

1 Timothy 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Analysis

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things (Ταῦτα ὑποτιθέμενος τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς, Tauta hypotithemenos tois adelphois)—'if you point these things out to the brothers.' Hypotithēmi means to lay before, suggest, remind. Timothy must teach the truths Paul has outlined—creation's goodness, false teachers' errors, godliness through spiritual training.

Thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ (καλὸς ἔση διάκονος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, kalos esē diakonos Christou Iēsou)—'you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus.' Kalos means good, excellent, fine. Diakonos means servant, minister. **Nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine** (ἐντρεφόμενος τοῖς λόγοις τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς καλῆς διδασκαλίας, entrephomenos tois logois tēs pisteōs kai tēs kalēs didaskalias)—'being trained in the words of the faith and good teaching.' Entrephō means to rear, nourish, train.

Good ministry flows from two sources: reminding believers of truth and personally being nourished by sound doctrine. Timothy must teach what he's learned—the pattern of faithful teaching passed from Paul to Timothy to the church. Ministers need constant intake of God's Word to have something genuine to give others.

Historical Context

In oral cultures, memory and repetition were essential for preserving teaching. Timothy must regularly remind the church of apostolic truth—not innovating but faithfully transmitting what he received. The minister's effectiveness depends on his own spiritual nourishment—you can't feed others from an empty soul. Paul emphasizes Timothy's need for constant intake of 'words of faith and good doctrine.'

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why is 'reminding' believers of truth such an important pastoral task?
2. How does a minister's personal nourishment in Scripture affect his ability to feed others?
3. What does it mean to be 'a good minister of Jesus Christ'—what makes ministry 'good'?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα	ὑποτιθέμενος	τοῖς	ἀδελφοῖς	καλῆς	ἔση	
of these things	If thou put	G3588	the brethren	a good	thou shalt be	
G5023	G5294		G80	G2570	G2071	
διάκονος	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	ἐντρεφόμενος	τοῖς	λόγοις	τῆς
minister	of Jesus	Christ	nourished up	G3588	in the words	G3588
G1249	G2424	G5547	G1789		G3056	
πίστεως	καὶ	τῆς	καλῆς	διδασκαλίας	ἧ	
of faith	and	G3588	a good	doctrine	whereunto	
G4102	G2532		G2570	G1319	G3739	
παρηκολούθηκας·						
thou hast attained						
G3877						

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:16 (Word): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 4:7 (Faith): All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

1 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Titus 2:1 (Parallel theme): But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: