



**“Giving All of Ourselves to God”
Psalm 103:5; 1 Timothy 4:11-16
September 28, 2008**

Introduction: Confirmation-Giving all of ourselves to God

Set An Example for Others

When we visited with the youth in preparation for their confirmation, I shared this text with them, and called them to set an example for others. Our culture can at times look down on youth or youthfulness. I told them to set an example for the younger and older disciples of *“speech, in love, in faith and in purity.”* They and each of us are called to be role models for the faith, not to be perfect, but to seek to model and mirror God's amazing grace and faithfulness in our own lives. I know for example that for me, in my line of work, I look for other pastors who love deeply and who allow their suffering to make them more compassionate. What role models are you and who have you surrounded yourself with?

Don't Neglect your Gifts

Scripture makes it clear that every believer has been given gifts by God, to bless His kingdom, to bless others. Timothy is told to not neglect his gift, which had been given to him through a prophetic message and the laying on of hands. Each of us have been given gifts by God. How many of us are operating in our gifts? Joel 2 is a classic Pentecost will fill each and every believer. God tells us in Joel 2, *“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”*

Give Yourself Wholly to Him

Paul tells Timothy and us, *“give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely.”* We are to take our relationship with God as seriously as He does. God yearns and aches for a relationship with us, and sends us His heart in Jesus. Do we now give Him all of our hearts in return, or just part? Jesus tells us how important this is, saying in Matthew 22:37-9, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* Jesus distills then the heart of God for us to this: to love wholeheartedly, Him and others. We can only do this by giving over all of our lives to Him, in complete trust and surrender. Do we? Will we?