



2 TIMOTHY

REMAIN FAITHFUL

Faithful Ministry Illustrated
2 Timothy 2:1-7

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You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

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.

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Four Fundamentals of a Faithful Christian Life

1

THE STRENGTH

Relying on Christ's Grace

v. 1

2

THE STEWARDSHIP

Relaying Christ's Truth

v. 2

3

THE STRUGGLE

Relentlessly Laboring for
Christ's Reward

vv. 3–6

4

THE STUDY

Reflecting for Christ-Given
Understanding

v. 7

1. The Strength: Relying on Christ's Grace (v.1)

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Recall the commands given to Timothy in chapter 1:

- Kindle afresh his spiritual gifts (v.6-7)

“God has given a spirit of power, love, and discipline” (v.7)

- Join in suffering (v.8-12)

“according to the power of God” (v.8)

- Hold fast to the truth (v.13-14)

“through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us” (v.14)

⇒ **Faithfulness to these commands was going to result in suffering (2 Tim 3:12; 2 Tim. 1:8)! Where would Timothy find the strength to endure?**

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

You therefore, my son

- Paul's affection for Timothy permeates the entire letter.

Be strong – present tense but passive voice

- ⇒ The strength Timothy needed could not come from within; it had to come from another source.

Paul knew his own faithfulness and endurance in ministry came from the strength that was given to him by God (Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:17).

- ⇒ Just as Paul found his strength in the Lord, so Timothy was to place his trust in God's strength as he faced hardships and persecution.

This strength, like everything else we have in Christ, is a gift of grace (1 Cor. 15:9-10; 2 Cor. 12:9).

- ⇒ As every believer is “in Christ,” we have this same strength from Him!

2. The Stewardship: Relaying Christ's Truth

2 Timothy 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.

In chapter 1, Paul's focus to Timothy was to hold fast to the truth himself.

⇒ Now we see that it must not stop at just holding onto the truth – it must be passed on as well.

And what was Timothy to pass on?

⇒ All that he heard from Paul in the presence of many witnesses.

- “Many witnesses” is likely included to remind Timothy of his own boldness in proclaiming Christ.

2 Timothy 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.

Entrust

⇒ Timothy had been entrusted with the treasure of sound teaching (2 Tim. 1:14).
He now had to entrust this treasure to others.

Faithful men

- Men of godly character (1 Tim. 3:2-4).
- Men who will retain the standard of sound words (2 Tim 1:14).
- Men who are able to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2).

A Stewardship That Reaches Four Generations

PAUL

The truth entrusted to him

TIMOTHY

Heard and guarded the truth

FAITHFUL MEN

Trustworthy and able to teach

OTHERS

The next generation receives it

The need to pass on the gospel of Christ is critical for the gospel is power of God for salvation to all who believe (Rom. 1:16).

3. The Struggle: Laboring for Christ's Reward

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Only one command: Suffer hardship.

Three metaphors: the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer.

One repeated pattern: faithful labor requires diligence and leads to reward.

DILIGENCE

REWARD

The Soldier: Single-Minded Endurance

2 Timothy 2:3–4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Paul frequently used the imagery of soldiers and warfare:

- The armor of God in (Eph. 6:10-17; 1 Thes. 5:8)
- Wage war against sin (Rom. 7:22-23)
- Weapons of our warfare are spiritual (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
- Fight the good fight (1 Tim. 1:18-19; 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7)
- Epaphroditus and Archippus are called fellow soldiers (Phil. 2:25; Philemon 2)

⇒ We would do well to meditate more frequently on how the Christian life is warfare against indwelling sin and the kingdom of darkness and how we should live accordingly.

2 Timothy 2:3–4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Suffer hardship with me – literally “suffer together with”

⇒ Suffering is to be expected if we live godly in Christ Jesus (2 Tm. 3:12).

⇒ But receiving suffering for Christ is a cause for rejoicing (Mt. 5:11-12; 1 Pt. 4:13).

How ready should we be to bear slander and ridicule for Jesus' sake. Do not get into a huff, and think it a hard thing that people should mock at you. Who are you, dear sir? Who are you? What can you be if compared with Christ?

If they spat upon him, why should they not spit upon you? If they buffeted him, why should they not buffet you? Shall your Master have all the rough of it? Shall he have all the bitter, and you all the sweet?

A pretty soldier you, to demand better fare than your Captain!

Charles H. Spurgeon

2 Timothy 2:3–4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

Entangled— literally “to weave;” “to be or become involved in some task or role to the point that it interferes with other activities.”

⇒ A soldier doesn’t get wrapped up in all of the details of normal life.

DILIGENCE

Refuse distractions that interfere with the mission.

REWARD

The privilege of pleasing Christ your Captain who enlisted you.

The Athlete: Disciplined Obedience

2 Timothy 2:5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

Paul frequently used the imagery of athletics:

- Run to win – 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Phil. 3:12-14
- Don't run in vain – Gal. 2:2; Phil. 2:16
- Don't be hindered when you run – Gal. 5:7
- Discipline yourself – 1 Tim. 4:7-8

DILIGENCE

The athlete submits to the rules and practices self-discipline.

REWARD

The prize God gives to those who finish faithfully.

The Farmer: Hard Work

2 Timothy 2:6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

Paul frequently used the imagery of farming:

- Ministry compared to steps of farming – 1 Cor. 3:6-9
- Gentiles coming to the faith compared to grafting on branches – Rom. 11:17-22
- Expected outcomes compared to sowing and reaping – 1 Cor. 9:6-11; Gal. 6:7-10
- Good outcomes compared to bearing fruit – Rom. 7:4; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:8-11; Col. 1:5-6

DILIGENCE

Ministry, like farming, demands diligent labor.

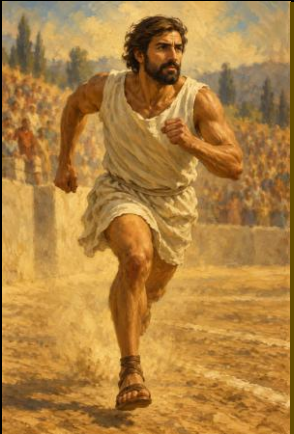
REWARD

The laborer's reward is certain; it is reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:4).



As a soldier, be diligent in your focus.

⇒ You can know the joy of pleasing your Captain!



As an athlete, be diligent in your self-disciplined.

⇒ You can be assured that a heavenly prize is waiting for you!



As a farmer, be diligent in your labor.

⇒ You can be confident that you will receive the fruit of your labor!

4. The Study: Christ-Given Understanding

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Consider: think carefully and draw out his intended meaning.

The Lord will give understanding: spiritual comprehension ultimately depends on God giving you understanding.

⇒ **Our responsibility:** read carefully, observe the text, follow the logic, and pray for God's illuminating work.

