

Generation TIMOTHY



**“I SEE IN YOU” AND
“AM I CALLED TO BE A PASTOR?”**

I SEE IN YOU

Conversation Guide

Reproduction is the hallmark of Christian maturity. Use these eight steps as a guide for identifying, mentoring, and launching potential ministers.

1. Pray. “God, open my eyes to see your Spirit’s work in someone’s life. Identify 1–3 men in your church. Write down their names and pray for God to draw them to this conversation.”

2. Engage. “Can I tell you what I see in you? I see God’s hand at work on your life. I see you walking with Christ and growing in your faith, and I feel like God has more for you. If you’re willing, I’d like to walk with you for six months, to pray and talk about it. Would you be open to something like that?”

3. Calendar. Set a weekly or monthly schedule to meet for one hour. Try to make the meeting schedule fit naturally into your weekly rhythms. Decide where you will meet. Put every meeting on your calendars immediately.

4. Mentor. Pray in each meeting for God’s clear direction and for specific requests that come up during meetings. Select a resource to use as a conversation guide. Consider reading a book together one chapter at a time and discussing it during meetings. Ask your pastor or Association and Convention leaders for suggestions. Create other periodic opportunities for shared meals or ministry experiences. Stick to your agreed-upon schedule.

5. Connect. Throughout the mentorship, create opportunities for ministry education or service—teaching, preaching, leading, workshops, missions, etc. Coach in preparation and debrief with encouragement. Toward the middle of the mentoring period, if a ministry calling is becoming evident, begin to search together for potential ministry opportunities. Make connections to the right people or opportunities (ex: to a position, a seminary, a network, or a preaching lab).

6. Launch. Put together a sending celebration to mark the moment. This may be as big as an all-congregation ordination/licensure service or as small as a meal with a few friends at your home. Take a moment to repeat, out loud, what “I see in you.” Incorporate opportunities for testimonies of affirmation from friends or other ministry leaders. Pray over him with great expectation.

7. Encourage. Keep up with what God is doing in his life including family, ministry opportunities, and education. Pray regularly for God’s favor. Write cards of encouragement. Send text messages or make phone calls periodically that include what “I see in you.”

8. Repeat. Pray that God will show you another. Then another, and another. Make the “I see in you” conversation a lifestyle of ministry multiplication.

AM I CALLED TO BE A PASTOR?

A Simple Guide for Prayerful Self Reflection

How do you know if you're called to be a pastor? Pray through these seven self-reflections, reading slowly through the referenced Scriptures and opening your heart to God's direction.

1. Desire (1 Tim. 3:1): Has God given me a desire for the pastorate? Your answer may or may not be "yes" right now, but Scripture teaches that the desire to be a pastor is a noble aspiration. It is not wrong to want to be a pastor. Trust that God might prepare you for this office and call you to it in his time.

2. Qualification (1 Tim. 3:2-7): Am I biblically qualified for the office of pastor? If you are called to be a pastor, these character traits (in 1 Tim. 3:2-7) are to be yours and increasing. Which of these might God want you to work on right now? Is there a certain qualification you objectively do not meet? Talk with your pastor and ask questions about these qualifications.

3. Integrity (1 Tim. 4:12): Am I living what I would be teaching? Pastors are not perfect, but they are held to a high standard. In humility, ask God to show you whether you are a good example to other believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. If he reveals a weakness in you in one of these areas, resolve to prayerfully and obediently mature in that area.

4. Opportunity (1 Tim. 1:3): Are opportunities presenting themselves? Future pastors need repetitions in preaching and teaching. Many begin by preaching in nursing homes, youth groups, or small pastorless churches in the area. Likewise, the shepherding part of being a pastor is often learned in Sunday Schools, connect groups, or leadership in mission trips or on a church ministry team.

5. Affirmation (2 Tim. 1:5): Do those who know me best and love me most affirm this calling? Often, God will use the affirmation of friends, ministry leaders, and family members to draw you. It may be as simple as, "you know, you would make a great pastor," or, "you are a great preacher/teacher/leader."

6. Readiness (2 Tim. 2:15): Am I knowledgeable and progressing in my understanding of Scripture? Do I possess a growing competency in preaching and leadership? Being a pastor is a joyful calling, but it is also a serious calling. If you feel called to the pastorate, it is also okay to feel like you are not yet ready. Enroll in seminary, read theology books, attend preaching labs, and find a trusted mentor.

7. Commitment (2 Tim. 3:1-17): Am I ready to give my life to this calling, no matter the cost? When you say "yes" to God's calling to the pastorate, you say "yes" for a lifetime. Commit to living a life of holiness, to working through difficulty, and to continuing to grow, learn, and mature in the faith and in your leadership.



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