

Title: Your Next Level

Text: *“Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Timothy 4:11-12)

Target: Don't see the next level in your life as a position, place, or a promotion, but instead a pursuit of the best version of you.

1. **Consideration of the Limitations:** *“Let no one despise you”* (Vs. 12a)
 - a. **Recognize your Worth:**
 - i. **Let NO ONE Despise you:** *“to think against, disesteem, think little or nothing of”*
 - ii. **Let GOD Define you:** *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”* (Isaiah 43:1)
 - b. **Remove the Weights:**
 - i. **Prohibitions:** External factors that prevent you.
 - ii. **Inhibitions:** Internal feelings that say “why you?”
2. **Clarification of the Expectation:** *“set the believers an example”* (Vs. 12b)
 - a. **Meaning of the Word:** A pattern that has been formed by the impact of an impression.
 - b. **Misunderstanding of the Word:** Not to be confused with the word “Imitation”.
 - c. **Magnitude of the Word:** *“Set the believers”* (Vs. 12b) *Embodiment of virtues that are to extend beyond the individual and be reduplicated in others.
3. **Continuation of the Application:** *“in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”* (Vs.12c)
 - a. **Vicarious:** The work is done by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:25)
 - b. **Visceral:** The Spirit of God will convict us when we don't measure up (Galatians 5:16)
 - c. **Visible:** The Holy Spirit produces the Fruit of these virtues. (Galatians 5:22)
 - i. **Speech:** *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”* (Ephesians 4:29)
 - ii. **Conduct:** *“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”* (Titus 2:7-8)
 - iii. **Love:** *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”* (1 Corinthians 13:1)
 - iv. **Faith:** *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* (Hebrews 11:1)
 - v. **Purity:** *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,”* (Titus 2:11-12)

Take Home: Being an example is more than a box to check or a line not to cross, it's a belief that God has given you influence to steward so others may see an example of Christ in you.