

2 Timothy 2:1-4 *Thou [Timothy] therefore, my [Paul] son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses [his changed life, his faithfulness in sharing God's message with everyone he could], the same commit thou to faithful men [these things you must continue to teach each new, faithful believer], who shall be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness [difficulty], as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself [Soldiers who must be ready to go to war at any time do not get involved] with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier [that he may please the one in authority over him].*

I. Introduction: Who will take their place?

- A. Memorials are often erected to remember people who give their lives in the defense of their country, or the defense of the principles that country is founded on. New soldiers must be recruited and trained to take the places of those who can no longer serve.
- B. In the same way, Christians should remember those who give their lives in the service of Christ. We should follow their examples and we should support young people who would take the places of veteran servants of Christ as they pass from their time of serving and defending the Kingdom of Christ.
- C. The role of the Pastor/Missionary
  1. Soldier: Training for spiritual battle over the eternal souls of people
  2. Teacher: Preparing those given to him by Christ for the work of the ministry, Ephesians 4:11-12
  3. Leader: Directing the forces and resources he has to the battle at hand
  4. Recruiter: Challenging others to join the strife based on their love for the Savior, to serve Him directly
  5. Protector: Ensuring his people are safe from attacks from outside and subversion from within. Equipping his people to recognize and resist the enemy.
  6. Provider: Asking his Commander, the King of kings, for the things needed to accomplish the mission.
- D. It must be God who calls the Pastor/Missionary to His service. It will be God who enables us to serve Him.

1 Timothy 1:12 *And I [Paul] thank **Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me [He knew I would be] faithful, putting me into the ministry;***

- II. Be Strong in the Grace of God, verse 1: "...*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...*":
- A. Grace for serving: God working in and through us
    1. A person can sense God's grace working in them. Their attitude will be pleasant and humble
    2. A person can see God's grace working in them. Their dress and demeanor will be modest and godly, they will persevere, be longsuffering, generous...
    3. A Christian will worship and serve well as God's grace works in them. Hebrews 12:28 *Wherefore we receiving [Since we will be given] a kingdom which cannot be moved, **let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:***
  - B. Grace for suffering, verse 3: "...*endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ...*"
    1. Ministry is a war against the Devil, against the world, and even against your own flesh.  
2 Corinthians 12:9 *And he [God] said unto me [Paul], "**My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness** [my strength is most effective when you are the weakest]." *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me* [I want other people to give God the glory as He works through me rather than me doing the work in my own strength].*
    2. Suffering from your enemies actions  
1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man* [temptations happen to you just like everyone else has also experienced]: *but God is faithful, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it* [that you won't be overcome and give in to the temptation].
    3. Suffering from your allies. Sometimes those you trust will betray you. Consider Judas. Consider Demas. Rely on God's grace during these times.
  - C. Grace for Sanctification: Read the requirements for the pastor in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and other scriptures. Note that this office is called "a good work," meaning there is work involved. This list is only some of the qualifications.
    1. Family qualifications: Faithful to his marriage vows, manages his home life well, his children respect and obey him
    2. Social qualifications: hospitable, avoiding arguments, respected by those outside the faith
    3. Ministry (leadership) qualifications: Able to teach, content with what he has, mature in the faith
    4. Temperamental qualifications: Self-controlled, even-tempered, not violent, gentle, humble
    5. Moral qualifications: Above reproach, respectable, avoiding alcohol, not greedy

III. Be Strong in the Gospel of Christ: Don't lose track that the Gospel is simply the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Don't let it become tied to any worldly causes.

A. The Doctrine of Christ: God was manifest in the flesh,

1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness [Without question, the mystery behind all true godliness is great]: God was manifest in the flesh [God became a man], justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

- Share this doctrine with others, especially those close to you.

Romans 10:1 *Brethren, my [Paul] heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel [his people and countrymen] is, **that they might be saved.***

B. The Doctrine of God's Word:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God [The Bible is the Word of God from His own breath], and is profitable for doctrine [summarized Bible principles], for reproof [to show us how to live right], for correction [to show us how fix anything that is wrong in our lives], for instruction in righteousness: **That the man of God may be perfect** [fully mature], thoroughly furnished unto [thoroughly prepared for] all good works.*

1. Preach the Word

Proverbs 22:28 *Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set [When something has been established and proven for many generations, do not try to change it].*

2. God's Word is alive

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick [alive], and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit [it can cut so precisely that it can separate your soul from your spirit], and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

IV. Be Strong in the Gifts of God: Each Christian has spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit for serving within the Church. Pastors and Missionaries must have a special set of gifts to serve the whole Church under Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:6 *Wherefore I [Paul] put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands** [Timothy, I want you to remember to use that gift of God which came to live in you when I laid my hands on you].*

A. For the edification of the church, the body of Christ

1 Peter 4:10-11 *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another [Every believer has a special spiritual talent given by the Holy Spirit which should be used to serve each other], as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup>If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God [If your spiritual gift is speaking, do so knowing you are speaking words that are from God Himself]; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth [if your gift is serving others, do so with the talent and strength which God gives you]: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

- Do this all to the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

B. Types of spiritual gifts

1. Serving Gifts: A servant is humble

Philippians 2:5-7 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*

[Consider the mindset of Jesus, when He was on this earth, and adopt it for yourselves]:

*Who, being in the form of God* [Though He was God in every way], *thought it not robbery to be equal with God* [was willing to lay aside His deity]: *But made himself of no reputation* [and lived His life as any other man], *and took upon him the form of a servant* [and sought to serve others rather than be served], *and was made in the likeness of men:*

2. Leadership Gifts: Christians will look to the Pastor/Missionary as a role model, someone to pattern their life after

Romans 12:6-8 *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith* [if we speak in God's place, let us speak only that which we know God has spoken]; *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering* [if your gift is serving, serve as well as God enables you]; *or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation* [if your gift is encouraging others, then encourage well]; *he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity* [if your gift is giving, then give generously]; *he that ruleth, with diligence* [if your gift is administration, then do the best job possible]; *he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness* [if your gift is showing kindness, then do it cheerfully].

3. Preaching (Speaking) Gifts: Speaking for God must be clear and uncompromising

1 Peter 4:11a *If any man* [leader] *speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season* [be ready to proclaim Gods Word when you've prepared and when you're not prepared]; *reprove* [correct people's misunderstandings], *rebuke* [scold those who know better], *exhort* [encourage] *with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

V. Conclusion: Will you take their place?

- A. The attacks on the Man of God are many, varied, and persistent.
- B. Only through God's grace, in His strength, and through our own reliance on Him only, will we be able to serve God.
- C. God's clear plan for this world is to testify of His goodness and to win those who are without Christ away from an eternity separated from His presence.