

Fighting By Faith For The Glory Of God

IABC National Conference

2 Timothy 2:1-6

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QUESTION: What are the overwhelming circumstances of your life that would cause you to feel like Timothy probably did?

2 Timothy 2:1 "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

I. What Does It Mean To Be Strong In The Grace Of God?

Be strengthened, be strong (1743) [endunamou] {ενδυναμου}

Grammatically, Paul's words 'be strengthened' (be strong in) are in the form of what we may call "a passive imperative." The passive voice indicates something done to us, not by us, while the imperative mood is used to command someone to do something. When we want someone to do something, we ordinarily use the active voice, not the passive. Paul's words 'be strengthened' indicate that something is to be done to Timothy. He's to be strengthened by something outside himself. That something is "the grace that is in Christ Jesus." ~ Jerry Bridges

II. What is this grace?

Grace (5485) [charis] {χαρις}

A. Grace is _____ for _____ to those who don't deserve _____.

B. Grace is summed up in the _____, _____ and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Four Examples Of How To Be Strong In The Grace Of God

A. The Strong, Faithful _____ (2 Timothy 2:2)

'The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.'

1. Teachers hear, receive and transmit the truth to others so they may be able to pass it on to others in future generations.
2. Teachers Teach In Times Of Persecution And _____
3. Teachers Teach Under _____ Opposition
4. Teachers Teach With Unwavering Commitment To The Word Of God

B. The Strong, Faithful _____ (2 Timothy 2:3)
'Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.'

Suffer Hardship (4777) [sugkakopatheo] {συγκακοπαθεο}

To suffer ill treatment, endure persecution, suffer misfortune.

1. Soldiers Are Longsuffering In Enduring _____
2. Soldiers Are Focused In Their _____
 - Soldiers must have minds girded for action
 - Soldiers must put on the full armor of Christ
 - Soldiers must concentrate on the task at hand to survive.
3. Soldiers Are Devoted To _____ The One Who Enlisted Them
 - Soldiers desire to please their commanders. Christians should desire to please their Great Commander, Jesus Christ.

C. The Strong, Faithful _____ (2 Timothy 2:5)
'Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.'

1. Athletes Are _____

- Athletes understand the need to abide by the rules if they desire to win. Christians must abide by the rules.
- Jesus calls upon Christians to observe what He taught.
- We must be doers of the Word, not hearers only who deceive themselves (James 1:22).

2. Athletes Are _____ - _____

- Athletes know that ultimate victory requires great self-control. Should Christians exercise self-control any less (1 Corinthians 9:27)?

D. The Strong, Faithful _____ (2 Timothy 2:6)
'The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.'

Hardworking (2872) [kopiao] {κοπιαο}

Labor, fatigue – it means to exhibit great effort and exertion to the point of sweat and exhaustion, to physically become worn out, weary or faint.

1. Farmers Are Hardworking And _____
2. Farmers Are _____

"Life is the seedtime of eternity." – Precepts Austin Commentary

IV. So How Do We Fight This Good Fight Of Faith?

'Work out your salvation in fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'
 ~ Philippians 2:12-13

Practical Ways To Be Strong In God's Many Graces

'As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.' ~ 1 Peter 4:10

'For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.' ~ John 1:16

- A.** Be Strong In The Grace Of God's Word (Psalm 119:11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12)
- B.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Prayer (Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- C.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Christian Fellowship (Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:24-25)
- D.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Trusting In The Lord
'Trust in the Lord and do good.' ~ Psalm 37:3
- E.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Fighting The Good Fight
'Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.' ~ 1 Timothy 6:12
- F.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Walking By Faith
'For we walk by faith and not by sight.' ~ 2 Corinthians 5:7
- G.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Depending On God's Mercy
'So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs but on God who has mercy.' ~ Romans 9:16
- H.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Disciplining Yourself For The Purpose Of Godliness
'But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.' ~ 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- I.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Living By The Spirit, Not By The Flesh
'So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.' ~ Romans 8:12-14
- J.** Be Strong In The Grace Of Refusing To Carry Out The Desires Of The Flesh
'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the

Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.'

~ Galatians 5:16-17

K. Be Strong In The Grace Of Putting On Your Spiritual Armor

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.'

~ Ephesians 6:10-13

L. Be Strong In The Grace Of Being Able To Resist The Devil

'Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.'

~ James 4:7

M. Be Strong In The Grace Of Being Able To Be Pure In Heart

'Blessed are pure in heart, for they shall see God.' ~ Matthew 5:8

N. Be Strong In The Grace Of Being Able To Be Thankful In All Circumstances

'In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

O. Be Strong In The Grace Of Being Able To Do All Things Through Jesus Christ Who Strengthens You

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

~ Philippians 4:13

V. Be Motivated By The Grace Of Fighting By Faith For The Glory Of God

A. We were created for God's glory.

"Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made." ~ Isaiah 43:7

B. Faith glorifies God.

'...with respect to the promise of God, [Abraham] did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God...'

~ Romans 4:20

C. We overcome the world by faith. Faith is the victory!

'For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.' ~ 1 John 5:4

D. Our faith speaks into other's hearts for the glory of God.

'By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he [his faith] still speaks.' ~ Hebrews 11:4

E. Everything you do, do to the glory of God!

'Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.' ~ 1 Corinthians 10:31

'Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'

~ Romans 12:1-2

'The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'

~ Westminster Confession

'God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.'

~ John Piper