



ENTRUSTED: MULTIPLY YOUR LIFE  
2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7



CONNECT

Have you ever had to work hard for something? How much more satisfying was it to finally succeed?

WORD

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (ESV) - <sup>1</sup>You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup>An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup>It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

Paul opens this section of his second letter to Timothy by again urging him to “be strengthened.” This was an important encouragement. Paul knew that Timothy would need strength and endurance to fulfill the calling God gave him. Again, this is one of the twenty-five times Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong and endure in his work in Ephesus. It seems that Timothy was naturally timid and easily discouraged so he needed to be told often, “Be strong.”

Paul told Timothy a specific way to be strong - that is, to be strong "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." This strength in grace is essential for a strong Christian life. "Grace here has its simplest theological meaning, as the divine help, the unmerited gift of assistance that comes from God." Resting in the grace - the unmerited favor of God towards us that is in Christ Jesus - gives a confidence and boldness we could never have when thinking we are on probation or thinking God hasn't made up His mind about us yet.

So, what did Paul think that Timothy would need all of this great strength for? What special task required Timothy to be so strong that Paul felt it was necessary to emphasize it so often? God was entrusting Timothy with a special ministry. God gave the gospel to Timothy, not for him to keep, but for him to pass on to others. An essential part of his work was to pour into others what God had committed to him.

Paul reminded Timothy of the body of truth that he had heard from the Apostle in the presence of many others. Certainly, Timothy heard many Bible studies from Paul, and shared much time with the Apostle in personal discipleship. Now he tells him to commit those truths to faithful men in the same way that they were committed to him.

When Timothy looked for those whom he could pour discipleship into. He didn't need to find smart men, popular men, strong men, perfect men, or good-looking men; Paul told him to look for faithful men. Without faithfulness to the teaching and example of Jesus, the idea of discipleship is nothing more than the laying of empty hands onto empty heads.

But this task would not be easy. Paul knows that it will require great endurance, perseverance and commitment to accomplish. He uses three examples of faithful endurance to illustrate the kind of task that Timothy has ahead of him and the qualities that Timothy must have to succeed.

First, Paul says that Timothy must be a “good soldier.” A soldier has to give up many things. Some of them are bad things (pride, independence, self-will), and some of them are good things (his home, his family). Nevertheless, if a soldier is not willing to give up these things, he is not a soldier at all.

Next, Timothy must persevere for God with an athlete’s attitude. “An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules”: The point is clear. An athlete can’t make up the rules as he pleases; he must compete according to the rules if he wants to receive the crown. So too, we must follow God’s plan for discipleship. We cannot do it our way if we expect to succeed.

Lastly, Paul calls on Timothy to look to the farmer as an example. In calling Timothy to have the attitude of a farmer, Paul emphasized the fact that farmers are hard-working. In the same way, all who serve the Lord should be hard-working. Unlike the soldier and the athlete, there is nothing glamorous about the work a farmer does. It is often tedious, boring, and unexciting. The nation’s best farmer really isn’t a celebrity. But he must work hard just the same.

#### SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today’s message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?

- God is always there to give us strength; He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might, He increases strength ... those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength (Isaiah 40:29, 30). However, we must receive this strength. How do we receive God's strength? What does waiting on the Lord for strength look like?
- There is nothing that can make us as strong as saying, "I am a child of God in Jesus Christ" and "I have the love and favor of God even though I don't deserve it." That is the strength that comes by grace. How has God brought grace into your life? How did that grace strengthen you?

#### NOW WHAT

How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about making disciples? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does advice to Timothy change the way you feel about your relationship with God?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? What specific plan will you put in place to multiply your life?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?