

“Go and Multiply”
II Timothy 2:1-7

Hello Image Church!

It's a privilege to be with you today... As PM just shared and that video just showed, our family has made the decision to **move for the sake of mission...**

A move that was in the making for over a decade, but that really came into focus around 2018.

- A move that the IC fingerprints all over. Explain...

When you do something daring for the KOG...
People **respond** in ½ ways to: hinder or help.

Hinder your belief...

- Sunburnt... Job security... Vacation city...

Help you believe...

- April 2018... feeling stirred, met Mike... Since then has been CEO for Me + Coastway... Good encourager
 - Call you out... first person verbalized CP.
 - Lift you up... calling him for hope + help.
 - Push you forward... IG = 7, PM drop mic!
- **Go big. Jesus is worthy.**
 - Dynamic Growth, Spiritual Need, CCU.

Whether on app or in lap, 2 Timothy 2:1-7.

- **Paul, most famous and fruitful church planter in history, is on death row for his faith...** instead of waiting + worrying he's busy writing a letter...
- It's a **personal** and **pastoral** letter to Timothy.
 - Timothy is a younger man (mid 30's),
 - pastoring a place where sin is celebrated,
 - All while trying to untangle the knots of fear, failure, and family.
 - **That's practical!** Welcome to the Bible. This is why we go to the Word of God for a word from God.
- The letter is written **from prison** as Paul is **departing** from earth to eternity.
 - **Every word has weight.** And so, we pick up Paul's progression of thought and he's laser focused on one thing: **the multiplication of faith for future gens.**
 - Notice something...
 - Paul is living his last days for what's forever instead of what's for now.

From the beginning and through the Bible, God's purpose and plan has never changed: "Be fruitful and multiply... Go and make disciples..."

***III. Starfish or you can be like a spider...**

- Christians are called to be like starfish... despite pain, pressure... our purpose is to multiply.

I want to show you how Paul motivates Timothy to multiply the faith...

3 big factors at work: means, method, mindset.

*v. 1 - You then, **my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,***

The MEANS of multiplication: grace of God v. 1

“my child...” not biological, spiritual... 3 types...

- **Terrific** – Loving, just, present, brave.
- **Timid** – Silent, stiff, scared... stood the gap.
- **Terrible** – Caused division, divorce, despair.

What is Paul doing here? He’s helping Tim overcome His father wound, by functioning as a SF.

- **USCB** > “Father Factor” at work in all societal ills.
 - **Poverty, Pregnancy, Prison, Problems...**
- **Here’s some hope:** A CF is one who knows God as their father and the Church as their family...
 - Church is in place to multiply the strength of a present, pursuing, protecting Father God into the lives of one another.

This is why P tells T, **“Be strengthened...”**

- Receive strength from another who is stronger...
 - ***III.** Cousin Eddy... know we're weak but we don't want to admit it.
- Before we can be strengthened, must first admit we're weak...
 - What we all need is a supply of strength that will **fill us** and **pour out**...
 - **Have you said out loud? I can't...**
 - love my spouse well...
 - be patient with kids...
 - forgive the offense
 - sort through anger, anxiety
 - Come to the end of ourselves that we come to the beginning of God... when we do, we are met with strength in the form of grace.

Paul says, **by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...** that we're empowered.

- **Grace is only amazing if you realize a wretch...**
- **Grace is** God taking the **condemnation** that we deserve so that we could receive the **commendation** that only He deserves.
- **Grace is** God getting the car fax on you, knowing you've been totaled and paying the price to make you new again...

***III.** We watch movies to learn how to live.

- **Forrest Gump** loving Jenny... she rebels and resists Forrest's love, but at end, comes home...
The reason this resonates is because the story of F + J is the story of God and you...
- **Grace does three things...**
 - Welcomes you home: not gone too far!
 - Changes your heart: want what God wants!
 - Multiplies your hope: share what received!
- **We must understand...** Grace not opposed to effort but earning.
 - God did the work to **accomplish salvation**, now He's actively working to **apply salvation** by the power of His Spirit through the witness of His Church.

The *METHOD* of multiplication: Relationships v.2

*² and what **you** have heard from **me** in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men**, who will be able to **teach others also**.*

- 4 gens of disciples:** Paul, Tim, faithful men, others....
- Any true vision for mult must be multi-gen.
 - **This is what CP partnership is all about...**
 - Summit > Image > Coastway
 - **Ex. Pic** from Interest Gathering.
 - **25 + 50 Vision... what look like?**

“entrust to faithful men”

- **God puts character before competence...**

- o **Cult diff:** Athlete, celebrity, Wall street...
- Christ chara is not about perfection, it's direction.
 - o **Char/Direction** = sum of dep and desire.
 - On what / who am I depending?
 - What / who am I desiring?
 - o Depend on + Desire for God, do consistently what others do occasionally...
- **Through history** God has specialized in using ordinary people in extraordinary ways.
 - o Only **1/12 disciples** came from an affluent area in Judea... Judas **#FailureToLaunch**
 - o God's first choice is often the world's last choice. He specializes in using people who **more impressed than they are impressive.**
 - o **Look at char. of SL** (*Exodus 18, I Tim. 3, I Peter 5*... emphasis is always on character).

Robert Coleman MPOE: *willing to follow (dependence), wanting to be used (desire). This is the form of Christian character.*

- **TAI:** What qualified Jesus to die on cross? Char.

"...able to teach" (competence) God does care about your competence...

- What Does good DMD do? They do what a good parent does!
- **I did it // It can be done // You can // I'll help...**

- **RC:** “*One living sermon is worth 100 explanations.*”
- Your leaders are taking you **further faster** through **catalytic resources + relationships.**

Resources (3 big areas).

- **Prayer... Scripture... Evangelism...**

Relationships...

- Discipleship, multiplication, happens in relationships. F&F in Community Groups...
 - Open Bible + Open Life.
 - Needy + needed (self-aware, always both)
 - Rel + responsibility > time + place.

If faith is not multiplying *through you*, it may have never multiplied *to you*.

- **God has given us one job:** to be fruitful and multiply. And the method for multiplication is life on life, relationships with the help of resources.
- **Q: Paul?** Ready to lead. **Timothy?** Being led.

The MINDSET of multiplication (vv. 3-7)

A good manager will tell **what to do**. A good leader will teach you **how to think**. Paul was a good leader who learned from the best leader.

- **And so, what does he do?** He gives Timothy a method AND a mindset.
- **vv. 3-7** answer the **Q:** How does mult disc think?

They think like a soldier, athlete, farmer...

³ Share in suffering as a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

- **A good soldier suffers after their Superior.**
- In the Military a good CO...
 - Has suffered before you and more than you.
 - Can lead you through the war and suffering.
 - Relational, Spiritual, Physical: He gives you reason + resource.
 - This is wartime not peace time. We are soldiers not civilians...
 - There is a real devil, with a real plan and power to destroy you...
 - If he can't destroy instantly, progressively...
- Soldiers not “*entangled in Civilian pursuits...*”
 - **What is this about?** Distraction.
 - **Sound?** “I’m busy.”
 - Sports, school, work, kids, hobby...
 - When we are too busy to make disciples then we are too busy worshipping idols...
 - *III. Footprints erased...

⁵ An **athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules (*what does this mean?*).

A good athlete plays by the rules.

- **Q:** Who makes the rules in your life? The one who makes the rules is the ruler.
- **TAI through the lens of an athlete...**
 - ***III.** Lance Armstrong
 - Don't think about how many TDF he won, you think about how he cheated.
 - This is **what happens when make own rules**: name gets marred; needs go unmet.
- **God gives us rules for good not grief...**
 - **Thot:** Why boundaries around fire? Why tell kids, don't play in road? Home by 9pm?
 - For the **same reason** God puts boundaries around sensitive areas in our life.
 - **It's so we can enjoy His design w/o being destroyed...** God designs Satan distorts...
 - Family, marriage, sex... Good!
 - Money, possessions... Good!
 - Food, drink substance... Good!
 - Argue suffer or agree be saved...

- **God makes the rules but gives us the resources.**
 - His Spirit to empower...
 - His Word to guide...
 - His people to love...
- This is how we ought to think...

⁶ *It is the hard-working **farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops.*

- **A good farmer works hard for the harvest.**

- ***III.** Commercial – “So, God made a farmer.”
 - **Multiplication is hard work:** it takes a lot of time, tenacity, toughness.
 - A farmer is **more about a lifestyle than leisure.** They don’t clock in clock out based on how they feel, they do what needs to be done when it needs to be done.
 - **What motivates a farmer?**
 - **A clear vision:** a fruitful family, farm future... the hope of life, land lineage.
 - Farmer understands that the work they do today, will make possible fruit enjoy tmrw.
- This is how we ought to think...

Speaking of thinking: ⁷ ***Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.***

Story that make me blush but make you better...

***III.** Window in WVL...Ella dress shopping, thinking what like?! Come in close, hit head... Bad to do on window good to do with the gospel...

- It’s only when we ***fix our thoughts on the grace and grit of Jesus*** that we own the call to multiplication... **In doing so...**
 - **Jesus is not merely a good soldier, he is the good soldier...** who went boldly and bravely into battle... to suffer before you

and to suffer more than you... In love, He put himself on the firing lines for your IDOLS. By His wounds we are healed...

- o **Jesus is the ultimate athlete...** who never missed a workout, who competed according to the rules (law), but instead of receiving a crown of victory, he endured a crown of defeat so we could enjoy a crown of deliver.
- o **Jesus is the ultimate farmer...** who was willing to plant more than a seed from His hand but the seed of His life into the ground, so that we could experience a fruitful future and forever family.

This is why we are going to multiply the gospel through the GS and to the EW.

- **Ask:** For the sake of Him, who did all this for you, will you go multiply your faith in Him? **Pray.**