

**Endure**  
*A Study of 2 Timothy*  
Week 03: Duties of a Believer (Part 1)

**Scripture**

2 Timothy 2:1-13

**Review (Where We Are)**

*Here's where we are in history...*

- Second letter to the young pastor, Timothy (Timothy has been ministering in the churches at Ephesus for 4 years)
- Final writing from a Roman prison and before his death (martyred in AD67)
- The Roman Emperor, Nero, blamed Christians for the great fire in Rome (burned half of Rome in AD64) and they came under great persecution
- Purpose was to encourage Timothy to **endure** trials and hardships

“The second letter to Timothy offers a picture of Paul at the end of his ministry, just before his death. Certain personal details in the letter reveal a man settling his accounts and preparing for the inevitable. It is as if Paul were giving Timothy a ‘state of the church’ address, updating Timothy on the current state of their acquaintances and friends so that the young pastor could carry on after Paul’s departure.” - Charles Swindoll

**2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV)** “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

*Advice So Far...*

- Faithfully use your gifts given to you by God  
**2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- Faithfully guard the truth given to us by God  
**2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV)** Follow the pattern of the words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

## Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

“Paul is calling for Timothy to overcome his apparent drift toward weakness and renew his commitment to his ministry.” - John MacArthur

I love that the Scriptures don't leave out the struggles and hardships faced by believers.

Paul knew Timothy was struggling and would need to push beyond his “limits.”

In our journey with the Lord, we ride waves of ups and downs; however, but we must find strength in Him to endure.

## Information (What They Need to Know)

**2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace [*favor; kindness*] that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, [*Greek word anthropoi can refer to both men and women*] who will be able to teach others also.

✓ Strength is found in God's goodness to us in Christ

- God's Word is not bound

**2 Timothy 2:8 (ESV)** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

- Salvation and eternal life are not bound

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

✓ Strength is found in the building up, edifying, and empowering of others to share the “burden” of truth-telling (investment in others)

## Examples of enduring hardship and remaining faithful...

▪ **Soldier** (focused on what he's trained to do)

**2 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)** 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.

- Doesn't get caught up with things that distract from enjoying God and carrying out His work (Disciplined, Single-minded, Loyal)
- Aims to please his commander

- **Athlete** (lives within God's boundaries)  
**2 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.  
"Every athletic event has its boundaries, its rules; moreover, all who fail to discipline themselves to observe these rules are disqualified. This requires a Christian to have strong qualities of discipline, self-control, endurance, and a certain toughness." - Bible Knowledge Commentary
- **Farmer** (hard work leads to enjoyment of the harvest)  
**2 Timothy 2:6 (ESV)** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

### Application (What They Need to Do)

In endurance of hardship there is hope...

**2 Timothy 2:11 (ESV)** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; **12** if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; **13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

For those who believe...

- Physical death and persecution end in eternal life
- Endurance leads to enjoyment in Christ's kingdom

However...

- Those who reject Jesus, will experience God's wrath
- Their faithlessness doesn't change God's faithfulness