

2 TIMOTHY

WEEK 3

THE POWER OF FAITHFULNESS

2 TIMOTHY 1:13-18

Hold on to a pattern of trust and obedience, even when you face great challenges.

2 Timothy 1:13-18

Read the passage slowly. Paul is showing concern that Timothy may feel shame or embarrassment about what two things? What might have led Timothy to feel shame?

In the face of great challenges, what specific direction does Paul give Timothy?

How would you rewrite verses 13-14 in your own words, using simple, understandable language?

LIKE JESUS

Luke 4:42-44

In this passage, how does Jesus demonstrate faithfulness to his ministry calling?

Hebrews 13:8

How does Jesus set the standard for faithfulness?

HERO MAKER — KINGDOM-BUILDING

Kingdom-Building is the practice of measuring success by how many leaders you've sent out to advance God's mission — not by how many people show up to your own thing. For example, we do not only celebrate the leaders serving here at VC, but also those whom God has called to move on and serve elsewhere.

In 2 Timothy, how does Paul demonstrate a mindset of kingdom-building?

YOUR LIFE

Think of a commitment that felt easy on day one and has since become genuinely costly — marriage, a job, a friendship, your walk with Jesus. What's kept you in it, or what made you want out?

Write your thoughts on the axiom: Faithfulness is staying when it would be easier to quit.

YOUR IDENTITY

What false-self voice tells you that you cannot hold on any longer, or perhaps that because you have let go, you are a failure?

How does your identity in Christ — secure apart from your performance — free you to stay faithful without needing every day to feel like day one?

HOME & WORK

Where is faithfulness becoming difficult for you right now — in your marriage, your parenting, your job, or with God himself? Name it specifically.

What's one concrete, ordinary act of staying you can choose this week, even without the excitement behind it?

LITURGY FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN

2 Timothy 1:13-18

Leader: Lord, we confess that faithfulness has grown costly.

People: Some have deserted; some have grown ashamed of the chains that come with following you.

Leader: Guard the good deposit entrusted to us,

People: not by our own strength, but with the help of the Spirit who lives in us.

Leader: When it would be easier to look away,

People: give us the courage of Onesiphorus, who searched until he found.

Leader: May we not be ashamed of the cost of faithfulness,

People: but hold fast the pattern of sound teaching, in faith and love.

Leader: So we go, not as those who quit when it costs us,

People: but as those who stay — held by a God who stays with us.

All: Amen.

2 Timothy 1:13-18

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.

18 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.