

Verses: 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Before Paul directs Timothy what to do, he reminds him that he is loved (“my son”) and that he ought not to do it in his own strength (“be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”). God enables us to carry out His will through His indwelling Holy Spirit. He supplies divine strength and sure guidance when we rely on Him and don’t try to figure things out by ourselves.

The instruction Paul gives Timothy here is not something new. It is the same thing Jesus did and modelled for us. He made disciples and charged them to go and do likewise. He was a Rabbi who took on apprentices, taught them His way and demonstrated it before their eyes. He loved them as a father even though he was only a few years older than them. He was gracious and longsuffering with them when they didn’t get it, and He trusted them with His power. He gave them authority and sent them out to do His work while they were still learning. Then, after He has died for the sins of all of mankind, been buried and rose again, just before ascending back to His Father in heaven, He gave them His final charge:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

He sent them out to go and do what they had seen Him do with them, and He promised to be with them. In the same way, Paul had taught Timothy and others and is now charging him to find reliable people to pass it on to. This gospel must be spread to all nations, from one person to the next. We need to baptise them and teach them to obey Jesus and follow His way of life, His teachings.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for entrusting us with this most important task of making disciples of Jesus. Thank you Jesus that you promised to be with us and thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to indwell us and give us the power to be your witnesses. Now we ask you for boldness to step out to share your gospel with others. Lead us to those you have chosen and help us to live your way and teach them to do the same, in Jesus’ name. Amen.