for being born at the very moment you put me on this earth. Father please use me now to spread the word about Jesus. Amen

Action:

So who you are you going to help this week, with all that enthusiasm and energy that being young gives you? Cheerio for now.