

TRUTHS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

ENDURE HARDSHIPS (2 TIMOTHY 1-2)

Memory Verse: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

II Timothy 3:16



2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Hardships can be the perfect environment to see the faithfulness of God and shine grace into the hearts of people watching you.

- **2 Timothy 2:3 | John 16:33 | Acts 14:22**

1. Endure Hardships by Standing in God's Grace

- 2 Timothy 2:1
- Grace is not only used to comfort/bleed, but it is also used to strengthen/fortify
- The Greek word for **strengthen** (*Endynamou*) is also used in Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:17
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
- Fear is the tool of the enemy; Power, love, self-control are God's tools. God never calls you to fear anything, only the fear of God is called wisdom
- Paul learned the power of grace through his own thorn in the flesh
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9
- You don't endure hardships by becoming stronger in yourself; but rather, by becoming stronger in the grace of Jesus. Grace causes you to rejoice in the hardship!

2. Endure Hardships by Proclaiming God's Truth

- 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- Notice the words **pattern** and **good deposit**.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15
- It's not enough to read Scripture, we must accurately interpret, communicate, and live it.
- **Rightly handling** (*orthotomeo*) means to cut straight. We do not twist Scripture to match our life, but rather we must conform our lives to Scripture.
- The Gospel is not our story to rewrite, but it is God's truth to be communicated.
- If you don't keep Scriptures straight, then you will mislead people, like Hymenaeus and Philetus.
- Martin Luther said at the Diet of Worms council "My conscience is captive to the Word of God"

3. Endure Hardships by Living as a Faithful Servant of Jesus

- 2 Timothy 2:4-6
- The soldier, the athlete, and the farmer are all called to endure hardships. Your calling does not absolve you from hardships.
 - 2 Timothy 2:11-13
- Eternity provides the lens for our perspective of endurance. Earthly perspectives distort our view from endurance to excuses.

- 2 Timothy 2:22
- When you are enduring well, then there are four characteristics that will be evident in your life: righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace.
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- We can disagree without being hateful; we can communicate truth without fighting
 - 1 Peter 3:15
- May we live so close to Jesus, that any hardships would not harden our hearts but rather provide an opportunity to shine Jesus into the hearts of others.

Questions:

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8; 2:1; Psalm 46:1-3; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 4:16. Where do you turn when hardship comes? What is your first response to difficult situations: worry, complain, isolation, anger, control? Using 2 Timothy 2:1 as your foundation, deliberately surrender one current hardship to God every day for the next week.
2. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Romans 1:16; Mark 8:38; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 4:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15-16. What does it mean to be unashamed of Christ? How does it relate to fear of people compared to burdened for people? Where are you most tempted to remain silent about Jesus? Why? Ask God to give you one opportunity this week to speak naturally and graciously about your faith to someone.
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19; Acts 17:11; Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 8:20; Titus 1:9; Jude 3-4. What does it mean to rightly handle the word of truth? How do false teachers have such a large following? How well do you know what Scripture actually teaches? Choose one doctrine you believe strongly and write down at least five passages that support it.
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:3-7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 6:7-10; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 5:7-8; Luke 9:62. Which of Paul's three illustrations best describes your current spiritual condition (commitment, discipline, patience)? Endurance requires all three. List an area in your life where you need to practice/strengthen these characteristics to endure hardship better.
5. Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13, 20-26; Romans 5:3-5; 8:18; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Hebrews 12:1-3. Can hardship make you more like Jesus? Explain. Rather than asking "Why is this happening to me" maybe a better question would be "Lord, what are You teaching me through this?" Think back to a recent hardship. Did it produce bitterness, anger, unbelief, and isolation? Or did it produce joy, prayer, dependence on God, patience? The product of any hardship reveals the content of our heart. How hard would life have to get before you would quit following Jesus? Explain.