

## **“STEWARDSHIP”**

### ***Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I Believe***

#### ***2 Timothy 3:1-7***

***2 Timothy 3:5; Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***

***Introduction:*** Paul is having a teaching moment with Timothy, warning him about false godliness. Paul is describing people who look religious outwardly but have not truly surrendered inwardly.

***Central Focus:*** Living in a corrupt world, it can be easy to become self-centered and unchanged. What we say we believe should change how we live. Stewardship is how we manage our lives according to what we believe.

***(1). What You Love:*** What we love most will shape what we pursue, value, and give our time to. Our priorities show where our heart really is. ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5***

***(2). What You Show:*** Outward appearance does not always mean inward surrender. By allowing God's word to shape our choices and daily actions, our outside will match our inside. ***Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4***

***(3). What You Change:*** Real godliness should produce real change in how we think, respond, and live. Transformation shows that what we believe is working in our lives. ***Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5***

***Conclusion:*** Genuine faith must go beyond appearance and reach the heart. When our lifestyles matches what we believe, people can see the power of God working in us.

### ***Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I Believe***

When you hear the phrase “beyond appearance”, what comes to mind? Are you living like you are a true believer? Many people work hard to look right on the outside while ignoring what is happening on the inside. Paul reminds Timothy that godliness is more than an image, a routine, or religious language. What we truly believe should affect our choices, our relationships, and the way we live each day. Stewardship includes how we manage our character, our influence, and the life God has entrusted to us. God is not only concerned with what people see; He is concerned with who we are becoming. Living like we believe means allowing our faith to move from appearance into action.

Are you living like you are a true believer? We can say the right things, attend the right places, say some of the right things and still live differently from what we claim we believe. True belief should be seen in our choices, our character, and the way we treat people. Living like a believer means allowing a Godly lifestyle to guide us because it is the right thing to do. Our belief should be more than something we talk about; it should be something people can see working in our lives. The challenge is simple: stop just looking like you believe and start living like you believe. Today, let us be encouraged to live in a way that reflects what we truly believe. We will all make a difference when we start living like we believe. What a mighty God we serve! Yes and Amen.

#### ***.... Looking Like I Believe? ....***

- *Worldly appearance may gain attention, but consistent spiritual character builds godly credibility. People should not have to guess what we believe; our lives should make our faith clear.*
- *Believers let God change their motives and choices. Real stewardship begins with managing the person we are becoming.*

### ***Enhance Your Faith, Set Boundaries***

**SNAPSHOT**  
***Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I Believe***  
***2 Timothy 3:1-7***

**Who:** *Paul is teaching Timothy, a younger pastor and ministry leader.*

**What:** *Paul warns about people who have the appearance of godliness but whose lives do not reflect genuine transformation.*

**When:** *Near the end of Paul's life, during a difficult time for the early church.*

**Where:** *Paul is writing from prison in Rome to Timothy, who was serving the church in Ephesus.*

**Why:** *To prepare Timothy to recognize false godliness and remain faithful to the truth.*

**How:** *By letting God's Word change how we think, live, and treat others*

**THE STORY**

*Paul is teaching Timothy about people who appear godly on the outside but are not being changed on the inside. They love themselves, chase pleasure, resist truth, and keep learning without allowing what they hear to transform their lives.*

*Paul's warning is clear: faith cannot stop at appearances. What we believe should shape our character, our choices, and the way we live before God and others.*

**REFLECTION / APPLICATION**

*Every believer must examine whether their daily life reflects what they say they believe. It is easy to look faithful outwardly, but God calls us to allow His word to shape our character, choices, attitudes, and actions.*

*This week, identify one area where your life may not fully match your belief. Make a personal commitment to change that area so your faith is seen clearly in the way you live.*

**PRAYER**

***Heavenly Father, thank You for Your word that searches our hearts and shows us who we really are. Help us move beyond appearance and live in a way that reflects what we truly believe. Shape our thoughts, choices, attitudes, and actions so our lives bring honor to You.***

***Teach us not to look faithful while remaining unchanged. Give us courage to surrender, wisdom to manage what You have given us, and strength to live with integrity. May our lives show that our faith is real and that we are living like we believe. In Jesus' Name, Amen.***

*Rev. Dr. Clarence Jackson*