



+ **YOU**

Winter 2024

Owning a Faith that Matters

**Sermon Title:** Arriving with Certainty

**To be used with session 3:** Expectant Faith

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:3-12; 4:6-9

**Connection with Bible Study:** This sermon complements the Bible Study “Expectant Faith” by continuing to study Paul’s journey of faith as he wrote about it in his second letter to Timothy. In the verses for this sermon, Paul spoke of his great expectation of the faithful care of God over his life and the goal that awaited him at the end of his life.

### **Introduction**

Every generation of Americans earns a title. There is the Greatest Generation, those who lived and fought during World War II. The generation that followed World War II has been called the Baby Boomer generation. Then comes Gen X, the Millennials, and now Gen Z—a the twenty somethings. By the way, children being born today are part of Generation Alpha. Generational names are an attempt to characterize people of a certain age in America. Recently a new name has been given to the twenty-something generation. Some are now calling them Generation Quit. Gen Z members, as well as members of the Millennial generation, are quitting jobs at an alarming rate.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, this trend spills over into their devotion to religion. That fact highlights one of the greatest needs in our country, regardless of the generations represented: Christian faith that endures to the end. Over and over, the Bible speaks of the challenge to remain faithful to the end; the call not to drift away from the faith; and the need to be steadfast and unmoved in our trust in Jesus Christ.

As the Apostle Paul came to the end of his faith journey, he wrote one last letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. In that letter, Paul challenge Timothy to remain firm in his trust in God and called attention to his own steadfast and expectant faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Being Realistic (2 Tim. 1:3-9)**

Paul began this second letter to Timothy by thanking God for Timothy and especially Timothy’s faith that he had received through the teaching and example of his mother and grandmother. Paul sought to encourage Timothy to live out that faith in his daily ministry. But he also wanted Timothy to realize that the faith journey would not be an easy one. Timothy needed a realistic understanding that suffering would be a part of the journey.

We, too, must be realistic. Life on this planet is not all roses. We live in a broken and fallen world that has been impacted by sin from the beginning of time. In this fallen world bad things happen: natural disasters, crime, illness, accidents, broken relationships, financial strains, and so forth. What we mustn’t do is fall for some false theology that states that for those who place their

trust in Jesus Christ, all will be a bed of roses. God never promised His children that life would be easy. Jesus said that in this world we would have troubles. What He promised was His presence in the midst of all that we are going through.

### **Being Reliant (2 Tim. 1:10-12)**

Paul knew a lot about suffering. His entire ministry was defined by persecution from his fellow Jews and from the Romans. One thing that Paul also knew was the fact that God could be counted on. He was absolutely certain that God would be involved in every aspect of his life, protecting him, providing for him, and guiding him as he proclaimed the gospel message. His powerful confession was that God could be relied on to watch over his ministry and his message until his assignment from God was complete.

We may not suffer as Paul suffered. Anyone here been stoned and left for dead? We may not have the experiences of persecution like Paul did, but we do go through suffering. Daily living is a struggle. Yet even during these struggles, we can count on the fact that God is still the sovereign Lord, we are His children, and the Father can be counted on to take care of His children. As Paul said, “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.” Our task in everyday living is to rely completely on God for His strength and ability to get us through the day. Lean on Him with everything in you!

### **Being Rewarded (2 Tim. 4:6-9)**

All journeys come to an end. The faith journey that Paul began decades earlier was drawing to a close as he wrote to Timothy. As he contemplated the end of his life, he was confident that in the end he would be rewarded for his reliance on Jesus Christ. A better future awaited him beyond the grave.

We must recognize that this world is not all there is; this world is not our home. It's not our final destination. We were created for eternity where we will spend trillions and trillions of years in the presence of Jesus Christ and the wonderful reward He has prepared for us. I challenge you to let the intended target of your life be God's approval of “well done my good and faithful servant.” Maintain a complete trust in God through all of life's journey.

### **Conclusion**

In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul told the Corinthian Christians to examine themselves to see if their faith was genuine. He called on them to test their faith to make sure it was a faith that was growing in expectancy of all that God wanted to do in and through them.

We, too, regularly need to test our faith to keep it strong and expectant. What steps do you need to take to make sure you stick with your faith and that you don't become a part of the growing trend of people who quit? Will you arrive with certainty in your faith journey when your time on earth is done?

*Dr. Sam Crouch is retired after 52 years in ministry. Sam was educated at Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife live in Tucson, Arizona where Sam enjoys writing,*

reading, yardwork, and cats. His latest book is [Clearing the Fog: Gaining an Understanding and Appreciation of the Old Testament](#).

<sup>1</sup> “Welcome to Generation Quit,” Business Insider, February 18, 2023.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/gen-z-jobs-generation-quiet-quitting-great-resignation-recession-economy-2023-2>