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Elder Qualifications Devotion

Guidelines to Live By: Even If You Don't See Yourself as an Elder Candidate

Welcome to this companion devotion for our blog post titled, "Guidelines to Live By: Even If You Don't See Yourself as an Elder Candidate." The key Bible passage for this devotion is found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 where the apostle Paul lists the standards set by God for the role of Elder in the church. The wonderful thing about this list is it can apply to anyone wanting to serve God and others within the Body of Christ. I pray it will be of great encouragement to you today.

Question #1 Lean In

What church leader has been a strong example to you of how to faithfully serve God, their family, and others? Consider the qualities they have and what makes them such a good leader.

Question #2 Look Down

As you read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, what stands out most to you regarding roles within the Body of Christ?

1 Timothy 3:1-7 NLT

This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position." So, a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money.

He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? A church leader must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap."

Question #3 Look Out

In comparison to God's standards for leadership, how does the world define leadership success?

Question #4 Look In

Which of the standards mentioned in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 is a struggle for you? What would it take to change in this area?

Live It Out

Though the standards for Elder qualification might seem impossible to follow, real change can happen one step at a time. Choose one area in which you need the most change, then, enlist a small prayer team of trusted people to pray for you on your journey.

Thank you for taking the time to go through this devotion. I pray you enjoy the accompanying blog post and find it helpful as you consider your role in the church.