



2 TIMOTHY

REMAIN FAITHFUL

How to Suffer Victoriously

2 Timothy 1:3-5

PAUL'S CONDITION WHEN WRITING 2 TIMOTHY



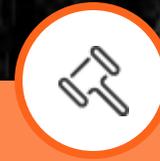
Imprisoned

2 Timothy 1:16–17;
2 Timothy 2:9



Deserted

2 Timothy 1:15
2 Timothy 4:9–11
2 Timothy 4:16



Facing Imminent Execution

2 Timothy 4:6

NATURAL RESPONSES TO SUCH SUFFERING



Complaining: This is miserable!



Anger: I'm so frustrated at the people who did this to me!



Doubt: Does God even care about me?



Self-pity: Why does everything go so bad for me?

2 Timothy 1:3–5

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

Six Characteristics to Enable You to Suffer Victoriously

- 1. An attitude of thankfulness**
- 2. A conscience that is clear**
- 3. A faith that is proven**
- 4. A habit of prayer**
- 5. A love for others**
- 6. A desire to encourage**

1. An attitude of thankfulness

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God

Paul's thankfulness is directed toward God as he is . . .

- Thankful for evidences of God's grace in their lives
- Thankful for how he has been blessed through them
- Thankful despite others' failures (1 Cor. 1:4-8)

⇒ **Even in the midst of great trials, we can suffer victoriously when we set our minds on gratitude toward God.**

“Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.”

H.A. Ironside

2. A conscience that is clear

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience

What is our conscience?

Romans 2:14–15 — For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.

“The conscience is a built-in warning system that signals us when something we have done is wrong.” — John MacArthur

Our consciences are not infallible! They can be . . .

- Weak because they are immature (1 Cor. 8:7)
- Defiled by sin (Titus 1:15)
- Seared through repeated sin (1 Tim. 4:2)

- Paul states that he has a “clear” conscience. He states elsewhere that he has good conscience (1 Tim. 1:5, 19), a perfectly good conscience (Acts 23:1), and a blameless conscience (Acts 24:16).

What does Paul mean when he says he has a clear conscience?

- It does not mean he is claiming to have never sinned (1 Tim. 1:15).
 - It does mean that he never continues to live with unconfessed sin.
- ⇒ We are all going to stumble, but we can still maintain a clear conscience if we are quick to repent. Even if there has been significant sin in your past, you can be cleansed of that sin and move forward confident of God’s forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:9).

3. A faith that is proven

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did

serve - worshipful service to God. It is used of Old Testament service of worship (Heb. 9:9; 10:2; 13:10) and also for our spiritual service of worship to God (Heb. 9:14; 12:28).

- Paul was convinced that faith in Christ is consistent with OT Scriptures (Acts 24:14; 26:6-7; Galatians 3:7-9)

Paul is drawing parallels between him and Timothy

Paul worships God with a clear conscience



Timothy has a sincere faith

Paul worships God just as his spiritual forefathers



Timothy shares the spiritual heritage of his grandmother and mother

4. A habit of prayer

2 Timothy 1:3b I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day

constantly remember - regularly and actively calling someone or something to mind

- Paul made a habit of praying for others' needs (Romans 1:9–10a; Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; Philemon 4).

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed,
but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” — John Bunyan

prayers - supplications or requests made to God

How can you avoid depression or self-pity when facing trials?

⇒ Go before the Lord in prayer – not just about your own needs, but also for the needs of others.

5. A love for others

2 Timothy 1:4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy

longing – an intense desire that comes upon someone (Phil. 1:8)

Timothy was more than just a name on Paul's prayer list. Paul genuinely loved Timothy and really wanted to see him. He mentions his desire to see Timothy two more times in chapter 4 (2 Tim. 4:9, 21). Timothy was his "beloved child" (2 Tim. 1:2), there was "no one like him" (Phil. 2:12-22), and he had Paul's trust (1 Thes. 3:2).

⇒ A deep love for another believer and his/her well-being is a guard against despair and morbid self-pity.

"A genuine Gospel-faith has nothing selfish about it – it never makes a man think only of his own salvation." — J.C. Ryle

6. A desire to encourage

2 Timothy 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

sincere – unhypocritical, genuine, and authentic

Paul knew many individuals who have shown themselves to be false followers of Christ; many who are identified in this letter: Phygelus and Hermogenes (2 Tim. 1:15), Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:16-18), and Demas (2 Tim. 4:10).

Paul reminds Timothy of his godly heritage for the purpose of encouraging him (even though Paul is the one in the more dire situation)!

⇒ When difficulties come into our lives, do we continue to pray for others and seek to encourage them?

Application

- 1) When suffering under a trial, discipline yourself to give thanks to God.
- 2) Strive to keep a clear conscience by daily confessing and forsaking sin.
- 3) Maintain the habit of prayer for others, even when facing your own difficulties.
- 4) Think less about your own desires and resolve to encourage others and meet their needs