

The Strength is in the Foundation

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Questions:

- Think back over 2007:
 - What victories did you experience?
 - What failures?
 - How were you able to share the **GOSPEL** this year?
 - Did you undergo any difficulties and hardships?
 - What opinions did you follow, only to find that you were way off base and not **SCRIPTURAL**?

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus *vs. 1*

WHERE DOES STRENGTH COME FROM?

- How many times do we try to draw from our own strength?

TRUE STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD

- The Lord spoke to Joshua *Joshua 1:8,9*
- He gives **POWER** to the weak *Isaiah 40:29-31*
- “Be **STRONG** in the Lord & the power of His might” tells the Christian to put on the whole armor of God *Ephesians 6:10-11*
- I can do **ALL** things through Christ which strengthens me *Philippians 4:13*
- Jesus Christ **ENABLES** me *1 Timothy 1:12*
- When I am weak, then I am **STRONG** *2 Corinthians 12:10*

TRUE STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

Teacher – Give out of what you’ve learned *vs. 2*

GOD GAVE MINISTRY TO TIMOTHY, NOT FOR HIM TO KEEP, BUT FOR HIM TO PASS ON TO OTHERS

- Timothy was to pass on the things which Paul had poured into him. *2 Timothy 1:13*
- Timothy is to take what Paul had poured into his life and let it **OVERFLOW** into the lives of others.

PAUL SAID TO PASS IT ON TO FAITHFUL MEN

- He was to look for the quality of faithfulness.
- He didn’t need to find smart men, popular men, strong men, perfect men, or good-looking men, but **FAITHFUL** men.

You are a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ vs. 3, 4

YOU MUST ENDURE HARDSHIP

- How do those in the military develop their muscles?
- Through discipline and training.

AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST

- Good -

DON'T FALL TO THIS WORLD'S ENTANGLEMENTS

- We are engaged in warfare!
- The world may look appealing.

PLEASE HIM!

You are an athlete vs. 5

EVERY ATHLETE HAS A SPECIFIC GOAL– TO WIN THE PRIZE

- This requires:
 - COMPLETE devotion and stamina
 - COMPETE according to the rules
 - Self discipline
- Run according to God's rules, not your own opinion.

You are a farmer vs. 6

HARD WORKING FARMER

- Rise early
- Long hours, but STICK with it!
- There will be a reward.
- Fruit of the land – fruit in your LIFE James 1:25; Matthew 7:24-29

Consider what I say vs. 7

- Have a pursuit of excellence in the Christian life
- God wants us to reason
- He wants us to think things through.

Doing Deliberate Discipleship Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus tells of two MEN

- They hear the words of God.
- They both experienced the same storms in their life.
- The rain came, the flood came, the wind blew & beat on the house.

The WISE man obeyed

- He built on the rock – he heard and obeyed.
- He was thinking right, then he responded in obedience and was blessed! John 13:17; James 1:25

The FOOLISH man

- Heard the same word from the Lord, but chose to do things his own way.
 - "I know but..."
- Wrong thinking, wrong doing and the result: great was the fall.

What are you building on?
The solid Rock - who is Jesus Christ?
Obedience to the Word of God?

OR

The world's opinions and philosophies?
Your own opinions?
Your self-righteousness?

The Christian must train himself never to relax in the life-long attempt to make his soul pure and strong."

~ William Barclay