

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. **Do not neglect your gift**, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1Ti 4:12-16 NIV)*

You are gifted!

- **Granting of Holy Spirit** – Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination/Laying on of hands.
 - **Created** as God's own and special child, man & woman – in his very likeness.
 - **Saved** by God's grace, mercy and goodness to be part of God's holy family, church and heir of heaven.
 - **Sanctified** by the Holy Spirit in the saving faith i.e. hope, confidence and trust
- **Teaching:** Catechesis & confirmation,
- **Theology studies:** Biblical truth and Lutheran teaching
- **Sermons & devotions:** HS works in you – light & salt, good fruits of faith, love, peace, joy.
- **God answers your prayers:** Ask and it will be given to you.

Watchword: *Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise (Eph 5:15)*

Be careful how you live – not as unwise, but as **wise: Example for believers** in speech, conduct, in love (God, neighbour, parents, spouse, enemy) and in purity (6th and 8th commandment) and everyone may see your **progress (sanctification, holiness, faith, trust, hope!)**

Malady: Unwise, Youth, neglecting the gifts (I'm poor – can do nothing: Materialist...) Evaluating yourself on what you don't have, but thereby overlooking, ignoring, forgetting, what God has given you. Believing the world – when they say, we are nothing, because we don't follow their ways of life e.g. Fashion, what's cool, hip and hop. Holidays! – God's word, presence, goodness and care. Party = Drunken debauchery, revelry, scandal and boundless carousing (Carnival in Rio) Fallacy of all bucket lists as if there are endless opportunities for this life, yet this thirst is never stilled, hunger for more and eternal youth remains. Ageing, slowing down, wisdom is learning that we too must die and therefore should start to learn to "breathe underwater!" (Richard Rohr) Living in God's limits, not boundless, but protected, saved and thus at peace. Whoever drinks of this water that I give to him – IX says – will never thirst again. Augustine: Restless soul until it finds rest in God.

- The Spirit clearly says that in later times **some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons**. (Ideologies + not the truth)
 - Such teachings come through **hypocritical liars**, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
 - They forbid people to **marry** and order them **to abstain from certain foods**, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.
- Have nothing to do with **godless myths and old wives' tales**; rather, train yourself to be godly. Myth: Life is short and we must pack in all and everything into it. You only live once!
- For **physical training is of some value**, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. Not just passing fun, joy and merriment, but everlasting life and salvation in God's presence and all encompassing love. It is a godless myth, that we can do anything and all is possible. Not even in the realm of physicality, health and growth. I can't even prevent 1 hair of falling of my head – never mind losing my life in an accident, due to illness or old age. The worst myth is that I'm ok and you're ok without God – and that our malady of sinfulness is just a fiction of our mind/culture. No true godliness recognises our dependency on God's good gifts, acknowledges them and trusts, that he – he alone has sorted things out, he holds all things in his hands and he has gifted me with forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. *By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless*
LSB 566

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labour and strive, because **we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people**, and especially of those who believe. **Command and teach these things.** (1Ti 4:1-11 NIV)

Means: Granting of Holy Spirit – Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination. Devote yourself to public reading of Scripture, preaching & teaching. Be diligent in these matters. Give yourself wholly to them. Watch your life & doctrine closely. Persevere in them.

Hymn 696: *O God, my faithful God...* (1-4.5-6)