



## Go Thru

### *Go Series*

### Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 2:1-13 (NKJV)

#### Be Strong in Grace

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 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. 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. 10 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. 11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

## Introduction

The tough reality that many of us as believers must be willing to embrace is that God has called us to a life of accountability. Accountability to His Word and an accountability to each other so that His Word is fulfilled in us. The Gifts of the Spirit (shepherding, prophecy, teaching, evangelism and the sending to establish) are all 1 ministry of the Holy Spirit to ensure that we are built up in the faith to ENDURE! We must remember that our Comforter is also a Coach. Our Deliverer is also a Driver towards our destiny. Our Healer also holds us accountable to what He's asked us to do. And outside of His Grace, Mercy, guidance and strength, He offers no shortcuts to accomplishing His will or reaching our destination. The confident instruction He gives us today is to "Go Thru!"

Today's Scripture places us in the pages of a letter that Paul wrote to Timothy, giving him instruction and admonishing to ENDURE.

## You Can't Go On Your Own

- Verses 1 and 2, Paul tells him to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- Paul never places the grace and permission in his own hands but points to Jesus as the source for Timothy.
- And secondly, he tells Timothy, not only will Christ help you, but you need to pass along what you've learned to others so that they can help you.

## You Can't Go with Entanglements

Paul in his letter to Timothy wrote in the voice of a coach that gave Timothy no shortcuts and left no crumbs in his encouragement and admonishing to him.

- The word entanglements became a firestorm across the internet because of celebrity infidelities and what was unspeakable became known on the mouths of everybody
  - Entanglements not only distract but they also tear down relationships, homes, establishments, and erode trust
  - They also impede a person from being who they are supposed to be and prevents them from accomplishing what they are to accomplish
  - The same principle applies to a soldier governing themselves to remain faithful to the mission.
- Veres 3 and 4 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
- There are certain affairs that soldiers cannot and should not entangle themselves with lest they miss the mark and don't complete the mission.
- It means that many times they will see something or hear something and not engage with it because the mission is paramount
- These soldiers learn how to ward off distractions or even cries for support in a certain area because if they deviate, there is no air or ground support to protect them if they deviate from the mission parameters

## You Can't Go and Disqualify Yourself

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

- Imagine you have trained for the Olympics for months and with that training comes a rigorous schedule and a careful observance of the rules. Only to reach the finals and be the quickest on the track but have your victory taken away because you violated the rules leading to your disqualification.
- This is the state of many in the Church today. After running for so long, preparing for so long, winning many races, they can find themselves losing the finals because they disqualified themselves. They didn't follow the rules.
  - Using artificial enhancements can disqualify you
  - Going before the pistol can disqualify you
  - Not staying in their lane on the corners can disqualify you
  - Injuring another runner can disqualify you
  - Not following the prescribed rules for the track or circuit can disqualify you
  - NOT FINISHING THE RACE can disqualify you
- In the Spirit, there are rules to running this Christian race

- Living in Spirit and in Truth
- Obeying the Lord and not going ahead of Him
- Staying faithful to what you're called to do and not changing your lane to get an advantage
- Pulling others down to get ahead
- Not submitting ourselves to Scriptural guidance
- Not enduring to the end

## You Can't Go and be Unfruitful

6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

- Consider the diligence of the farmer. If they don't plant, they won't eat or be able to profit from what they've grown
- They must weather every season; they cannot skip fall or winter but prepare the ground and the livestock accordingly
- They must commit to wait for that season to change before taking the next diligent step
- They must protect the crops from critters, insects and foul that would eat or destroy the crops.
- But when there is a harvest, he must share in partaking of it and not neglect himself in the reward.

## Conclusion

- There are some places and stages that we just want to **"get to"** and skip some steps, some stops, some seasons, on the way and just **"get to"** the destination. But there are times when you have to **"Go Thru."**
- There are some instances where we would rather **"go around"** a huge obstacle and entertain any detour that takes us around it. But it is necessary that you **"Go Thru."**
- We can wish ourselves to **"go beyond"** something and want to start at a better starting point that will give us an advantage, **"skip the line"** or start at a better position. But you don't get to do that. You have to **"Go Thru."**
- How about when you try to **"go before"** something or try to get out ahead of something to avoid a consequence, a difficulty, a problem. Sometimes there's grace and opportunity for that—and sometimes there's no option by to **"Go Thru it."**

So much of Jesus' life and ministry showed us that there are going to be inevitable things that will approach us on our journey. They are written into the script and they are a part of the story that the author and finisher has intended. We cannot skip our lines, or rush the scene or try to get to the curtain call to take a bow if we haven't gone through what is written.

Jesus Himself was bound to what was already written of Him. And He came face to face with His fate in the Garden of Gethsemane when he said "Mark 14:36 (NKJV)

36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

Go Thru!