

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

“Be Faithful”

HEART ATTITUDE: Pleasing God

Christ was faithful to all of us in dying for our sin. Paul was a faithful minister even when he was imprisoned. Paul urged Timothy not only to maintain sound doctrine, but also loyalty, diligence and endurance.

We can count on opposition, suffering and hardship as we serve Christ. But this shows that our faithfulness is having an effect on others. As we trust Christ, He counts us worthy to suffer and will give us the strength we need to be steadfast.

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-18 (NIV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, (1)
To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (2)
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. (3)
Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. (4)
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. (5)
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. (6)
For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (7)
So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, (8)
Who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, (9)
But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (10)
And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. (11)
That is 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. (12)
What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. (13)
Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (14)
You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. (15)
May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. (16)
On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. (17)
May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day!
You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus. (18)

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- **FOCUSING**

1. What is characteristic of the people you enjoy being around?

2. In what ways have your parents or grandparents significantly shaped your life?

- **STUDYING GOD'S WORD**

3. What did Paul do night and day? (1:3)

Paul consistently prayed for Timothy, his friend and son in the faith, and a strong leader in the Christian church. Although the two men were separated from each other, their prayers provided a source of mutual encouragement. We too should pray consistently for others, especially for those with whom we do God's work.

4. Why did Paul long to see Timothy? (1:4)

We don't know when Paul and Timothy last parted — the tears they shed at parting reveal the depth of their relationship.

5. Who were Lois and Eunice, and what did Paul say about them? (1:5)

Eunice and Lois were early Christian converts (Acts 16:1). They communicated their strong faith in Jesus to Timothy, even though his father was probably not a believer. This reminds us to not hide our "light: at home: our families are fertile fields for Gospel seeds. Let everyone know of your faith in Jesus, and be sure they see His love, helpfulness and joy in you.

6. What was Timothy reminded to do? (1:6)

At the time of his ordination, Timothy received special gifts of the Spirit to enable him to serve the church (I Timothy 4:14). In telling Timothy to "fan the flame" of those gifts, Paul was encouraging him to persevere. Timothy did not need new revelations or new gifts; he needed the courage and self-discipline to hang on to the truth and use the gifts he had already received (see 1:13-14). If he would step out boldly in faith and proclaim the Gospel once again, the Holy Spirit would go with him and give him power.

7. What kind of spirit does God give to His people? (1:7)

Timothy was experiencing great opposition to his message and to himself as a leader. His youth, his association with Paul, and his leadership had come under fire from believers and non-believers. Paul urged him to be bold. When we allow people to intimidate us, we neutralize our effectiveness for God. The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some might say or do

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

to us.

The three characteristics of the Christian leader are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. See Galatians 5:22-23 for another list of these characteristics from the Holy Spirit.

8. In what way did Timothy need courage? (1:8)

Timothy's fears about continuing to preach the Gospel were based on fact. Paul had warned him that suffering would come: Timothy would also be jailed for preaching the Gospel (Hebrews 13:23). But Paul promised Timothy that God would give him strength and that he would be ready when it was his turn to suffer. Even when we are not persecuted, it can be difficult to share our faith in Christ. Fortunately, we can call on the Holy Spirit to give us courage.

9. Why has God called you to a holy life? (1:9)

10. What did Christ do? (1:10)

God loves you, He chose you, and He sent Christ to die for you. You have eternal life through faith in Him, because He broke the power of death with His resurrection. You don't deserve it. Nonetheless, God offers you salvation. All you have to do is believe and accept His offer.

11. Of what was Paul appointed a herald, an apostle, and a teacher? (1:11)

12. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel? (1:12)

The phrase "guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day" has three main interpretations:
(1) Paul knew God would guard the souls of those converted through his preaching;
(2) he trusted God to guard his own soul until the Second Coming; OR
(3) he was confident that God would carry out the Gospel ministry through others such as Timothy, who was discouraged by the problems in Ephesus and fearful of persecution.
Paul knew God was still in control.

13. What did Paul tell Timothy to do with his training? (1:13)

14. What was Timothy to guard? (1:14)

15. Where does the Holy Spirit live? (1:14)

When you are facing difficult transitions, it is good to follow Paul's advice and look back at your experience. Who is the foundation of your faith? What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? How can you build on the foundation that has already been laid, using the gifts you have already been given?

The Most Excellent Way
Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

16. Who had deserted Paul? (1:16)

17. What had Onesiphorus done for Paul? (1:16-17)

18. What did Paul want the Lord to grant Onesiphorus? (1:18)

Nothing more is known about Phygellus and Hermogenes who evidently opposed Paul's ministry. Onesiphorus is given as a positive example in contrast to these men.

• **UNDERSTANDING**

19. For whom do you pray on a regular basis?

20. What family member or friend has had the biggest role in your spiritual growth and development?

21. What gifts has God given you?

22. How is the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline shown in your life?

23. When have you ever felt ashamed about something that you believe?

24. When and how have you suffered for the gospel?

25. What or whose pattern of sound teaching are you following?

26. When have you been refreshed by another believer?

27. How should God's faithfulness affect your commitment to Christ?

The Most Excellent Way
Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

• **DOING THE WORD**

28. How will you refresh another believer today?

29. Who is someone for whom you can commit to pray for on a regular basis?

30. What person who has had a substantial impact on your spiritual life will you take the time to thank personally? Explain the person's impact on you:

May God richly bless you as you study His Word!