

ENTERING LIFE'S HIGHWAY (High School Graduation)

1 Timothy 4:12

Introduction: You graduates are entering a new time in your life, perhaps the most important time of all, or the most difficult, or where you will make the most important decisions, for it is an exciting time and for many it will be a time of looking for a mate, and for most, looking for a job.

Up until recently you have been sheltered from the real world by your parents or your school. There will come failures, feelings of insecurity, doubts, struggles, and a thousand other nightmares, but somehow, you will survive.

A dad asked his daughter a question several years after she had "been out on her own" and he asked, "would you like to be able to go back to your Jr. and Sr. high school days where everything was taken care of by your mother and me, where you went to school and dated, went to church, did your own thing, and your mother and I took care of everything? Well, you know her answer. And who of us who are parents and grandparents would not like to be able to return to those carefree days?

You young adults are entering life's highway and you are going to face some challenges. Let me share four areas with you.

I. COMPETENCY (ABILITIES)

1. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me..."*

- One can be nice but not competent. Sometimes guys can be nice but very incompetent in asking a girl out for a date.

2. You are about to enter a highway from a side road and everyone is already traveling at top speed.

- You are unskilled, trained some, maybe, but unseasoned entering a world already at work.
- So, find someone to be an example, someone who is already doing what you want to do.
- Paul encouraged Timothy many times and was always giving him advice.

II. INDEPENDENCY (ON YOUR OWN)

1. Now you can "be on your own" finally and instantly, however, being self-sufficient takes time.

- Work toward being self-sufficient such as being your own boss, running your own life, paying your own bills, buying what you want, establishing your own credit, etc...
- It is harder to be self-sufficient if you live at home with your parents, for the rule is "as long as you put your feet under my table, you will do as I say.." right?

2. Develop your own identity, there's no one else exactly like you.

- Who do you see yourself to be? What are your interests? What do you need to change to be the person you want to be?

- Develop close relationships. Ruth and Naomi; Jesus and John; Paul and Timothy; David and Jonathan all had close friendships, relationships.
 - Become interested in other people, "*...do unto others as ye would have them do unto you..*"
 - Are you the kind of a person others want to be around?
- Develop a DREAM. "**...people without a dream perish...**"
 - A plan of what and where you want to be adds interest to life.

III. STRESS (PRESSURE)

1. "*...come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest...*"
 - Life will give you health problems, stay away from "instant cures" such as drugs, cults, etc.
2. Prayer and Bible study. Jesus retreated often from the public to rest and heal.
 - Review the cause of your stress, get outside advice from a friend, relative, etc.

IV. SUCCESS

1. Face it, some are successful and some are not! Everyone wants to be successful, wealthy, etc.
 - Life is not easy nor is it fair!
 - Some profit from dishonesty, who they know, etc. But remember, God is the judge of all and all of us will stand before Him someday.
 - There's just so much room at the "top."
2. Jesus says that "success" is being the servant of others.
 - Everyone can be successful - in God's eyes. and which is really more important?

V. SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. YOUR'S is the greatest drop-out age from Church activities, prayer and Bible study.
2. YOUR'S is the greatest age of dabbling in sin for you are now out from under your parents' constant supervision and are going to "experiment" with just about whatever life sends you way.
3. However, you need to stay with God and His Church Family.
 - Your Lord and your Church family will be constant aids and help in the many difficulties you are going to face.

VI. PROBLEMS

1. Economic - financial
- 2 Marital- whether to marry or not to marry. Are you mature enough for marriage, what about the one you think you want to marry?

3. Social- Old friends are about gone, new ones will have to be made.
4. Career- College, a job, no idea of what you want to do? Graduated and you don't want or can't find a job in what your interest is right now? Or do you even have an interest?

VII. SOLUTIONS:

1. Support groups - friends, Church family, others with similar problems.
2. Honesty - take a long look at yourself and be honest with what you see.
3. God - take it to God and find His plan for you life.
4. Mentors - find a role model from your family, friends, Church.
5. BE A FRIEND.

CONCLUSION:

1. You are embarking on ADULTHOOD. Nothing will ever be the same again.
2. You are going to need all the help you can find.
3. God loves you more than anybody you will ever meet and God can do more for you than anybody you will ever turn to.
4. Include God from this night/day on in every day of your life.
5. Congratulations for this great accomplishment in your life.