




ELDERS TODAY &
someday



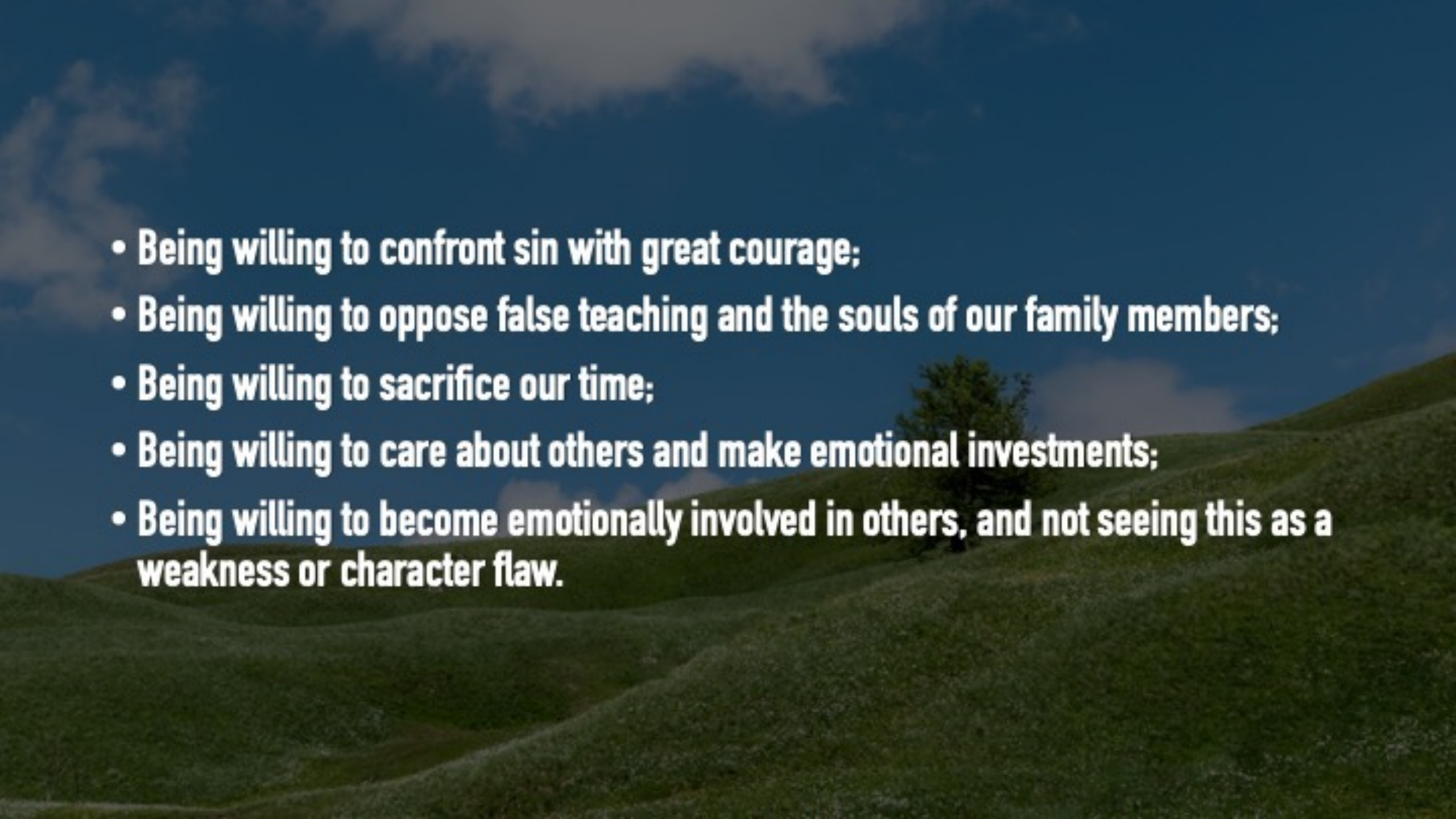
1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7
TITUS 1:5-9

DO YOU DESIRE THE OFFICE?

- **This qualification doesn't necessarily mean a man is giddily anticipating being an elder, or is looking forward to fringe benefits, or should be conceited as one who loves the "title." The words used by the apostle actually give the sense that a man has set his heart upon the work and sees it as aspirational.**
- **But a mistake that many young men make is thinking they will never want to be elders. Assuming this, they neglect what can be done in their lives now that will help them as potential elders someday.**
- **This includes how children are raised, how a reputation is made, how past mistakes are dealt with, how his actions have long-term effects, or because God expects less of him just because is not an elder.**

- **Men who serve in this capacity are called “elders”, “overseers”, and “bishops” (Acts 20:17,28, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:5–7).**
- **Even more revealing than those terms is the idea of being a “pastor” or “shepherd” (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2, Ephesians 4:11). What we think of shepherds goes a long way toward our perception of serving as an elder.**
- **We need to be striving, as men and as prospective elders, to be working on:**

BEING A SHEPHERD

- 
- **Being willing to confront sin with great courage;**
 - **Being willing to oppose false teaching and the souls of our family members;**
 - **Being willing to sacrifice our time;**
 - **Being willing to care about others and make emotional investments;**
 - **Being willing to become emotionally involved in others, and not seeing this as a weakness or character flaw.**



WHAT CAN I BE WORKING ON NOW?