

41: A MAN WHO LEADS HIMSELF CAN LEAD OTHERS

By John Leavy
In Week 9: Discipleship at Home

3 Min read



“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” — 1 Timothy 4:16

A man can't take someone down a trail he hasn't walked himself. Teaching from information is no substitute for teaching from formation.

1 Timothy 4:16 says, “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.” Before leading others, a man must lead himself. Too often, that first step is skipped. Many want influence and impact but avoid the daily discipline needed for alignment.

On the trail, inexperience is exposed. A man who fails to lead himself drifts, moves inconsistently, and changes direction with his moods. Over time, he loses others' trust.

Real leadership is about consistency, not control. It's staying on the path when no one watches. It means acting in line with your beliefs. Most men don't fail for lack of vision but for lack of self-discipline. Without that, everything else breaks down.

APPLICATION

Leading others means doing the hard work first. 1 Timothy 4:16 says to keep a close watch. That takes awareness. How do you think? What do you allow in? Where are you drifting?

Yet what's often left unsaid is how subtle the shift can be. It doesn't show up all at once. It shows up in small compromises—skipped time in the Word, unchecked attitudes, patterns that slowly pull a man off course. A man who leads himself doesn't wait for correction—he makes adjustments early.

In practical terms, he takes ownership instead of making excuses. He stays anchored in truth even when no one is holding him accountable. This is where private discipline matters. What a man does in the unseen shapes everything that's visible.

Consequently, it also sets the tone for others. Whether at home, at work, or in the church, people follow what is consistent, not what is said. Brotherhood plays a role here, but it doesn't replace responsibility. Other men can sharpen you, but they cannot lead you for you.

Ultimately, that has to come from within. A man who leads himself well builds trust over time—and that trust is what gives his leadership weight.

LIVE IT OUT

Take inventory this week. Identify one area where you've been drifting and make a clear adjustment. Don't wait for motivation—act on conviction. Stay consistent in the small things. Leading others starts here. Lead yourself well, and your life will begin to carry the kind of weight others will follow.

PRAY THIS...

“Lord, that I may lead myself in Your ways before leading others.”

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***Information lays the foundation—
Practice builds the man.***

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