

Ajith Fernando, Leadership Lifestyle, A study of 1 Timothy. [1985. Mumbai, India, GLS Publishing.]

Key quotes relating to investing in emerging leaders.

‘Leadership in the Bible is viewed first of all as the influence for good one has on another. A leader’s first task is not to keep the machinery of an organisation moving and fulfilling its goals but to help those under him to live and serve in obedience to the will of God’ (Fernando 1985:15).

‘from observing Paul’s relationship with Timothy and Titus, we can conclude that a spiritual father trains a few of his spiritual children in a particularly detailed and comprehensive manner, spending an extended amount of time with them individually’ (Fernando 1985:18).

‘One of the most important things Paul did to his spiritual child, Timothy, was to train and settle him in the ministry’ (Fernando 1985:20).

‘Timothy knew exactly how Paul believed and taught, acted, and reacted, knowledge that was possible only because they had lived together, prayed together, studied the Word together, ministered together, and suffered together’ (Fernando 1985:22).

‘during the times Timothy spent with Paul, he was able to observe Paul’s life as an example to follow... During their times together, Paul had given Timothy a complete theological education. He had conducted a traveling Bible college’ (Fernando 1985:23).

‘I believe the most effective environment for producing workers is a ministering team where vital body life is being experienced and where active ministry, careful supervision, and regular teaching is being done’ Fernando 1985:24).

‘Paul could never have done such an amazing amount of work for the kingdom if he had not multiplied his ministry in people like Timothy’ (Fernando 1985:25).

‘Leaders will have a constant battle in striking a balance between public ministry and personal discipling. Often the lure of public ministry can keep a leader from giving time for discipleship’ (Fernando 1985:25).

‘Not skill or knowledge but faithfulness is the first qualification for a minister of Christ’ (Fernando 1985:28 quoting Hiebert).

‘Plodding – the willingness to stick to the work God has given until it is completed – lies at the heart of faithfulness in ministry’ (Fernando 1985:29).

‘Paul viewed his ministry primarily as a result of God’s calling and equipping of him’ (Fernando 1985:29).

‘When our spiritual children observe us, the biggest impression they get should be of the greatness of God’s grace’ (Fernando 1985:38).

‘We are to be ambitious for our spiritual children and our actions are to be aimed at helping them to achieve all God desires for them’ (Fernando 1985:42).

‘Spurring people on in the Christian warfare is one of the greatest values of discipling’ (Fernando 1985:44).

‘Christian ambition arises out of a desire to be used by God to the fullest. The primary goal toward which a Christian strives is to be totally available for God to use as he sees fit. Leadership is a very

effective way of being used by God as it provides a wide sphere of influence for good, the prospect of which should motivate a Christian to aspire for leadership' (Fernando 1985:50).

'at the heart of leadership is servanthood' Fernando 1985:5).

'A true Christian knows that the moment he becomes proud, he forfeits his right to lead. As he aspires to leadership, then, he will be alert to the possibility of pride, which lies at the heart of selfish ambition... A Christian may aspire to leadership, yet since his primary desire is to be obedient to Christ, he will be completely satisfied even if God's will for him does not include leadership. His satisfaction springs from God and from doing His will. Such a person will be happy in whatever task God may lead him to do' (Fernando 1985:51).

'Sloppy work is incompatible with the great gospel of which we are bearers, and with the God of the gospel whose ambassadors we are' (Fernando 1985:52).

'A leader who practices what he preaches provokes an unbeliever to consider Christ' (Fernando 1985:56).

'Right living opens the door for an effective witness' (Fernando 1985:57).

'We cannot assess a person's character properly until we have seen him under pressure' (Fernando 1985:60).

'the ministry can be compared to a long distance steeplechase rather than to a sprint, a run that brings with it challenges that can sap our energies. To persevere amidst these challenges one must have learned endurance... This type of endurance grows slowly, often in the school of hard knocks, as both Paul and James have shown (Rom. 5:3; James 1:2-4).

'A good minister is a teacher, one who equips believers with truth so that they can handle the challenges they face' (Fernando 1985:87).

'Spiritual malnutrition is not easy to diagnose until its advanced stages. If a person is active in Christian service, we automatically regard him as being spiritually healthy. Yes this very activity, which we have taken as a sign of health, may be carried out in such a way as to cause ill health. One of the most absorbing challenges a Christian worker faces is the challenge to balance the output side of his life with the intake side; his service with his worship' (Fernando 1985:89).

'If a leader cannot find time for unhurried fellowship with God and His Word because he is too busy, there must be an element of disobedience in that busyness. He must reorder his priorities if he is to avert spiritual ruin. He should either change this situation or be removed from leadership responsibilities' (Fernando 1985:91).