

BE STRONG
II Timothy 2:1-13

We strive to do a lot of things to encourage and build up our youth. We have youth ministers, youth rallies, youth day, etc. All of these things are well and good if they are helping to build our young people up spiritually.

When Paul wrote to the young man Timothy, it was for the purpose of instructing him, of building him up, of encouraging him to be strong. How often do we tell our young people that? Paul did that very thing in II timothy 2. He told him to be strong and then gave him some specific areas of life which needed to be fortified. Let's look at these areas of life as we encourage not only our young people, but all of us to be strong!

- I. Be Strong. (2:1).
 - A. Looking back over what he has just said concerning loyalty to the faith.
 - B. Be strong.
 1. Form of the word "dunamis" for "dynamite."
 2. Romans 1:16—power of God.
 3. Be strong in the gospel, strong in preaching it to others.
 - C. The source of our strength is the grace that is in Christ.
 1. When we realize what the grace of God has done for us, it should strengthen us to do His will.
 2. The dynamite of the Christian life and of the act of sharing it with others is that we are strong in the grace which is in Christ.
 3. Colossians 1:28,29
 4. Our power to do good will depend upon the degree in which the truth influences our own souls.
 - D. How can we be used as instruments to deliver the word.
 1. We must conquer our fears which hinder us from being servants.
 2. II Timothy 1:7—courage, power, love, self-discipline.
 3. Eph. 6:10-20
 - a. Putting on the whole armour of God.
 - b. Stand firm.
- II. Teach Others (2:2).
 - A. Faith.
 1. Is founded on hearing (Rom. 10:17).
 2. Commit them... deposit in trust. We have a duty to transmit it.
 3. It is to be transmitted to faithful men who in their turn will teach others.
 - a. Faithful... trustworthy.
 - b. Able...sufficient in ability.
 - c. I Cor. 4:1,2
 - d. Insuring the continuity of the ministry of the word.
 4. We must be willing and able to meet the task.
 5. Just anyone will not work.
 - B. The message was to be the same.
 - C. We are not reservoirs of the gospel, but pipelines.
 1. Romans 1:14-16
 2. Acts 4:20
 - D. Four generations mentioned in this verse.
 - E. Paul defined three specific qualification for those who were to carry out this work.
 1. A strict love and loyalty for the truth.
 2. A knowledge of the truth.

3. An aptitude to teach the truth.
 - F. Note: He is not just talking to preachers. The word is *anthropos* (human beings).
 - G. Stability of the church depends on faithful Christians.
- III. What it Takes for the Task.
- A. Dedication of a soldier.
 1. Hardship, risk, and suffering are all a part of being a soldier.
 2. A soldier who tries to evade the dangers and hardships would not be counted a good soldier.
 3. A soldier enlists for a set period of time. We enlist for life.
 4. Entangleth...
 - a. Carries with it the idea of in-weaving, or becoming involved. (2 Pet. 2:20).
 - b. Picture of a sheep whose wool is caught in thorns.
 - c. We cannot get involved in things that endanger or hinder our work for the Master.
 - d. When we forget who we are—when we become so involved in the things of this world that we lose our perspective—our effectiveness as soldiers of the Lord are diminished.
 5. No one who is serving as a soldier, if he expects to please his commander, will become so involved in the other interests of life, as to make it impossible for him to discharge his obligations as a soldier.
 6. A man who is on active duty in such a capacity must be in position to go anywhere and do anything which his commander requires.
 7. The idea is that one must not become so involved in the affairs of this life, as to make it impossible for one to be faithful to Christ.
 8. Regardless of what we do to make a living, Christianity should be supreme.
 9. Lesson of dedication and priorities.
 - B. Discipline of an athlete.
 1. Paul drew this metaphor from the Olympic Games of his day.
 2. No one is crowned “except that he hath contended lawfully.”
 3. The rules of the game not only embraced the race itself, but also they embraced the prescribed training period, which meant that the athlete necessarily subjected himself to rigid self-discipline
 4. The well-trained athlete knows that he must conform to the rules of the game, if he is to be declared the winner.
 5. II Timothy 4:7,8
 6. This was not a spare time thing, but a whole time dedication.
 7. A spare-time Christian is a contradiction of terms.
 8. Rigorous training.
 - a. There will be times when he would like to drop his training and relax his discipline, but he must not.
 - b. There will be pleasures and indulgences he would like to allow himself, but he must refuse.
 - c. The same is true in the Christian life.
 - (1) There are times when the easy way is very attractive.
 - (2) There are times when the right thing is the hard thing.
 - (3) There are times when we are tempted to relax our standards, but we must not!
 - (4) There are rules to obey (I Cor. 9:27). “Lawfully, according to the rules.”
 - C. Efforts of a Farmer.
 1. It is labor, it is hard work.
 2. Must have patience.
 3. First to partake, to enjoy the fruit of his labors.
 4. He must be a laborer before he can be a partaker.
 5. It is the enduring, patient, self-sacrificing toil which is rewarded in the everyday affairs of this life.

6. Same principles recognized in spiritual realm.
- D. Reflect on what I have said (v.7).
1. The soldier is upheld by the thought of final victory. (not entangled)
 2. The athlete is upheld by the vision of the crown. (Not lawless)
 3. The husbandman is upheld by the hope of the harvest. (Not lazy)
 4. Each submits to the discipline and the toil for the sake of the glory which shall be.
 5. It is the same with the Christian.
 - a. Self control of the soldier.
 - b. Self-sacrifice of the athlete.
 - c. Work of the farmer.
 6. As time passes we have a fuller appreciation and a greater understanding of the matters under consideration.
- IV. Confidence of a Believer (vss. 8-13). Remember Christ.
- A. We need to endure in spite of hardships. Hold on to your confidence. How?
- B. Example of Jesus (vss.8-9)
1. Didn't he suffer?
 2. Remember that he was raised from the dead. (Deity)
 3. "Remember your risen and ever-present Lord." Barclay
 4. Remember the "seed of David."
 - a. I Tim. 2:5—himself a man. (Humanity)
 - b. One who walked this road, lived this life, faced these struggles, who therefore knows what we are going through.
 5. Remember the gospel.
- C. Experience of Paul (vss.9-10).
1. It was because of his preaching that Paul suffered trouble.
 2. He was in bonds, but the word of God wasn't. Messenger bound, but not the message!
 3. Word of God was not subject to lock and key. Lives and abides forever (I Pet.1:23, 25)
 4. He was willing to go through suffering so that men might be saved (Romans 10:1).
 5. The goal: eternal glory!
- D. Expectations of Hope (vss.11-13).
1. If we die with him (Rom. 6:3-5)
 2. If we endure persecution, etc.. heaven will be our eternal home.
 3. If we deny him (Matt. 10:32,33)
 4. If we are faithless, he will always be faithful.
- E. The key to being strong is to remember Christ.
1. Whatever hardships, persecutions, temptations, we face, remember Christ (I Pet. 2:21-23).
 2. Gal. 2:20

Concl: A soldier, an athlete, a farmer. Remember Christ. That was the advice Paul gave to Timothy. What about our lives? Do we think about the importance of being faithful?