

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy  
Passage: 2 Timothy 2:8-13  
Title: The Word of God Cannot be Chained!

Summary: The imprisoned Paul says words of power, speaking of the Word of God, and he says, “the Word of God is not chained”. He speaks more than a metaphor, he speaks truth, and the kind of truth that breaks every chain and stronghold in a person’s life, regardless of their situation, prisons or palaces, God’s Word cannot be bound! If this applies personally, then it also means we have a powerful prayer weapon at our disposal. Come join us as we open the powerful chain breaking Word of God.

Again, for context from last week, verse one says, therefore. So anytime we see the word therefore we have to ask, what is it there for? And it takes us back to chapter one and all the instruction Paul had given Timothy in chapter one. And for us most specifically to hold fast to the pattern, finish well.

*2 Timothy 1:13–14 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*

And so the continual building off of how we are to “hold fast”, and the continual reminder to hold fast, and finish well, our text for today:

*2 Timothy 2:1–13 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup> And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. <sup>8</sup> Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. <sup>12</sup> If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. <sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

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

Be strong in the grace – Grace is God’s unmerited favor. Christian, today, this past week, the week to come, not in your strength or might..... your performance, but His performance, which is based on grace, may you be free and strong, my God loves me, apart from how well I did this week, or will do, simply because He is gracious unto me. When you can rest in “grace”, you will find strength, because instead of worrying about how I am doing, you can just look to Him and trust what He desires to do in you, and you will be free to live freely in the love of God, and you will truly find strength in “Grace”.

Christian may we never interpret any words of God apart from him who speaks them. They must all be in the light of him and his nature and his attributes of love and grace and mercy. We're to take his words as if we are standing face to face with him and He is speaking them, because truly that is what is happening. As the word of God be, is living and powerful. It's a living God speaking to us and He is speaking his heart to us. He speaks promises. He speaks power. He speaks warning. He speaks discipline. But in all

of his words, He speaks His Word for our good. Because He is a good, good father. Amen.

**(2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

It is relational and instructional – may the Lord teach us His Word today. Our title today is from verse 9, “The Unchained Word of God”.

**(2 Timothy 2:3 NKJV) You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

**(2 Timothy 2:4 NKJV) No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.**

**(2 Timothy 2:5 NKJV) And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.**

**(2 Timothy 2:6 NKJV) The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.**

The discipline of soldiers, athletes, and farmers. We must train like Olympians going for the prize.

*2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV) <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

**(2 Timothy 2:7 NKJV) Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.**

May the Lord give us understanding today in all we study, hear, and commit to our spiritual training. We studied last study the power of not just praying before we study/teach, but also the follow-up to praying after the study that the Spirit continues to reveal and seal the word just heard.

**(2 Timothy 2:8 NKJV) Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,**

**(2 Timothy 2:9 NKJV) for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.**

In the days when tyrants did their will one of these despots ordered a man into his presence and asked him what his calling was. When he told him he was a blacksmith, he ordered him to go to his forge and make a chain. The man soon returned with a chain in his hand. "Go and make it longer," was the order of the tyrant. He soon appeared again, this time with a longer chain. "Go and make it still longer," was the order of the despot. This was repeated a number of times; and when finally the perplexed blacksmith appeared with a long chain in his hand, the despot gave the order to wrap the chain about him and cast him into the fire.

So the enemy, the world, and (even ourselves) determine to do (chain us and bind us), but God's Word is unchained, moves freely and powerfully and unhindered, and breaks down strongholds, moves about where He pleases and sets captives free, and for those we can't reach for whatever reason (far away, distant from God or us), we have a Word that can penetrate (by praying the Word) into prisons, closed borders, reach beyond the sea, find prodigals in their pit or palace, anywhere and everywhere this Word is unchained and can enter in, and this unchained word is a chain-breaker at that.

*2 Timothy 2:9 (NKJV)* <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (NKJV)* <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**(2 Timothy 2:8 NKJV) Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,  
(2 Timothy 2:9 NKJV) for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.**

Verse 8. Paul gives a solidifying reminder that Jesus Christ, the seed of David, was raised from the dead, according to my gospel. He's bringing Timothy back to the power that is in the word. And he speaks of the seed of David that takes us back to Genesis 3. It takes us back to Micah 5. It takes us to Isaiah 7 and 9, speaking of the birth of Christ, the immaculate conception. But it also takes us from his first coming to his second coming. And Genesis 22 speaking of the resurrection, Jonah, three days, three nights in the belly of the great fish, speaking of his resurrection. All of it reminding Timothy as he came first, so shall he come again. He's worth the fight. He's worth the endurance. And

there is nothing that can stop him. There is no chain that binds this word of God. It shall come to pass.

*Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)* <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

*Micah 5:2 (NKJV)* <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

*Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

*Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)* <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

*Genesis 22:6-8 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

*Matthew 12:39-40 (NKJV)* <sup>39</sup> But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

So live for this word. The word that was trying to be stopped by Haman when he tried to kill the Jews there in Persia. When Herod tried to kill the babe born there in Israel. And Hitler, when he came to try to destroy the whole nation, nothing could stop the word of God. It would be fulfilled just as God said it would be, and just as God says it shall be in the future. This word here in verse 8, speaking of the seed and speaking of the resurrection, speaks of his power past, power present, and power future. And that the word of God is eternal and it cannot be bound. Hebrews 13:8, "I am the same yesterday, today and forever." The eternal God is unchanging.

*Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)* <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

And therefore, this word is unchanged and unchangeable because it's eternal from the unchanging God. It has the power to set people free. And Paul is telling Timothy and building on it. It's worth the fight. Endure the hardship, whatever it may be. And then, as we get into the future chapters, to preach the word, because it has the power of salvation and to change lives in it.

Verse eight, according to my Gospel, let it be noted that Paul didn't have a Gospel that was different than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What he's saying is that it was his Gospel that he made personal. It's the same Gospel, but it was the Gospel that was personal to him. And he would preach it in his own personal way, but it was still the one and only way of Jesus Christ. And there's a place for us as Christians of making this Gospel personal. I need to be able to share it with people and therefore it has to be personal to me. I can't read somebody's book and try to preach their way of presenting the Gospel, even though it is the Gospel. But maybe you would read a book and it would become personal to you. That would be great.

But I always encourage people, spend time with the Lord on how you are going to present the Gospel and let it become personal, because when you do that will become

part of you, and when it becomes part of you and you share it, you will share it very pointedly and very passionately, and you will be right on the mark of being able to convey it very clearly and precisely. Make it your own personal Gospel from your very heart.

**(2 Timothy 2:9 NKJV) for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.**

In Acts 25, it's two years later. Paul is still bound with hatred. Let me say hatred towards him. Even two years later. And they even ask a letter to be written that the governor would allow Paul to leave and return from Caesarea to Jerusalem to stand trial. And the whole thing was a big farce and setup as they wanted to lay ambush and kill Paul just as they had wanted to before, but was stopped supernaturally. As Paul's nephew would overhear the plot and tell the guard who would tell the governor. And he would be delivered in the night by a whole contingency of Roman soldiers.

*Acts 23:12–15 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy. <sup>14</sup> They came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near."*

*Acts 24:27 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup> But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.*

*Acts 25:1–4 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Now when Festus had come to the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Then the high priest and the chief men of the Jews informed him against Paul; and they petitioned him, <sup>3</sup> asking a favor against him, that he would summon him to Jerusalem—while they lay in ambush along the road to kill him. <sup>4</sup> But Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there shortly.*

Even in prison, two years later, they still had this deep hatred towards Paul. You would think that they would've forgotten him by now. But they don't, and you know why? Because these two years that Paul's in prison, he didn't just sit in prison and have inner contemplation of his life and the situation of his life. He spent that time writing letters that we so greatly enjoy. He wrote letters from prison that went and changed the present world that they lived in and our current world today. And as those letters were being distributed, churches were being built. Churches were being strengthened. Missionaries were rising. The gospel was going forth. It was going deeper, greater and wider than one man could do on his own. Because he wrote letters that had been preserved for all to read, to be copied, to pass on. And t 2 Timothy 2:2 would say faithful men would learn it and then they would go and they would reproduce it. Faithful women would learn it and they would go and they would reproduce it. And what we see, the reason they hated Paul was because truly the word of God was unchained. It could not be stopped even in prison. And it kept going further and further. And hence why they still would want to wait in ambush to kill him. And here's the power of our passage today. The word of God is unchained. It cannot be stopped.

*2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

The power and in the discipline of being a soldier, farmer, an athlete, the key to discipline is faith. Believing God will meet me, speak to me, lead me, empower me. And the faith will convince me that there is gain in this discipline. And when I come to that

place of faith, nothing can chain me and nothing will stop me from this place of discipline because I know the power of it.

**(2 Timothy 2:10 NKJV) Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

Verse 10. This will get some of the so-called get your theological underwear all knotted up as we hear and we see the elect that would tend to be considered chosen by God, predestined. But then it says that they may obtain their salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. And it's in the context of a word that went forth. That someone had to preach it, that they had to be convinced that this word was worth following and worth applying to their life so that they could have eternal life with Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

And rather than get into a theological conversation that no one has ever solved in 2000 years, I just make the point for each and every one of us. There's a place that we've been put in this amazing dynamic of God choosing people, calling people, saving people, and he puts us in the midst of it whether you're a pastor, children's church leader or a parent teaching your children. We are living for something greater than ourselves. Christian, we are living for something so much greater than ourselves. We are living as these vessels of God before people, the elect, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Paul endured. All things

Last week we talked that a soldier needs to be deployable. Soldiers deploy. They go where the battle is. They go where the king wants to wage a war, take a land, set captives free. We don't have to quit our jobs. Some may because what God would ask. But for most God deploys us to where we are. And I think we can miss that, that we're soldiers in the workplace. We're soldiers, as dads fighting for our marriages and our children who are soldiers there on the school campus. This world is not our home. We wait for a city whose builder and maker is God. And it's surely not this world.

One of the greatest pictures of deployable soldiers is found in Ezra, the Babylonian captivity has come to the end as God deemed it. 70 years for not given Sabbath rest to the land. And the option is given for the children of Israel to return to the land, which many of them won't they'll stay in their comfort in Babylon, even though it's not the Homeland that they've been promised. But they built homes, they opened up businesses and they found themselves in comfort. But there will be a group who will sense and feel the calling of God. And they will return to the land that God has promised them. And it will be led by a man, his name will be Zerubbabel. His name in the Babylonian name means joy in affliction. And he will lead them, this group to rebuild the broken down walls, to reclaim the city of God, whose name is upon that city. But above all, to rebuild the temple of God.

Here, we see a man and we see a people fully deployable. To go where God would call them to go to do a work for the glory of God.

In Ezra 2, we see bunch of names. We see a bunch of lineages. We see a bunch of numbers and we can read through it and think it's ad nauseam some account, but it's more than that. Ezra 2 speaks of the promise that the children of Israel would come back in into their home. They would reclaim the land. That their exile and their defeat

was not permanent. But it was a discipline and the judgment they brought upon themselves. But God promised He would bring them back. And here we see in Ezra 2, a recording of God's faithfulness of everyone that came back, as He said that they would. Because He's compassionate, He's unfailing, He's full of faith. That's what faithfulness means full of faith. And here I can find myself putting so much on myself. But I can just come and rest in God's grace and the promise of his word that can't be chained and the faithfulness of it. I just need to get to him. He who is faithful, who promises me that He cannot deny himself and himself is his word. Therefore, He can't deny the word that He promises me. God is faithful. And He proves it in every sunrise. It's a picture that the sun will rise and that his mercies are new every morning. And great is his faithfulness to us because of a faithful God.

*Ezra 2:1–42 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city. <sup>2</sup> Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: <sup>3</sup> the people of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two; <sup>4</sup> the people of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two; <sup>5</sup> the people of Arah, seven hundred and seventy-five; <sup>6</sup> the people of Pahath-Moab, of the people of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve; <sup>7</sup> the people of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four; <sup>8</sup> the people of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five; <sup>9</sup> the people of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty; <sup>10</sup> the people of Bani, six hundred and forty-two; <sup>11</sup> the people of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-three; <sup>12</sup> the people of Azgad, one thousand two hundred and twenty-two; <sup>13</sup> the people of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-six; <sup>14</sup> the people of Bigvai, two thousand and fifty-six; <sup>15</sup> the people of Adin, four hundred and fifty-four; <sup>16</sup> the people of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight; <sup>17</sup> the people of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-three; <sup>18</sup> the people of Jorah, one hundred and twelve; <sup>19</sup> the people of Hashum, two hundred and twenty-three; <sup>20</sup> the people of Gibbar, ninety-five; <sup>21</sup> the people of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three; <sup>22</sup> the men of Netophah, fifty-six; <sup>23</sup> the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight; <sup>24</sup> the people of Azmaveth, forty-two; <sup>25</sup> the people of Kirjath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three; <sup>26</sup> the people of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one; <sup>27</sup> the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two; <sup>28</sup> the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three; <sup>29</sup> the people of Nebo, fifty-two; <sup>30</sup> the people of Magbish, one hundred and fifty-six; <sup>31</sup> the people of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four; <sup>32</sup> the people of Harim, three hundred and twenty; <sup>33</sup> the people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five; <sup>34</sup> the people of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five; <sup>35</sup> the people of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty. <sup>36</sup> The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three; <sup>37</sup> the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two; <sup>38</sup> the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven; <sup>39</sup> the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen. <sup>40</sup> The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy-four. <sup>41</sup> The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight. <sup>42</sup> The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, and the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-nine in all.

*Ezra 2:64 (NKJV)* <sup>64</sup> The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

*Lamentations 3:22–26 (NKJV)* <sup>22</sup> Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.

When the children of Israel were in captive in Babylon. There was absolutely nothing that they did, nothing that they could do to take that land back Jerusalem, Israel. They were slaves, they were assimilated into Babylon. They were not free men. They were not free to leave Babylon at their choosing. They could only go because the king of Babylon and now Persia would let them go. It was nothing in and of themselves. The only reason they were able to return was because God's faithful word said that they would.

But notice here in Ezra 2, they left Babylon from their comfort of their homes. They built the businesses, established friendships and relationships to deploy into something that was part of something bigger. To go back into something that was harder, yet greater in reward and let it be noted. God counted every last one of them, He sees it.

God counts every person who will not deny his name, verse 13. Don't you ever forget that. He cannot deny Himself, because He cannot deny His Word, because He is the Word, and we can be strong and find grace in that.

*2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

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

*John 1:14 (NKJV)* <sup>14</sup> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Zerubbabel would lead them in power. And like grace, it wasn't in his might of his army because he had none. It wasn't in the power of his organizational skills. It was simply in the grace of God, his Zechariah 4:6 by might nor by power. But by thy spirit saith the Lord to Zerubbabel.

*Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> *So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

And may I just note, if you ever feel forgotten, outnumbered, lost, far away. Come back to Ezra 2, read it by name, read it by number, mark the name, mark the number because you'll see God's faithfulness. And you know we often say in Christianity, we're not just a number. And that's true in a sense as the world looks at people, you're just a name and a number you're not personal and precious. But actually you are numbered with the Lord. You're one that is numbered. As he numbers you as his own. I see you, says the father. Let the people know Ezra. I saw every last one of them. I counted them. They're numbered in my sight, and they are precious in my sight.

Peter says we are his own special people, a holy nation, a special treasure unto the Lord.

*1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)* <sup>9</sup> *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

**(2 Timothy 2:11 NKJV) This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.**

Verse 11 in John 14, Jesus says that he goes to prepare a place for us, that where he is there we shall be. It's all based on the power of the resurrection, which was all based on the grace of God who gave his own begotten son that whoever should believe in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

*John 14:1–6 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know."<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

*John 3:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**(2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV) If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.**

Verse 12. If we endure, we shall also reign with him. This is the promise of you've been faithful with the little things, I'll make you ruler over many. What we do here now for the kingdom, what we do here now for the king and the captain of our salvation will determine what we do in the millennial kingdom when that time is established here on earth. So there is an investment in the eternal things that will reap dividends



for 1,000 years. And hence the word that came from verse 4, entangling ourselves with the affairs of this life for the shortness of it, the 120 years, if we would be so blessed to live that long, is still a blank compared to the millennial kingdom, the 1,000 years, and what we'll be doing for him.

*Luke 19:15–19 (NKJV)* <sup>15</sup> “And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. <sup>16</sup> Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ <sup>19</sup> Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be over five cities.’

*Revelation 20:4–6 (NKJV)* <sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

If we endure

In Psalm 27, verse 14, it says, wait upon the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait I say on the Lord. And as we have studied the strength and the courage is verse one of chapter two, here. We're to be strong in the grace. Courage and strength are nearly inseparable. And we find our courage and we find strength in resting on the grace of the Lord. Unmerited favor because He's faithful, compassionate, and we can rest in that.

*Psalm 27:13–14 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. <sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

*2 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Verse 12. If we deny him, He also denies us. I do not believe that this is something that contradicts verse 13 about if we are faithless, He remains faithful. I believe it's a diagnostic indicator of where our heart truly is if we are enduring and living and reigning with him, or if we just think that we are. In Matthew 10:32 and 33, Jesus would say, "If you confess me before men, I will confess you before my father in heaven. If you deny me before men, I will deny you before my father in heaven." That's the words in red of Jesus Christ. And I believe it's a diagnostic word of where the heart really is when we get challenged with our faith, with standing with Jesus, with standing with his word, with standing with the profession of our faith.

*Matthew 10:32–39 (NKJV)* <sup>32</sup> “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; <sup>36</sup> and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ <sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

If we find ourselves in a place we deny him, we should do some introspect evaluation of our heart and ask ourselves, just where do we stand with the Lord. When He's not popular, do we stand with him, or do we only stand with him on Sunday when He is popular?

Richard Wurmbrand, who spent 14 years in a brutal Romanian prison, said, “there were two kinds of Christians: those who sincerely believe in God and those who, just as sincerely, believe that they believe. You can tell them apart by their actions in decisive moments.”

\* — Richard Wurmbrand, *In God's Underground*

**(2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV) If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

Verse 13. If we are faithless, He remains faithful. He cannot deny himself. And there it is again, where we started, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. It's grace. It's all grace. And we can live in the strength of this grace. If we are faithless, He remains faithful. He cannot deny himself.

Christian may we never interpret any words of God apart from him who speaks them. They must all be in the light of him and his nature and his attributes of love and grace and mercy. We're to take his words as if we are standing face to face with him and He is speaking them, because truly that is what is happening. As the word of God be, is living and powerful. It's a living God speaking to us and He is speaking his heart to us. He speaks promises. He speaks power. He speaks warning. He speaks discipline. But in all of his words, He speaks them for our good. Because He is a good, good father. Amen.

God will always be faithful

God will always be faithful, for He can't deny Himself. I go off, moved away, I miss the blessing, but when I return, the blessing will flow.

Old Faithful

*You travel with me halfway across the country to Yellowstone National Park. There we are, standing by the fence waiting for Old Faithful to erupt—as it does every 92 minutes. But after about 30 minutes, you become bored and you see a goose which you follow into the woods. I remain by the fence and see the spectacle of Old Faithful's geyser. You, on the other hand, miss out because you're on a wild goose chase. Finally you say, 'This is dumb. I'm going back to position myself close to Old Faithful again.'*

*Now, when Old Faithful sees you coming, it doesn't say, 'Well, well, well. Look who's finally decided to show up. There's no way I will erupt for you. You've been on a wild goose chase.' No, Old Faithful erupts regularly, faithfully, no matter where you are or aren't.*

*Paul is saying that God is, in the best sense of the word, Old Faithful, because His blessings are continually flowing. If I go off on a wild goose chase, I won't be blessed—not because the blessings aren't there, but because I've moved away. But once I realize I'm in the woods on some crazy excursion and return to the geyser of the goodness of God's grace, I find that God is faithful still.*

*For years, I thought God had to be primed—through praise, prayer, and devotion. And I thought if I could just pump the handle of His blessings hard enough, blessing would start coming my way. But then I realized His grace is there any time I choose to come back to my senses and come back to Him.*

*God cannot deny Himself, gang. He's not faithful one day, and frustrated the next. He's not generous one day, but stingy the next. He is continually and completely faithful. (Courson)*

God is not Moody / Prodigal Son

This is grace Timothy, it is all grace. God is not moody, guarantee anytime you want to come back and say here I am, He is ready to receive you and bless you. If you've been away it doesn't take a week or month before the blessings will flow, they will come immediately, so come back immediately. The Prodigal Son, the moment He came home, dad ran to him, and the celebration began. Don't ever wait, He is Faithful.

**Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*



