

Game Plan – A predetermined strategy for success achieved through discipline, training, and execution.

Have you ever played a sport that involved game planning? What was involved? How did a good game plan put you in a good position to win the game?

Do you have a game plan for spiritual victory? Are you more reactive or proactive when it comes to your spiritual growth?

How many minutes or hours into your day do you have your first thought about God? How many minutes or hours into your day do you do something related to spiritual discipline, training, or execution? What do you do?

Christianity can seem idealistic without a good game plan. A game plan makes Christianity practical. Does Christianity seem idealistic or practical to you? Do you feel like you know how to executed the game plan God has for you? Why or why not?

1) Every **Paul** needs a **Timothy**. (v.1)

Describe what would be on Paul's resume if he had one?

Why would Paul invest so much time and attention in Timothy?

Why did Paul need a Timothy? Why do you need a Timothy?

- **Someone who is younger.**
- **Someone who is loyal. (Acts 15:36-16-5)**

Why do you think Paul chose Silas over Mark? How do you think Paul felt losing his partner, Barnabas? How did the division between Paul and Barnabas set the stage for Paul to find Timothy? Have you have lost a loyalty companion? Looking back, can you see how God may have been putting you in position to invest in a Timothy?

- **Someone who is all in.**

Timothy's level of commitment required extreme devotion. What kind of visible demonstration of commitment would you look for today in someone who was "all in" to minister the gospel? How have you seen this?

Read James 1:8. What is the danger of being double-minded in ministry? Give examples of things that can compete with a single-minded ministry focus.

- **Someone who is trustworthy. (Phil. 2:20)**
- **Someone who is teachable. (1Tim. 4:12-13)**

Paul became a "spiritual father" to Timothy. Who do you know that would give you that label? Do you cultivate these qualities in your children?

Who do you know who could be a Timothy to you?

2) Every Timothy needs a Paul. (v.2)

Timothy made himself available to Paul and drew close enough to absorb him. Are you available enough to put yourself in proximity to those who are more spiritually mature than you? How can you do this more effectively?

- **Someone who is praying for me. (2 Tim. 1:3)**
- **Someone who enjoys me. (2 Tim. 1:4)**

Your expectation should not be to drain the life out of a “Paul” but to absorb the life of a “Paul” by watching, listening, asking question, and imitating the way that do things. Are you serving in a way that that makes you a joy to those more seasoned than you?

- **Someone who provides doctrinal clarity. (2 Tim. 1:5)**
- **Someone who fans my flame for God. (2 Tim. 1:6)**

How hot is your flame for God? What fans your flame?

- **Someone who encourages me. (2 Tim. 1:7)**

What fears do you have about executing God’s game plan?

Examine the characteristics above. Who do you know who could be a Paul to you?

3) Every leader needs a letter from God. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- The Bible, as the expression of God’s will to me, has the right to define what I believe and determine how I behave.

Do you read the bible like it is a letter written to you? Do you live like the bible is inerrant, clear, authoritative, and sufficient? Do you bypass the object Word of God looking for subjective mystical experiences of personal revelation? How is this dangerous?

4) Every sinner needs a savior.

Which of these words best describes your life?

- Rule following vs. Grace
- Guilt vs. Mercy
- Chaos vs. Peace
- Despair vs. Hope

You need a savior for every day you sin. What substitute saviors do you turn to other than Jesus?

Additional Scripture

- Philippians 2:19-24
- 1Cor. 4:17
- 1Cor. 16:10
- 1Thess. 3:2
- 2Tim. 2:1-2