

Approved of God

"Be diligent to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2Tim. 2:15

God has invested in each of us talents, gifts and ministries that He watches over to develop in our lives (Phil. 1:6). These "investments" are often perhaps the result of our prayers. We ask God to use us generally, in prayers such as- "*God have your way with me*", "*Use me Lord for your glory!*" And He does. At times though we fail to recognise the little tasks that God assigns to us, in developing our heartfelt desire to be used of Him. By being faithful in the little things God is able to equip leaders for what others view as seemingly "overnight success". In these lessons we hope to examine God's Word to Timothy which is equally applicable to us. It involves five aspects that are vital for strong leadership preparation:

1. Faithfulness.
2. Diligence.
3. God's approval.
4. A servant's heart.
5. Prepared in the Word.

Faithfulness

Whether you believe in the *foreknowledge* or the *foreordination* of God, the Bible seems to present that every Christian is "conscripted" into God's service. Anyone who is conscripted into an organisation might have the option after a period of time to opt out of that conscripted service. But not in God's Kingdom.

1. At the moment of being "voluntarily" conscripted, what must we do before accepting the LORD's call to salvation and service? (Lk. 14:25-33)

2. What were the strong words of Christ to potential conscriptees? (Lk. 9:62)

3. Based on Romans 11:29, for how long does God expect us to adhere to our conscription to His service? Does this mean that God must use us for the specific task that He has called us?

Faithfulness means commitment. It means there will be times when we feel like quitting, but we don't. It means there will be times when we make mistakes, and men will want to sack us from our service, but God won't. In fact all good leaders are leaders who have made (and learnt) from mistakes they have made.

4. Note some of the areas that it is easy to become either lazy or discouraged in that the Bible urges us to be faithful in-
- a) Rom. 12:12 _____
 - b) 3John 5 _____
 - c) Rev. 13:10; 14:12 _____
5. What else does faithfulness demand? In what circumstances?
- a) 1Cor. 4:12 _____
 - b) 2Tim. 2:3 _____
 - c) 2Tim. 4:5 _____
 - d) Heb. 12:7 _____
6. What is one of the benefits of doing such? (2Tim. 2:12)
- _____
7. What is one of the blessings of faithfulness? (Prov. 28:20)
- _____

Faithfulness sets a person apart. It requires commitment and determination. It often means continuing on in a ministry or service for the LORD when no one appreciates our efforts. But to the faithful person this is irrelevant, because they look to have God's approval and blessing and not man's. God is looking for faithful people (Prov. 20:6). Let us count the cost and choose to be that people!.

Amen.