

# He Saw The Best In Me!

Act 16:1-5



# Acts 16 (NKJV)

1 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.

2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

**BETTER**

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4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

**BETTER**

**He Saw The Best In Me!**

A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, set against a bright, glowing background that resembles a sunrise or sunset. The person's arms are spread wide, and the background is a mix of light blue and white, with some faint, wispy clouds or light rays.

- Perhaps the best thing that happened at Lystra was the enlistment of Timothy to replace John Mark as Paul's special assistant.
- Timothy was probably converted through Paul's ministry when the apostle first visited Lystra, for Paul called him "my beloved son" (*1 Cor. 4:17*) and "my own son in the faith" (*1 Tim. 1:2*).

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- We see Paul takes a special interest in Timothy, and develops him as a man of God! He becomes his mentor!
  - mentor /'mento: / noun an experienced and trusted adviser: he was her friend and mentor until his death.
  - an experienced person who trains and counsels new employees or students:
  - verb [with obj.] advise or train (someone, especially a younger colleague):
  - (as noun mentoring) mentoring should be encouraged.

**BETTER**

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# Mentoring Starts In The Home First

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- Timothy's mother and grandmother had prepared the way for his decision by being the first in the family to trust Christ.

## 2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)

when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

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- Paul does not take for granted the foundation that was placed in Timothy by his grandmother, and mother. He praises them for their work.
- Parents should want to see their children grow in the Lord!

## **Proverbs 22:6** (NKJV)

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

**BETTER**

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# Mentees Should Be As Faithful As The Mentor

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- Young Timothy undoubtedly witnessed Paul's sufferings in Lystra and was drawn by the Lord to the apostle.

**BETTER**

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A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, set against a bright, glowing background. The person is centered in the lower half of the image, with their arms spread wide to the sides. The background is a soft, ethereal light with some faint, wispy patterns, suggesting a divine or spiritual presence.



# Mentees Should Be As Faithful As The Mentor

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## **Acts 14:19–20** (NKJV)

19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

**BETTER**

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## 2 Timothy 3:10–11 (NKJV)

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Timothy was willing to follow Paul as Paul followed Christ!

**BETTER**

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# Follow

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3877. παρακολουθέω parakolouthéō; To accompany side by side, follow closely, attend to carefully. In the NT:

- The mentee is faithful, and does not abandon the mentor because he is learning:
  - *“Doctrine – teaching, Manner of Life, Purpose, Faith, longer suffering, love, persecutions, afflictions, which happen to me.”*
- You are learning how to deal with life through the power of God!

**BETTER**

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# Manner Of Life

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4286. πρόθεσις próthesis; gen. prothéseōs, fem. noun from protíthēmi (4388) to purpose or plan A setting forth, presentation, an exposition, determination, plan, or will.

- It involves purpose, resolve, and design.
- A placing in view or openly displaying something.
- A thought or purpose (*Acts 11:23; 27:13*).
- When used of the purpose of God, it exclusively refers to salvation (*2 Tim. 1:9*).

Spiros Zodhiates, [The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament \(Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000\)](#).

**BETTER**

**He Saw The Best In Me!**

**Timothy Developed As  
A Mentee As One Who  
Could Be Trusted!**

**He Saw The Best In Me!**

**BETTER**





# Philippians 2:19–20 (NKJV)

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

- Timothy was able to care for the flock in the absence of Paul because He could be trusted. He was like minded!

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- I know true sons and daughters of this ministry that are preaching and teaching what is being taught as the vision of this house!

Like minded: 2473. ἰσόψυχος isópsuchos; gen. isopsúchou, masc.–fem., neut. isópsuchon, adj. from ísos (2470), equal, and psuchḗ (5590), soul, mind. To be activated by the same motives, of like character, like–minded.

Spiros Zodhiates, [The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament](#) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

**BETTER**

**He Saw The Best In Me!**

**Because Timothy Has  
A Good Report From  
The Church, And From  
Those Who Are On The  
Outside Of The Church  
He Is Ordained And  
Added To The Team.**

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## **1 Timothy 3:7** (NKJV)

Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

## **1 Timothy 4:14** (NKJV)

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

## **2 Timothy 1:6** (NKJV)

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

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# Paul Had To Get Timothy Battle Ready!

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## Acts 16:3–5 (NKJV)

3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

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- Paul's next step was to have Timothy circumcised, an action that seems to contradict the decision of the Jerusalem Conference.
- However, there was an important spiritual principle behind Paul's decision.
- The decision at the Jerusalem Conference was that it was not necessary to be circumcised to be saved, Acts 11.

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# Acts 11:9 (NKJV)

But the voice answered me again from heaven,  
'What God has cleansed you must not call  
common.'

**BETTER**

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- The battle in Jerusalem was over the truth of the Gospel, not over the fitness of a man to serve.
- Paul's concern with Timothy was not his salvation but his fitness for service.
- Timothy would be working with both Jews and Gentiles in the churches, and it was essential that he not offend them.
- That was why Paul had Timothy circumcised.

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# 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (NKJV)

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

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21 to those who are without law, as without law  
*(not being without law toward God, but under  
law toward Christ)*, that I might win those who  
are without law;

22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might  
win the weak. I have become all things to all  
men, that I might by all means save some.

23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may  
be partaker of it with you.



**BETTER**

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- Paul had the right to eat whatever pleased him, but he gave up that right so that he might win the Jews.
- Paul revered the Law (*Rom. 7:12*), but set that aside so that he might reach the lost Gentiles.
- He even identified himself with the legalistic weak Christians so that he might help them to grow.
- It was not compromise, but rather total abandonment to the higher law of love.
- Paul followed the example of the Saviour and humbled himself to become the servant of all.

**BETTER**

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**The Circumcision Was Not A Matter Of Timothy's Salvation Or Personal Character, But Rather Of Avoiding Serious Problems That Would Surely Become Stumbling Blocks As The Men Sought To Serve The Lord.**

**BETTER**

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## **Romans 14:13–15** (NKJV)

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

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# Mentors Help The Mentees With Wisdom

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- It is spiritual wisdom when one knows how and when to apply the principles of the Word of God, when to stand firm and when to yield.

## **Job 6:25** (NKJV)

How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove?

**BETTER**

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# Mentors Help The Mentees With Wisdom

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- Right words can't make people do the right thing, and there is no reason in arguing because it does not make people change either!

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- In the years that followed, Timothy played an important part in the expansion and strengthening of the churches.
- He traveled with Paul and was often his special ambassador to the “trouble spots” in the work, such as Corinth.
- He became shepherd of the church in Ephesus (*1 Tim. 1:3*) and probably joined Paul in Rome shortly before the apostle was martyred (*2 Tim. 4:21*).

## Paul Saw The Best In Timothy!

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