

## The Call to Faithfulness | 2 Timothy 4:5-22

As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the book, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

### The Call to Faithfulness

#### 1. "As for you..."

- a. Sober-minded;
- b. Endure hardship: avoid responding to hardship by...
  1. Being bitter;
  2. Quitting;
  3. Responding poorly
- c. Doing the work of an evangelist;
  1. Evangelism is work; work that is to be done and developed by every Christian;
- d. Fulfill your ministry

- "Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go." (Joshua 1:7)

## The Example of Faithfulness

1. Fighting the good fight: contending for the gospel;
2. Finishing the race: faithful obedience in the same direction;
3. Keeping the faith: guarding the gospel deposit that has been entrusted;
4. The crown of righteousness: What is ahead is not the present world, but the presence of Christ;

→ If we do answer the call to faithfulness and invest in the next generation and those around us, nothing will happen and the gospel will be lost.

- "And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel." (Judges 2:8,10)

- "Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2:10)

## The Life Realities of Faithfulness

1. Desertion: One of the most hurtful realities of faithfulness is that people will walk away;
2. Dependence: One of the most encouraging realities of faithfulness is the reliable friendships that you will develop along the way;
3. Dispatched: One of the most bitter-sweet realities of faithfulness is that God will call others away for gospel mission;
4. Denying Yourself: Whether encouraging or harmful, the Lord will always be with you and it is that hope that allows you to walk in humility and persevere for the sake of continually proclaiming His message.

## The Lord's Faithfulness

1. Grace: The Lord's faithfulness is fixed in His grace. Therefore, answering the call to faithfulness takes grit.
  - a. Forgiveness;
  - b. Worship;
  - c. Sustains;
  - d. Endurance;
  - e. Empowered

## Benediction | 2 Timothy 1:13-14

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.