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Lessons from the Book of 2 Timothy

By Ken Raggio

Praying For My Dearly Beloved Son In The Faith

Young Timothy, son of Eunice and grandson of Lois, both highly-esteemed and godly women, became Paul's faithful disciple at Lystra. Paul called him "my own son in the faith," and revealed that "from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures." He was ordained "by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery," and entered the ministry as Paul's missionary companion to Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas, Philippi, Veria, and Corinth. Paul prayed continuously for Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:2-3 - "My dearly beloved son: ...without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day."

The Gift That Is In Thee By The Laying On Of Hands

Paul was as a father to his son, and a spiritual mentor to his protege. He and Timothy were connected at the heart in matters pertaining to the Kingdom of God. He told Timothy that he was "greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears" and of "the unfeigned faith that is in thee." He reminded Timothy to use the gift he had received when Paul layed hands on him. Both were greatly anointed men of tears and prayer.

2 Timothy 1:6 - "Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

He Is Able To Keep That Which I Have Committed Unto Him

The great Apostle admonished Timothy that God "hath saved us, and called

us with an holy calling, ...Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles." The call of God will require much suffering of you, but He will never betray you. You need never be ashamed of your commitment.

2 Timothy 1:12 - "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Pray For Those Who Stand With You In Your Trial

Every saint will eventually be betrayed. Paul said, "All they which are in Asia be turned away from me." Only God knew his heartbreak. But Onesiphorus stood with him. Those who stand with you deserve your best prayers.

2 Timothy 1:16-18 - "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: ...many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus."

The Lord Give Thee Understanding In All Things

A popular worship chorus says, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord." Paul taught some very difficult themes to Timothy. Enduring hardness as a good soldier. Remaining unentangled with the affairs of this life. Suffering trouble as an evildoer, even unto bonds (imprisonment). "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus." Very few people ever understand the high price that is required to do the work of God. Pray for understanding.

2 Timothy 2:7 - "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

Even When We Do Not Believe, He Never Changes

Your unbelief and disobedience does nothing to diminish the nature of God. Despite our unfaithfulness, God remains faithful. Doubts, fears, unbelief, rebellion, skepticism and atheism never change who God is, or what He does. "Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" Romans 9:21-22. Go ahead. Believe Him. Trust Him. He is trustworthy.

2 Timothy 2:13 - "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

Eliminate All Unprofitable, Profane, And Vain Words

Good words. Bad words. Good words build, edify, heal and save. Bad words tear down, sicken and destroy. Every single word you utter has a positive or a negative effect. Some people think that they have to run their mouths about everything. If you can't say something good (something that is totally acceptable to God), STOP TALKING!

2 Timothy 2:14,16-17 - "Strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker

[gangrene]."

A Reservoir Of Wisdom

A person who studies God's word builds a reservoir of wisdom. Do not discount the potential of amassed wisdom. One who knows more can be magnificently resourceful, while the unlearned may harshly discover that ignorance is not bliss - it is a deprivation. I first read the entire New Testament at nine years old. I was rewarded with a new Bible. But more than the new Bible, I have drawn immeasurable and priceless wisdom for nearly a half-century. Start now. Don't delay.

2 Timothy 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God."

Follow Them That Call On The Lord Out Of A Pure Heart

After contrasting vessels of honor with vessels of dishonor, Paul admonished Timothy, "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." A man must "purge himself" from vessels of dishonor. We must stop following bad examples. Then he added, "follow... with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Find a pure-hearted PRAYING person.

2 Timothy 2:22 - "...follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Lord, Reward The Adversary According To His Works

We are required to endure hardship as a good soldier, suffer ourselves to be defrauded, and turn the other cheek. When Alexander the coppersmith "greatly withstood" Paul's words, Paul reported that he "did me much evil." Paul called on God to tend to the matter. "The Lord reward him according to his works." When Alexander opposed Paul, "no man stood with me, but all men forsook me."

2 Timothy 4:16-17 - "I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known."

The Lord Jesus Christ Be With Thy Spirit

We do not have the physical body of Jesus with us, but we have His Spirit. When the Holy Ghost fell on the Day of Pentecost, Peter said, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh..." Acts 2:16-17. Jesus had said, "...he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you," John 14:17. Jesus Christ indwells us by the Holy Ghost.


2 Timothy 4:22 - "The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit."

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