



# Titus Ten – Conclusion: Direction

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\*\*\* Start the Recorder \*\*\*

## Opening Prayer

**Introduction:** Good morning. Today, we'll be concluding our study through the book, *The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood*. We have completed 11 sessions:

1. Introduction: Survey of Titus
2. Chapter 1: Dominion
3. Chapter 2: Gospel
4. Chapter 3: Identity
5. Chapter 4: Assignments
6. Chapter 5: Authority
7. Chapter 6: Character
8. Chapter 7: Doctrine
9. Chapter 8: Mission
10. Chapter 9: Zeal
11. Chapter 10: Investments
12. Conclusion: Direction

The subject of today's twelfth and final session is *Direction*. But before we jump into today's subject, let's go back to our last session, *Investments*, which was very ably led by our Elder, Jasper Schaer.

## Group Discussion – Reflection Questions from the Last Session:

- What did the author of the book, Josh Smith, mean by the term, "Investments"?
  1. What is being invested. Time, heart, truth, love.
  2. In whom is it being invested? Other people, our families, friends, new believers, etc.
  3. What is the desired outcome of the investment? Spiritual profit (fruitfulness).
- What were the three relationships each man should have in his life? A Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy. What is implied in this suggestion?

- 2Ti 2:2 *"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* Why is this command important to developing godly manhood? Because preaching, Sunday school, youth group, and men's ministry are not enough. This verse demonstrates that there are four generations of teaching and learning, and passing on what has been learned, in view in Paul's command.

#### Summary of the Final Chapter – Direction:

- **Direction:** By "Direction", the author, Josh Smith, is referring to our perspective on our own godly manhood, which, of course, is the very subject of the book, and is especially the desire of the hearts of each of us who have devoted ourselves to its study these past five months.
- **Distance and Speed:** These are measures of *progress*. It can be worrisome to some of us when we try to compare how far we've come in our journey toward godly manhood. Better that we view godly manhood, not as a pursuit, per se, but as a process of growth.
- **A Process of Growth:** Godly manhood is not a destination for Christian men. It's rather a matter of the continual improvement of the quality of our character, thoughts, and actions – who we are, what we think, and what we do. Christian men are godly men. But we are projects in development. We are undergoing a process of transformation.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is that process called?** Sanctification. **What is sanctification?** The process of becoming more like Christ. How does it work? Holy Spirit convicts (the Word, others, consequences/circumstances); we respond in true, faithful repentance.

- **Direction:** Pastor Josh speaks of our spiritual progress in godly manhood, not in terms of speed or distance, but in terms of *direction*. He suggests it is not merely a question of how far we have come, or how fast we got this far, but also the direction in which we are moving.
- **Examine Yourself:** Am I continually moving toward God, embracing the things of God, increasing in love for God and others, resisting temptation and sin, growing in faith, enjoying a richer prayer life, getting control of my pride, becoming stronger in my biblical manhood?
  - Or, am I merely standing still, or worse, shrinking away from such things?
    - Am I even a true believer? 2Co 13:5 *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?"*

- Is God producing more spiritual fruit in my life?
  - What fruit should I be looking for? Gal 5:22-23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*
  - Is my life producing bad fruit? Matt 7:16–20 *"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits."*
  - If I am not producing good fruit because I am not walking faithfully with the Lord? Lam 3:40 *"Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord."*
- **Don't Ignore What You Find:** It's important for us to regularly take stock to ensure we are continually moving in the right direction. But we have to ensure that we not only take stock through self-examination, but we also respond to our sin with repentance.
  - James describes the one who continually disobeys God, but when he examines himself, he ignores what he saw in himself and goes on.
    - Jas 1:23-24 *"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was."*
  - Paul warned us about ignoring our sin and the results of our self-examination.
    - 1Co 11:28-30 *"But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly."*
- **Expect Consequences:** The consequence of ignoring our sin is God's discipline, which can be slow and methodical, or swift and fierce.
  - 1Co 11:31-32 *"For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world."*
  - If He doesn't discipline us for our sin in this life, it is a sign He doesn't love us, and we won't survive the Judgement.

- Heb 12:6-8 *“For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.” It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What are some of the ways God disciplines us? How do we discern between consequences of a fallen world and God’s hand of discipline as a consequence of our sin?

- Results of a fallen world can be calamity or happenstance, or the result of someone else’s sin. It generally lacks any spiritual truth that speaks to your sin, and could even be permanent.
  - Discipline is temporary, it only lasts while the lesson is being taught, and it ends when the lesson is learned. Sometimes the discipline is permanent because the lesson is lifelong – consider Paul’s thorn
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- **Ask Others:** If you’re not sure if you’re moving in the right direction, ask those around you – your parents, wife, children, close friends who’ve known you long enough. And give them the authority to speak truth to you, without denial or self-defense.
  - **Ask the Lord:** Ps 139:23-24 *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the way everlasting.”*
  - **Don’t be a Hypocrite:** Make sure you’re living right before you go help someone else with their sin.
    - Gal 6:4 *“But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.”*
    - Matt 7:3-5 *“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*

**Closing Challenge:** The book's conclusion is about Direction. As men of God, it challenges us to:

- o Examine ourselves.
- o Be honest with ourselves
- o Give others the right to speak truth to us.
- o Accept the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- o Respond in repentance.
- o Keep moving toward God and growing in godly manhood.
- o Never give up.

**Questions or Comments?**

**Small Groups.**