

## A Multiplying Ministry

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." **II Timothy 2:2**

Dawson Trotman, the founder of The Navigators, used to say that **it takes four generations to ensure spiritual reproduction: "you, me, faithful men, others also."** First you reach your "Timothy," and then teach him how to reach others. Then you must teach him how to teach others to reach others. When you have accomplished that, spiritual reproduction is operational.

In the following verses Paul gives a trilogy of illustrations on what it means to be committed to this vision. **The soldier** illustrates the need not to become entangled. **The athlete** illustrates the need to play by the rules: the end cannot justify the means. **The farmer** illustrates that you reap what you sow. Spiritual reproduction means that you reproduce after your own kind, whether you want to or not. Therefore what you are becomes critically important as you invest in others.

**You have reception and transmission.** You see the importance of reception in the words, "hearing" and "many witnesses." You see transmission in the words "commit thou to others also." Every follower of Christ must view himself as a link between generations. **Reception is the privilege, transmission the responsibility.**