

Pontius Pilate made me a good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blemish until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Father, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

up treasure for themselves, as a firm foundation for the coming age, that they may take hold of the life that is to come. <sup>20</sup>Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, <sup>21</sup>which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

## 2 Timothy

I, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

### *Encouragement to Be Faithful*

<sup>1</sup>I thank God whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>2</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>3</sup>I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. <sup>4</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>5</sup>For God did not

why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

<sup>6</sup>What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

<sup>8</sup>You know that in the province of Asia I persecuted, including

may the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>11</sup>On the contrary, when in Rome, he searched hard for me. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord grant

# 40 DAYS OF PRAYING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

PASTOR  
CHAD  
GRAVES

## **What Men are saying about 2 Timothy 2:2 Men's Ministry**

*"I have prayed words, words I learned from listening to my father, brothers, and men of the church I attended as a youth. Same prayer every night, every holiday, every occasion for 51 years. In a short time attending this prayer breakfast I have come to understand prayer isn't about my words. It's about opening my heart, clearing my mind, entering Gods Room and listening. A simple conversation with God about what's on my heart. I have more peace now than anytime in my life. I highly recommend every man get involved with this mission."*

*- Shane Sisk*

*"I was so tired this morning but I was lifted up. Each week I've been I've been able to get to know someone in our church a little bit more than I did before. To know that men have other men seeking to be better men, better husbands, better fathers, better members and leaders in this world has been a true blessing to me! I'm so glad to be a part, even a small part of Compass South."*

*- Andy Bullington*

*"A good indication that God is at work is when His people are compelled to and committed to praying together. Week after week we get to witness God at work among us at the men's prayer time. We hear from God's Word, work through it together, and pray about it in small groups together. It is a highlight of the week.*

*It is a time of life-building and disciple-making in a pure, authentic, and relational way! I have never experienced a prayer group like this. It's wonderful and I thank God for it! "*

*- Jody Smotherman*

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## **HOW IT STARTED**

I met with a pastor from Little Rock who is 70 years old and has spent his life in ministry. His name is Bill Elliff and he planted Summit church 25 years ago. He said every Tuesday for two hours in the morning he has prayed with a group of men for 25 years. I left that meeting determined to create a culture of prayer with a group of men in our local church. I also left with a clear example of someone who has been serious about his pursuit of God and his commitment to disciple others.

**As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance  
of his friend. Proverbs 27:17**

# WE HAVE A MAN PROBLEM

“You better find some faithful men who are able to teach others” - Paul to Timothy. 2 Timothy 2:2

The apostle knew what was at stake. He had helped start the church at Ephesus. He spent two years there. He loved them. He knew the church needed faithful men who could transfer what they learned to others. Notice that it was not just faithful men.

We are not being faithful if we are not training, teaching, and transferring our faith. The church at Ephesus was dead and gone by the beginning of the second century. This church that was started by Paul (52AD), pastored by Timothy(62 AD), pastored/attended by John (80 AD) and Mary the mother of Jesus could not withstand the dismantling affects of not having faithful men who would disciple others. By 96AD they had lost their first love.

The church did not make it into another generation. The church we love won't either if you and I don't faithfully work to replace ourselves.

**Paul to Timothy.**

**Timothy to Faithful men.**

**Faithful men who are able to Train others.**

# WHERE ARE THE PILLARS?

“and when they perceived the grace that was given unto me, James and Cephas and John, they who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the Gentiles, and they unto the circumcision;” Galatians 2:9

They were pillars of the church.

They were perceptive men.

They were men of repute.

They were men of authority.

They were men of discernment.

They were men of encouragement.

My prayer is for men. I pray that in your own lives you will find increased stability, faithfulness, and spiritual maturity. It starts on your knees in the presence of God. He is the source of our strength, longevity, and impact. I am praying for men like those who Paul called pillars of the church. Every church needs men- Stable men who are willing to take responsibility. Men who hold others up. Men whose strength in the faith help churches weather storms. I pray that God is making you into a man like these men in Galatians 2:9. They were not perfect men but they were faithful men.

# What Happens When We Pray?

**A Conscious Awareness of God  
A Confessional Awareness of God  
A Committed Awareness of God**

*“Prayer’s function is to set God at the center of your attention,  
and forget yourself and the impression you are making on  
others.”*

*-Rosalind Rinker, Prayer: How to Have a Conversation with Gods*

*We don't want prayerlessness to be  
one of the great  
regrets of our lives.*

*It will not be our unanswered prayers  
that will be our shame.*

*It will be our un-offered prayers.*

# PRAYING THE BIBLE

If prayer is boring then we are doing it wrong. Donald Whitney in his book, *Praying the Bible*, warns, “Prayers without variety eventually become words without meaning”

Matthew 6:7 says, “when you pray, do not use vain repetitions...”

We get in a rut and pray the same prayers about the same things over and over. When we do this we begin to talk at God and not to Him. When we do this our prayer times can bore us.

The solution to a boring prayer life is an adjustment in method that centers on the text of the Bible.

## AN APPROACH TO PRAYING SCRIPTURE

1. Read the verse and emphasize different words or phrases in the text.
2. Consider key phrases as prayers and turn them into personal prayers.
3. Let your mind be provoked by the text and the Spirit prompt you.
4. Pray about what comes to mind and share within a group to benefit from one another's insight.
5. Find a theme or common thread in the passage you've read.
6. Search the text for how it speaks to your current situation and hear from the Lord.
7. Remember: Prayer is primarily about being in the presence of God.



# Transferring what is Out of our hands Into His

As soon as I told her that I was a chaplain and I was there to pray with her she started crying immediately. It took a moment for her to say the words. "I can't die, I have two daughters and I am all they have in this world". Her words were heavy and sobering.

## Where do we take the heaviest things in life?

What do we do with words we can't even hardly say out loud? Past pain has a way of showing up in the present. Future fears have a way of loading today down. In Matthew 6 Jesus said, "don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

But how do we do that? Prayer.

Prayer transfers what is out of our hands into His.

1 Peter 5:7 encourages us, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." Unload all of it you can, He cares about you.

The etymology of the word beforehand comes from an old French word meaning a payment before the hand did it. Sometimes prayer is like that.

Here is a prayer, missionary, Jim Elliot prayed:

*"Father let me be weak that I might loose my clutch on everything temporal. My life, my reputation, my possessions, Lord, let me loose the tension of the grasping hand... How often I have released a grasp only to retain what I prized by "Harmless" longing, the fondling touch. Rather open my hand to receive the nail of Calvary, as Christ's was open- that I, releasing all, might be released, unleashed from all that binds me now."*

# 2 Timothy 2:2 Prayer Groups

Let's take a moment and consider going through the next 40 days of prayer together. Whether it is done one day after another or as a weekly prayer time with friends, take a moment and pray about praying. 2 Timothy is line after line of things that will help mature a christian's faith. Life is terribly busy so put this as a priority in your schedule.

1. Establish time together with each other on a regular basis.
2. Read 2 Timothy over and over and it will be mutually edifying.
3. Join together in prayer with the aim of developing spiritual maturity.
4. Create a time to encourage, equip, and prepare one another.
5. Be intentionally relational through faithfulness together in prayer.
6. Invite other who have a kindred spirit to join you.

## **Practical Commitment:**

Group up into tables of four and plan to encourage one another throughout the week as a prayer team.

As a larger group, read the passage, share what stands out, turn the key phrases of the passage into personal prayers, and then break into groups of two and pray for one another.

# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day One - A Kindred Spirit

**On Prayer:** Jesus spent more time talking about getting ready to pray than what to pray.

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**2 Timothy 1:1-2**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

**The will of God** - Pray for a God-given assignment.

**The promise of Life** - Pray for a sense of promise and purpose.

**The son in the Faith** - Pray for a kindred spirit.

We have assignments as Christian men. What are some of those assignments? (Fatherhood, the Great Commission, do justly, pray)

The promise of a new life of Christ is one of the greatest gifts from God.

Denzel Washington was in a movie called the Book of Eli. It is a dystopian storyline where the Bible has been lost to the world and he has one copy of it. What he has has the ability to change the world. During one scene he is praying and the women with him has no understanding of prayer or God. He introduces her to the concept of prayer and the presence of God and the beauty of the Bible. It is a powerful moment to consider what a world or a life is like without pray, the Bible, and an awareness of God.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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Philippians 2:19 records Paul speaking of Timothy: “For I have no one else of kindred spirit.”

One of the first steps to being a disciple that makes disciples is to pray for someone with a kindred spirit that wants to grow in their understanding and relationship with Christ.





# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Two - A Clear Conscience

**On Prayer:** The Bible says in Acts 3 that after repentance there is a time of refreshing in the presence of the Lord. There is nothing we need more than the Presences of God. We come together and are glad to have a room full of men. But what we need more than that is a room full of the presence of God. Full of an awareness to His presence. His presence does things in our lives that nothing else does.

*"I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy."*

**2 Timothy 1:3-4**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

**Thankfulness** - Pray with thankfulness for the opportunities you have.

**Clear conscience** - Pray for forgiveness and clear conscience.

**Constant prayer** - Pray for consistency and joy.

There are some things we can't see in the mirror. When I was in the third grade I woke up on picture day and thought my bangs needed trimmed. In my mind, I can remember standing in front of the mirror and cutting my hair with laser accuracy. But the picture does not lie. I cut my hair from the root on one side to the eyebrow on the other.

The Bible says,

Proverbs 21:2 warns, "All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart."

A healthy conscience informed by scripture and led by the Holy Spirit is how God intended for us to live peace-filled lives.

Here are a few questions:

Have I stolen money, time, or other items? Have I lied to anyone?

Have I damaged the reputation of anyone with gossip, backbiting, or slander? Have I been ungrateful for what others have done for me?

Have I rebelled against people who are in authority over me or been disrespectful toward them? Do my authorities think that since

I want to be my own boss, they

might as well let me do whatever I want to do? Does my employer feel that my heart is not really in my work?

How not to make things right:

"If I've been wrong, please forgive me."

How to make things right:

"God has convicted me of how wrong I've been in \_\_\_\_\_ (basic sinful attitude and offense). I've come to ask, "Will you forgive me?" "

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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***I did not shrink*** from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, ***I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me*** there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But ***I do not account my life of any value*** nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. - **Acts 20:21-24**

Paul tells Timothy he has a clear conscience and he tells Timothy he has a heartfelt connection. He wanted his friend with him. This confession and honesty is so important.

**Confess** therefore **your sins one to another**, and pray **one for another**, that ye may be healed. James 5:16

There is a great need in our lives to be honest with someone we trust. We all need someone to drop our guard with and share our struggles with.

Let's pray for a clear conscience and a kindred connection and for the joy that produces.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Three - A Sincere Faith

**On Prayer:** When we don't know what to say, borrow someone else's words.

*"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,"*

**2 Timothy 1:5-6**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

**Sincere Faith** - Pray for a sincere faith that is free from cynicism and duplicity.

**First in Grandmother** - Pray for faith in places where it is unwanted & unknown.

**Dwells in you** - Pray for abiding faith.

**Fan into flame** - Pray for fire and God-given passion.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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### **Men you are in charge of your spiritual temperature.**

Paul reminded Timothy of his ordination. He reminded him of his call. He reminded him of the gift from God that was entrusted to Timothy and verified by the brethren. Fan it into flame, he says. Don't neglect it. Protect it. Stoke it. Do what you have to do to keep it going.

The Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique. The winner was not the runner who finished first. It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit. I want to run all the way with the flame of my torch still lit for Him.

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Here are three prayers we all can pray.

Pray for open doors.

Pray for open hearts.

Pray for open mouths.

“pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

Colossians 4:3-4

“One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.”

Acts 16:14

[Pray] “also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,”

Ephesians 6:19

God can open doors that seem impossible to open. God can open hearts that seem totally closed. God can open mouths and give just the right words at just the right time.

# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Four - A Spirit of Power and Love

**On Prayer:** A good practice is to pray your fears. Drag them out of the darkness of your heart and into the presence of the Lord and the scrutiny of scripture.

*“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,”*

**2 Timothy 1:7-8**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

God gave us His Spirit - Pray for God’s Spirit to give you boldness.

God gave us His Spirit - Pray for God’s Spirit to give you a loving heart.

God gave us His Spirit - Pray for God’s Spirit to give you a settled mind.

Pray for a willingness to share in suffering for the gospel’s sake.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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Numbers 14:24 says, “But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”

Caleb had a different spirit. One translation says he had an excellent spirit. Throughout the years I am reminded of this verse and I pray for this in my own life: “God give me an excellent spirit “.

The others saw the obstacles. Caleb saw what God had promised. The others saw giant difficulties and the dangers. Caleb looked at it and gave a good report. The others were murmurers and fearful. There is a temptation to let troubles and obstacles discourage us and get sucked into complaining and negativity. Be loyal and generous and faith filled. Use what you have and if God has allowed you to take some ground, be generous with the springs and bless others.

God has not given us a spirit of fear but rather a spirit of power, love, and a settled mind”, according to 2 Timothy 1:7.

People usually work from three fears: the fear of abandonment (or being unwanted), the fear of mistreatment (or neglect), and the fear of being overwhelmed (or not being enough).

What is your fear? You might say, shoot I have all of them. After studying these fears I talked to someone close to me about their own experience and they said that the one they experience is the fear of being overwhelmed. It is the fear of not measuring up. This fear can be triggered by unrealistic expectation or even unstated expectations. Recently, I had a situation arise that upset me. I let fear of being mistreated trigger unhealthy responses. We can let legitimate concerns derail us for fear of worst case scenarios. Our minds can rush to believe the worst in others and we will go from reasonable concern to illegitimate responses. Be careful, fears have a way of taking deep roots.

My wife's dad once told her while she was eating that she was going to get fat. She is 30-40 years removed from the comment and she still worries that people are watching her eat. He loved her and did not mean to leave that long of a mark.

God has not given us a spirit of fear but someone else might have. 1 John 4 says, "love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear." Scripture says that God will never leave us. (Hebrews 13:5). Scripture says that God will make sure we are taken care of. (1 Peter 5:7) Scripture says that there is not a situation that we will find our selves in which we will not be helped and seen through. (1 Corinthians 10:13) In Christ, you are not abandoned, you are not unrepresented, and you will not be overcome.

Let the love of God settle your mind and expel your fears.

People work from three roots of fear: abandonment, mistreatment, or being overwhelmed.

Knowing this provoked me to have a conversation with my oldest son. As we talked about it, I told him that I would be surprised if he feared abandonment because all of his life Julie and I have loved him and had a stable presence in his life. Then I told him that I would also be surprised if he feared mistreatment because all of his life we have watched over him and protected him. So, the only one left was the fear of being overwhelmed. When I asked him if he ever felt overwhelmed he responded, “thanks for asking dad. Yes, I fear not being enough.”

At this, my eyes began to fill up with tears. I said, “son God has not given you that spirit of fear but I may have”. Without even realizing it my hopeful expectations may have laid a weight on his soul.

Paul wrote to Timothy, God has not given you a spirit of fear. “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

God’s Spirit can empower us so that we are not overwhelmed. God’s Spirit loves us so that we are never ultimately abandoned. And, God’s Spirit can settle our mind and fears that He will not neglect us or misrepresent us.

Declare Psalm 27 over your life.  
The Lord is your light.  
The Lord is your strength.  
The Lord is your protector.  
The Lord is your confidence.  
The Lord is your rock.  
The Lord is the lifter up of your head.  
The Lord will not leave you.  
The Lord will take up your cause.  
The Lord is your sure footing.  
The Lord is going to save the day in your life.

Most believers are not tempted to lose “the faith that once was delivered to the saints” or in other words, our doctrine and orthodoxy.

Believers struggle more with losing heart or losing the faith that God is going to personally work out things in their lives.

Take time to break up in groups and share a fear that you struggle with and pray for one another.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Five - A Holy Calling

**On Prayer:** Part of what we do in prayer is align our purposes with His. We are not asking for God to bless what we are doing. We are asking to do what God is blessing.

*“who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,”*

**2 Timothy 1:9-10**

**We are going to preach Jesus, die, and be forgotten and that is ok.**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

A holy calling - Pray to have ears to hear God’s call.

A grace - Pray for the grace to accomplish God’s purposes.

Abolished death - Pray for the fear of death to be abolished in your life.

Immortality brought to light - Pray for illumination.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Six - A Bold Confidence

**On Prayer:** God honors bold prayers because bold prayers honor God. Let's pray with faith and expectancy.

“for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.”

2 Timothy 1:11-12

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Gospel Appointments - Pray for divine appointments and opportunities.

Suffering but not ashamed - Pray for boldness when they come.

Confident Belief - Pray for a God-given confidence and protection.

Able to keep what is Entrusted - Pray for the stewardship of the gospel.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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"I have many in this city who are my people". Paul looked around Corinth a city of 500,000 people with its temple of Aphrodite up on the Acrocorinth towering over every inhabitant. 1000 prostitutes belonged to that cult. Every corner of the city was devoted to idols.



It was a wealthy city with ports for commerce on both sides and entertainment such as the Isthmian Games.

As Paul looked around he must have seen a city with no interest in a poor carpenter from Galilee that called men to deny themselves and take up a cross.

I think this is why God spoke to Paul one night in a dream.

Acts 18

"... Paul left Athens and went to Corinth..."

"And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.'"

Look up there Paul, do you see all those prostitutes, it will not be long and they will be Christians. Look down there Paul, you see those pagans worshiping and selling trinkets, soon they will worship the Lord and give everything they have for the gospel's sake. Paul, you might not know how, but all over this city people who are trapped in darkness will see the light. It may seem impossible but God is going to have the last word.

Keep speaking.

Don't be silent.

I am with you.

No one will harm you.

I have many in this city who are mine.

Incredible! May God give us this same vision today.

# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Seven - A Good Deposit

**On Prayer:** “If you can’t pray a door open, don’t pry it open.” Lyell Rader

“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.”

2 Timothy 1:13-14

Sometimes we say the wrong thing.

Sometimes we say the right thing the wrong way. James tells us, no one is perfect.

Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:13 Follow after the pattern of sound or healthy words “that you have heard from me”.

That is the phrase that speaks to me this morning. We want to speak life and health and goodness into the lives of others. We want to say healthy things. We want to talk about things that matter. We want to pour our words out to encourage and refresh those that hear them. Paul says we do it in faith and love.

May it be said of us that our words were sound and healthy and faithful and loving.

### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Follow the pattern of sound words - Pray for discernment and understanding.

By the Holy Spirit - Pray for the Holy Spirit indwelling.

Guard the good deposit - Thank God for the good deposit He has made in you.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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Have you ever had a deposit made into your account that was significant?

Paul tells Timothy, “By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

2 Timothy 1:14

Paul made a deposit into Timothy’s life. He shared the gospel with him. He invested his life in him. He entrusted sound words to him. Who has made such deposits in our lives? We all need people who encourage us in the Lord. Thank God for His good deposit and those he uses to make the transfers into our account.

If you are a believer I want to encourage you to pray for someone you can make deposits into. Deposit sound words of advice. Deposit gospel-centered conversations. Deposit prayers for them. God has someone for all of us to invest into.

Proverbs 11:24 teaches us that the more we deposit in others the more we have to deposit.

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.”

Pobody is Nerfic

My wife Julie loves a good misspeak. Yesterday I shared an autocorrect with her that we had a good laugh over. The text was

about preaching and it was supposed to say “how long should I prepare?” Instead it said “how long should I irritate”. Haha  
Sometimes we say the wrong thing.

Sometimes we say the right thing the wrong way. James tells us, no one is perfect.

Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:13 Follow after the pattern of sound or healthy words “that you have heard from me”.

That is the phrase that speaks to me this morning. We want to speak life and health and goodness into the lives of others. We want to say healthy things. We want to talk about things that matter. We want to pour our words out to encourage and refresh those that hear them.

Paul says we do it in faith and love.

May it be said of us that our words were sound and healthy and faithful and loving.

# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Eight - A Refreshing Household

**On Prayer:** The purpose of prayer is not for the disciple to bring information to God; the purpose of prayer is for the disciple to experience intimacy with God. - Platt

*“You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains,”*

**2 Timothy 1:15-16**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Phygelus and Hermogenes - Pray for those who have turned away.

A whole Household of people who served the Lord - Pray for your household

Led by the man Onesiphorus - Pray for a Godly legacy.

He refreshed me often - Pray for a refreshing spirit

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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A generous man will prosper and he who refreshes others will be refreshed.

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One of the songs that stood out to me when I was a teenager was “I have decided to follow Jesus”. We sang it every year at camp. Here are the lyrics:

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.  
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.

Paul while writing to Timothy said this: “As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus and Hermogenes.”  
2 Timothy 1:15

This must have been hard on Paul to keep going when others stopped. Paul had a list as you read his letters of people who deserted him, disagreed with him, and did not want to be put in danger.

Obviously, we don't want to do things that make it hard for people to continue with us, but we also must accept the reality that wherever God calls us we must go even if some can not go with us.

I suppose Paul told Timothy this to help Timothy process what was happening and prepare for this kind of thing in his own life. I wish I could take away the harshness of following Jesus for you and it would all be easy, but it will not always be easy. I wish I could help you navigate through the relationships so that everyone would be able to go along, but some will not.

Keep going as the Spirit leads and keep reading the next verses. God has encouragers along your way.

Have you ever had a deposit made into your account that was significant?

Paul tells Timothy, “By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

2 Timothy 1:14

Paul made a deposit into Timothy’s life. He shared the gospel with him. He invested his life in him. He entrusted sound words to him. Who has made such deposits in our lives? We all need people who encourage us in the Lord. Thank God for His good deposit and those he uses to make the transfers into our account.

If you are a believer I want to encourage you to pray for someone you can make deposits into. Deposit sound words of advice. Deposit gospel-centered conversations. Deposit prayers for them. God has someone for all of us to invest into.

Proverbs 11:24 teaches us that the more we deposit in others the more we have to deposit.

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.”

I really like Onesiphorus. Do you know him? He is found in 2 Timothy.

1. He was refreshing.
2. He was that way often.
3. He led his whole family to be that way.
4. He was an unashamed friend of Paul.
5. He showed up in the hard times.
6. He searched for and pursued people when it was inconvenient.
7. He had a reputation of service.

“May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.” 2 Timothy 1:16-18

We celebrate what we value and Paul celebrate Onesiphorus. He celebrated a man who made serving the Lord a family affair. He celebrated a friend who showed up.

Take time to refresh someone today. Be an unashamed friend. Pursue people and build a reputation of service. Be an Onesiphorus.



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Nine - A Well Known Reputation

**On Prayer:** Psalms tells us that somehow our prayers can make a difference. As we pray and intercede God hears and responds. “Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, To turn away His wrath from destroying them.” Psalm 106:23

*“but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.”*

**2 Timothy 1:17-18**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Searching earnestly - Pray for a heart to earnestly seek after others.

On that day - Pray for a greater awareness of Christ’s return.

Known for his work in Ephesus - Pray for a reputation of serving others.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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I really like Onesiphorus. Do you know him? He is found in 2 Timothy.

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“May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.” 2 Timothy 1:16-18

We celebrate what we value and Paul celebrate Onesiphorus. He celebrated a man who made serving the Lord a family affair. He celebrated a friend who showed up.

Take time to refresh someone today. Be an unashamed friend. Pursue people and build a reputation of service. Be an Onesiphorus.

## **Praying Through 2 Timothy**

### **Day Ten - Entrust to Faithful Men**

**On Prayer:** One of the most remarkable things about prayer is that no one is beyond the reach of our prayers. You might not be able to travel to someone on the other side of the world, but you can pray for them. You might not have anything to meet the need that someone has but you can pray for them. You might have someone who refuses your help but they can't stop you from praying. Isaiah 59:1 says, “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear”

*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

**2 Timothy 2:1-2**

We cannot attain the presence of God. We're already totally in the presence of God. What's missing is awareness. - David Brenner

We are always in the presence of God. There is never a non-sacred moment. His presence never diminishes. Our awareness of His presence may falter, but the reality of His presence never changes. CS Lewis said the earth is crowded with God. He is in every moment. He is working in every thing. He has his mark on every person.

Be encouraged men. God is with you. This week I went down the Salado in what I would call a controlled flood. I was in over my head. It was above my skill level. It was overwhelming me over and over and over. I flipped about 84 times. I did not know the creek and I had no point of reference. But I tell you why and how I was able to do it- Because someone who knew it was with me. He was before me in his knowledge. He was with me in his ability. He was after me in his encouragement and presence. He was teaching me all along the way.

That is what the presence of God can do for you. Isaiah says, He keeps in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on him and those who trust in him. (26:3)

Paul said that he had received from the Lord. He told Timothy to find faithful men, and the qualifier for the faithful men was that they were able to teach others.

This morning I was able to meet with a group of men and we prayed these prayers: Lord make us receptive men. Lord make us faithful men. Lord enable us to be influential men.

We want everything God is willing to give us. We want receptive hearts. We want to show up with a heart to receive from the Lord. We want God to give us faith and faithfulness. We want to be faith filled and we want to be faithful.. This morning we prayed for the enabling work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to teach others, to disciple our families, and to be examples.

This morning I want to encourage you to pray to be receptive, faithful, and enabled.

### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

What you have heard - Pray for Godly encouragement.

Entrust to faithful men - Pray for faithfulness and more faithful men.

Who will be able to teach others - Pray for teachers and a teachable spirit.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Eleven - A Good Soldier

**On Prayer:** Prayer can be a first step in changing our minds and will and our emotions.

Mark 9:24 gives us this treasure: “The father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” Sometimes we pray when we don’t have faith. Sometimes we pray when we don’t have will power.

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **2**

**Timothy 2:3-4**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Share in suffering - Pray for spiritual grit and a God-given tenacity.

No soldier gets entangled - Pray for wisdom to avoid entanglements.

Please the one who enlisted him - Pray for a greater desire to please God.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twelve - The Lord will give you understanding

**On Prayer:** Prayer changes history. There is a verse in Isaiah that stands out. “Then Isaiah sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me...” Isaiah 37:21  
The enemy armies were turned to flight and the history of nations was changed because Hezekiah prayed.

*An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

### **2 Timothy 2:5-7**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

The Competing Athlete - Pray for the humility of an athlete.  
The Hard Working Farmer - Pray for the hunger of a farmer.  
The Lord will give you understanding in everything. - Pray for wisdom.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirteen - Bound but Not Bound

**On Prayer:** Have you ever been going through something you did not need to talk about? Have you ever dealt with something that you did not have anyone you could trust with such sensitive information? Look at this Psalm: “I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me. Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; No one cares for my soul. I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, “You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me... Psalms 142:2-6 The Psalmist is praying at a time when no one else seemed to care. He is taking his complaints, troubles, fears, and his weakness to the Lord. When you don’t know who to trust, you can trust the Lord. When you don’t have someone to talk to, you can talk to the Lord. Prayer is a safe place and person to offload things that if you say to other people it will just make things worse. God is a refuge, a present help in times of trouble.

*Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 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 2:8-10**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

I am suffering, bound with chains - Pray for obstacles to become opportunities.  
The word of God is not bound - Pray for God to work in your current situation.  
That they also may obtain the salvation - Pray for people to be saved.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Fourteen - He Remains Faithful

**On Prayer:** “Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”.  
Matthew 18:20 One of the functions of prayer is to help people come together. Those who pray, humble themselves and seek the will of God together. Prayer moves us to the common goal of what God wants away from the tendency of what we want. Prayer, when it is done right, restores relationships, prevents disputes, and brings clarity. Much of the conflict and confusion we get ourselves in could be avoided by a regular, sincere, seeking of the Lord together.

*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

### **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

If we have died with him - Pray for the putting to death of the old man.  
We will also live with him - Pray for the quickening of the new man.  
If we are faithless, He remains faithful - Thank God this is about him and not us.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Fifteen - Don't Quarrel about words

**On Prayer:** Talk to God about people. Talk to people about God. Talk to God with people.

*Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.*

### 2 Timothy 2:14-18

#### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Charge them before God not to quarrel about words - Pray to be a peacemaker.  
A worker who has no need to be ashamed - Pray for work ethic and best effort.  
Rightly handling the word of truth - Pray for skill to understand the Bible.  
Swerved from the truth - Pray for those who are hurt by others.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Sixteen - A Vessel for Honorable Use

**On Prayer:** Jesus needed to pray. Jesus prayed with fervent tears. Jesus healed people with prayers. Jesus said some things don't happen without prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Jesus was with others in prayer. Jesus faced the cross with prayer. Jesus died praying.

*But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.*

*Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.*

### **2 Timothy 2:19-21**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

But God's firm foundation stands - Thank God for assurance.

Everyone who names the name of the Lord - Pray for secure identity in Christ.

If anyone cleanses himself, he'll be an honorable vessel - Pray for usefulness.

Ready for every good work - Pray for God to ready you for what He wants.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Seventeen - A Pure Heart

### On Prayer:

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.*

### **2 Timothy 2:22-23**

“Maturity in the Christian life is needing Jesus more, not needing Jesus less.”

### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness - Pray for the power to flee.  
Call on the Lord from a pure heart - Pray for godly appetites.  
Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies - Pray for focus.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Eighteen - Patiently Enduring

**On Prayer:** If I gave the remainder of my life to nothing more nor less than unceasing prayer it would not be a wasted life. In fact, it might be the most powerful, effective use of the remaining days that God gives. - Bill Elliff

*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

### **2 Timothy 2:24-26**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome - Pray for reconciliation.

Correcting his opponents with gentleness - Pray for a gentle correction.

God may perhaps grant them repentance - Pray for repentance.

They may come to their senses - Pray for them to come to their senses.

They are Captured by him to do his will - Pray remembering they are deceived.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Proverbs 12:18 says

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

TMI means "to much information". We all have to be careful not to say everything we think. Some things that we think are not true and not even what we believe.

Proverbs 29:11 says

A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

A quote from The Tale of Three Kings by Gene Edwards:

*"You can easily tell when someone has been hit by a spear. he turns a deep shade of bitter. David never got hit. Gradually, he learned a very well-kept secret ... One, never learn anything about the fashionable, easily mastered art of spear throwing. Two, stay out of the company of all spear throwers. And three, keep your mouth tightly closed. In this way, spears will never touch you, even when they pierce your heart."*



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Nineteen - Difficult Times and Difficult People

**On Prayer:** Prayer is a stop gap. It is a habit of reserving judgement and preventing impulsiveness. When we are committed to praying we are asking God to intervene. We are stopping before we act and seeking counsel.

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*

### **2 Timothy 3: 1-4**

The habit and commitment to pause and seek the Lord before speaking, acting, reaction.

### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

There will come times of difficulty - Pray for strength in difficult times.

People will be... - Pray for those who are entrapped.

Make the list a self assessment list - "It is me O Lord".

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty - A Burden with Sin

**On Prayer:** Prayer is a good way to check the condition of our heart. The Psalmist said, search my heart O God and see if there is any wicked way in it.

*having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.*

### **2 Timothy 3:5-8**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Appearance of godliness - Pray for the rejection of pretense in your life.  
Creep into households and capture weak women - Pray for integrity w/ women.  
Burdened with sins - Confess your sin and address it in prayer.  
Always learning and never able to arrive - Pray for action.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

*I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. **Romans 15:30***

Prayer is joining others in their struggle and inviting others into your struggle. Take time in this prayer session to share a struggle with a brother.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Two - My Aim in Life

**On Prayer:** “You must be present with God to experience the presence of God!”

*“You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.”*

**2 Timothy 3:10-11**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Paul’s example: teaching, conduct, aim in life. - Pray for your aim in life.

Paul’s exercise: my faith, my patience, my love - Pray for faith, patience, & love.

Paul’s endurance: my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings - Pray for endurance to keep going, to withstand opposition, and to handle pain.

Paul’s exhortation: “yet from them all the Lord rescued me”. - Thank God for His promise of rescue.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Share about your “aim in life” and then pray for each other to be aimed right and to hit the target.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Four - But as for you

**On Prayer:** Prayer is a secret history with God. - Pete Scazzerro

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

### **2 Timothy 3:14-15**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

But as for you - Pray for greater personal convictions and consecration.  
Continue in what you have learned - Pray to obey what you already know.  
Acquainted with the sacred writings - Pray for intellectual curiosity in the Bible.  
Which are able to make you wise for salvation - Pray for Biblical wisdom.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Break into groups and share about your “as for you” and then pray for each other to be people set aside and with personal convictions.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Five - All Scripture is Profitable

**On Prayer:** “Lord, show me more of Yourself this morning in this passage.”

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

All Scripture is breathed out by God - Pray for a great love of the Bible.

All Scripture Profitable - Pray for ways to apply the Bible in your life more.

All Scripture Equipping - Pray for areas in your life that need equipping.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

If scripture messes you up, keep reading.

Be prepared, if you read the Bible it will mess you up. We like to treat the Bible like it is a nice book of poems and bedtime stories. It is not. Unless you think Sodom and Gomorrah, Noah and the Ark, or Jesus being crucified are easy reading. No, the Bible is deep material with all the tensions of the human condition.

If someone thinks the gospel can just be easily added to their life without any major adjustments, they are not reading their Bible.

Followers of Jesus had their world turned upside down. Reading the Bible leads to believing the Bible. Believing the Bible shapes the way we see everything. This book is going to reorder your thinking and your life. But don't fear it, the surgery is worth it.

Good news and encouragement: if you read the Bible and it messes you up, keep reading. You are not reading it right if all it does is devastate you or shame you or make you angry. Keep reading, the story is Good News. Keep reading, shame does not have the last word. Keep reading, God is going to have His way.

**Apart from the Bible, the Christian has no vision for the life God intends.**

Studying the Bible with curiosity and investment is the way every Christian increases their faith and understanding of the nature and character of God.

**Neglected the Bible is ultimately a reject Bible.**

Christians must realize that just as a fire cannot blaze without fuel, so burning hearts are not kindled by engaged minds. Paul encourages Timothy with the what and why but he also encourages him with the who also. Remember who taught this to you. We all need to be reminded of what we know, firmly believe, and what the Lord has taught us.

We can have a phd and if we are not doing do what we know to do then it doesn't do us any good.

- Ask God to teach you.
- Ask God to reprove you.
- Ask God to correct you.
- Ask God to train you.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Six - Equipped for every good work

**On Prayer:** “What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use -- men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men -- men of prayer.” — E.M. Bounds

*that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

### **2 Timothy 3:17**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

That the man of God may be complete - Pray for brokenness to be healed.  
Equipped for every good work - Pray for restoration and preparation.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

God’s Spirit accompanies His Word and when we are struggling we need to hear what He has to say. Every Christian should have an arsenal of scripture to combat different things.

The Bible uses a word. It is the word equip. The role of a parent is to help equip their children for life. This word in the greek was used in several different ways.

#### **TO EQUIP**

- 1) To re-align a broken bone or to set the bone.
- 2) Packing a ship before a journey.
- 3) To restore something to its original condition of intent.
- 4) Prepare a soldier for a fight in the battle.

Break up into pairs and pray for one another. Use the following list and share about a brokenness, a need, a restoration, or a battle you need help with.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Seven - Be Ready

**On Prayer:** Prayer is a fight for attention. Everything in this world is screaming to interrupt your prayers.

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;*

### 2 Timothy 4:1-2

#### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

In the presence of God - Pray for a greater awareness of God's presence.  
Who is to judge - Pray for a reverence when it comes to God's judgements.  
Preach the word - Pray for God to give you the words to say.  
Be ready in season and out of season - Pray for willingness no matter when.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

When both of my boys were 16 years old I bought them a tool box and I invited men to come and bring a tool to put in their tool box and pray over them.

For this reason I left you in Crete, **that you should set in order the things that are lacking**, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—Titus 1:5

I did not have a dad in the home. The first 10 years of my life alcohol took my biological dad. Then when he died death emptied my home of a man. The my mom married my step dad and drunkenness and incompetence kept me from having a dad until he was converted to Christ.

Mature manhood. - "That the man of God may be mature, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Twenty-Nine - Do the Work

**On Prayer:** Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by supplication and prayer, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

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

### **2 Timothy 4:5**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Be sober-minded - Pray for a serious faith and mentality.

Endure suffering - Pray for a pain tolerance when it comes to suffering.

Do the work - Pray for a heart to do the work of an evangelist.

Fulfill your ministry - Pray to accomplish what God wants in your life.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Timothy could have excused himself, but Paul did not treat Timothy's disqualification as a reason to stop.

Paul encouraged Timothy, "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." 2 Timothy 4:5

In 1 Timothy 5:23 he writes, "use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." Timothy wasn't healthy. He was frequently sick.

1 Corinthians 16:10 implies that Timothy was anxious in his role and Paul was concerned enough to tell the church to put him at ease. Timothy may well have struggled with fear.

In 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul tells Timothy to not let his youth be a hinderance. He was inexperienced and was tempted to let his age be an excuse for him to not be an example to others.

In 2 Timothy 4 Paul encourages Timothy to fulfill his calling. No doubt Timothy would have been tempted to just give up once Paul was martyred. Paul urges him, endure suffering, Do the work, keep the faith, finish the course.



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty - A Drink Offering

**On Prayer:** It is remarkable that in all of his writings Paul's prayers for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances.

*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.*

### **2 Timothy 4:6**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

I am already being poured out - Pray for willingness to be emptied out for Christ.

The time of my departure has come - Pray for peace in the end.

I Fought the good fight - Pray to know which fights to fight.

I Finished the race - Pray to finish well.

I Kept the faith - Pray for the faith that was once delivered to the saints to be preserved.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

David knew better than to drink up the water from the spring even though they brought it to him. He did not dare take a drop of the glory for himself.

I am ready to be poured out like a drink offering

King David with his mighty men.

Then three of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim. David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. David had a craving and said, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!" So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord; and he said, "Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did. (2 Sam. 23:13-17)



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-One - Crowns

**On Prayer:** Some things happen only by prayer. Mark 9:29

*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.*

**2 Timothy 4:8**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

The crown of righteousness - Pray for crowns to honor the Lord with.

Award to me on that day - Pray for those who are not ready for judgement.

All who love his appearing - Pray for a "well done, faithful servant".

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

What are the crowns talked about in the New Testament?

1. Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4) For Those who answer the call of Christ and lead others.
2. Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) For Those who look forward to and get ready for Christ's appearing.
3. Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19) For Those who lead and bring others to Christ.
4. Victors Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25-27) For Those who stay focused on Christ and finish well.
5. Crown of Life (James 1:12) For Those that give their lives or are persecuted for Christ's sake.

Praying for you today. Run the race, finish the course, and bring some folks with you.

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-Two - Dear brothers and faithful servants

**On Prayer:** C. S. Lewis argued that it takes a community of people to get to know an individual person. Some aspects of a person are only brought out through our interaction with other people. Alone, we can only see from our perspective. By praying with friends, we will be able to hear their experiences and learn things about Jesus that we have not yet seen on our own. Pray actual prayers. Pray regular prayers. Pray vulnerable prayers. Pray faith-filled prayers. Pray bold prayers. Pray specific prayers.

*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.*

### **2 Timothy 4:9-12**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

**7 Men in this passage - Pray using each of these men as examples.**

Timothy - Pray to do what God wants.

Demas - Loved This present world

Crescens - Went Galatia - One of the 72 sent (40 years) Luke Ten

Titus - Dalmatia - Set in order the things that were wanting

Luke - is with me - Companion - Cares

Mark - He is profitable for ministry - Grown up

Tychicus - Sent to Ephesus - Faithful, Fellow Servant

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

*Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. - Ephesians 6:21*

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty- Three - Bring the Biblion

**On Prayer:** The Word of God is the fulcrum upon which the lever of prayer is placed, and by which things are mightily moved.” — E.M. Bounds

*When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.*

**2 Timothy 4:13**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Bring the cloak - Pray for provisions and needs you have.

Bring the books - Pray for a desire to keep learning right up until the end.

Bring all the parchments - Pray for the opportunity to use your influence.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

What the world sees as of little consequence God sees as treasure.

It was 62 AD in Rome and the vast empire was no doubt grand and full of self importance - impressive even to the modern eye.

Epaphroditus had the letter to the Philippians. Tychicus had the letter to the Ephesians. Epaphras had the letter to the Colossians. Onesimus had the letter to Philemon.

These men had on their persons four of the most important documents of the Christian faith and in human history.

These “prison epistles of Paul,” left Rome without notice. Nero is a footnote in history and the time of Caesars has come and gone but the Word of God endures forever.

Don’t get things confused. This world and all of its power and politics screams for us to pay attention to it. Don’t miss what really matters.

Don’t miss:

“the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe....far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named... He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church” Ephesians 1:19-22



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-Four - He did me much harm

**On Prayer:** Should we pray, “May his days be few; may another take his office! Psalms 109:8”? Should we talk to the Lord about evildoers? Yes, Take your anger to the One who can handle it and judge rightly.

*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.*

### **2 Timothy 4:14-15**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Paul’s approach to those who harmed him: Talk to the Lord about those who hurt you and those you have hurt.

1. Acknowledge the harm and don’t ignore it or act as if it didn’t happen.
2. Give them over to the Lord, don’t burden yourself down in revenge.
3. Warn others and establish healthy boundaries.
4. Recognize what the impact of the abuse/mistreatment has been.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Most of us have a hard time processing pain. We either tend to minimize it or we over-inflate it. One of the best things we can do with pain is say, “that hurt”. Paul tells Timothy, “Alexander hurt me”. He also tells the Lord, “Lord, Alexander hurt me. Will you take care of him”.

When we give our pain to the Lord we trust him to settle the injustice and we free ourselves

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# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-Five - The Lord Stood With Me

**On Prayer:** Tozer once wrote, “there is a strain of loneliness infecting many Christian’s, which only the presence of God can sure.

*“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.*

**2 Timothy 4:16-17**

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

No one came to stand by me - Pray to stand even if no one else does.  
The Lord stood by me and strengthened me - Pray for empowerment.  
The message might be fully proclaimed - Pray for a testimony,

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

It was one of the most faith-filled and fruitful times in his life and yet at the same time the apostle

Paul was physically deprived.  
Paul was financially depleted.  
Paul was emotionally wounded.  
Paul was relationally isolated.

Even though his outward condition was wasting away, his inward man was being renewed.

It was from the prison that he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. He influenced Luke to write Acts and the gospel of Luke and Mark to write his Gospel. Rome may have thought little of Paul but what was happening in the prison was changing the world. Our difficulties are no obstacle for Christ and His mission to change the world. In fact, he can use them.

But the Lord was by my side and gave me strength; so that through me the news might be given out in full measure, and all the Gentiles might give ear: and I was taken out of the mouth of the lion.





# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-Seven - A Man of the House

**On Prayer:** Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference. – Max Lucado

*Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.*

**2 Timothy 4:19**

“May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains,”

**2 Timothy 1:16**

“Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.”

**2 Timothy 4:19**

Onesiphorus is not mentioned without his household. Apparently, he was the man of the house and was faithful and refreshing and unashamed.

He was not the only one that followed Jesus, invested in others, and helped Paul. Onesiphorus must of had a wife and children that also loved the Lord. Maybe he had a mom and dad or brothers who made their faith a family affair. We don't know who we just know that the whole house is included.

### SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS

Refresh others. - Pray for opportunities to refresh others.

Be unashamed of Jesus. - Pray for a correct view of what really matters.

Bring your family along for the ride. - Pray for your family to love Jesus.

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

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## **Praying Through 2 Timothy**

### **Day Thirty-Eight - All the Brothers Greet You**

**On Prayer:** I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.” – George Mueller

*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.*

#### **2 Timothy 4:**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

Erastus remained - Some stay  
Come Before winter - Some Go  
All the Brothers Greet You - Some Send

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

People are what matters. Paul was the greatest missionary in history and we see why. He was intensely invested in people.

### **There are two things that last forever: The souls of men and the Word of God.**

All the brothers greet you, that is how Paul ends his letter to Timothy. God intended for us to have spiritual bonds like brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers.

“Rufus was a mother to me”

“Timothy was a son”

“Tychicus was a dear brother”

Notice how they loved one another in Acts 20:36 “When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.”

Paul started the church at Ephesus and spent two years with them. He wrote to them, sent Timothy to them, and prayed continuously for them.





# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Thirty-Nine - The Lord is with You

**On Prayer:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*The Lord be with your spirit; Grace be with you.*

### **2 Timothy 4:19**

#### **SCRIPTURE INTO PRAYERS**

*The Lord be with your spirit - Thank God for His presence*

*Grace be with you - Pray for grace and resist entitlement.*

Do you see anything in the text that stands out or provokes you? If so, write it down and share it with your prayer group:

Paul was about to lose his life for the sake of the Gospel and he was appealing to Timothy. "Don't get discouraged. Don't quit. Keep going Timothy.

**1. Keep on teaching/serving even when you don't see results.** Teach with patience.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2

Every Christian gets discouraged due to what seems like a lack of results at times in individuals or the church as a whole.

**2. Don't stop reading.** Paul said bring the books. Keep feeding yourself.

"The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." 2 Timothy 4:13

Christians must practice self care. It is easy to get dull and grow cold. It is so important to stay encouraged.

**3. Christians will at times discourage each other.** Co-Laborers hurt Paul.

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...2 Timothy 4:10

Every christian has been discouraged by the actions of other christians at some point. Paul was discouraged by a carnally minded member of his church. Don't let what someone else does determine what you're doing.

**4. Some people will oppose christians who try to live a Christ centered life.** Christians must be ready for spiritual warfare.



# Praying Through 2 Timothy

## Day Forty - Grace to You

On Prayer:

We are in 2 Timothy 4

These are the last words of Paul to Timothy. Can you remember the last words your dad spoke to you?

If you knew that what you were saying was the last words- what would you say?  
To your sons

I was sitting on the couch when I was 10 years old when I heard my father's last words. He was speaking to my brother when he said son if you can't love your mother because she's your mother then you at least should respect her because she's my wife.

Paul is writing his last words to his son Timothy and the faith. He's encouraging Timothy: stay on track, don't get distracted, finish your course, do the work of an evangelist, love the bride.

The shift from sound doctrine to what sounds right is subtle and yet seismic.

It is a shift from scripture being authoritative to setting ourselves as the ultimate judge and authority. The lens of how we see the world is warped by our own cultural norms, biases, and presuppositions.

**Non-belief starts with nominal belief and nominal belief is born from the belief that truth is subjective and elective.**

Dear friend, have a heart that prizes God's Word and a mind that joyfully welcomes God's reign and authority over your life and family. Don't accumulate a steady diet of content that suits your own passions or sensibilities.

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions," 2 Timothy 4:3

"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. 2 Timothy 4:5-7

