

## ***What Are Your Dreams?***

### ***International Bible Lessons***

**1 Timothy 4:6-16**

**Sunday, March 20, 2011**

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*“If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed” (1 Timothy 4:6—NRSV).*

*“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following” (1 Timothy 4:6—NASB-U).*

*“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained” (1 Timothy 4:6—KJV).*

When we consider our dreams and aspirations, do we include being “a good servant of Christ Jesus”? From the very beginning of faith in Jesus Christ, if we really accept Him as our Lord, we will wish to become His good servant (a role not reserved for ministers, pastors, or preachers only). Furthermore, if we study “the words of the faith,” the Bible, with the hope of becoming better servants of Jesus Christ, they will help us discover God’s goals for us.

When we study the words and works of Jesus, He will nourish us spiritually; He will listen to our prayers, guide our daily activities, and teach us how best to serve Him and others. When we obey the commands He gave in the Bible, we learn more about Jesus and His purposes. Eventually, from following Jesus day-by-day, He will speak these words of Scripture to our hearts, “I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends” (John 15:15).

Whenever we do something for a friend, we do not think of ourselves as their servant, but we rejoice in the opportunity to give them happiness. Likewise, when we do something for our great Friend, Jesus, we do not consider ourselves His slave, but thank Him for the honor of living within His circle of friendship. Now and forevermore, we can find true joy in serving Jesus, when He is not only our Master but also our Friend.

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## Thinking Further

1. What instructions from the Bible do people tend to neglect today? Why is this so? How might we teach these neglected instructions more effectively in the church today?
2. What does the Bible mean by godliness? Why is godliness so important for a Christian? Why is godliness so important for church leaders?
3. Why must Christians toil and struggle in this life?
4. Should we warn people before they receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior that their lives in this world may become more difficult—even to the point of bearing a cross and dying? Why or why not?
5. What are the differences between natural and spiritual gifts from God? Why does God give Christians both natural and spiritual gifts?