

Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2b NKJV

Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Paul had just shared the value and importance of Scripture and now is encouraging Timothy, and us, to use it. We are to share the gospel with others and we are to correct and teach one another, with a great deal of patience.

When I reflect on my own life, it is the Word of God, the Holy Spirit and faithful people who taught me and showed me the way of Jesus who helped me grow, mature and transform to become more like Jesus. It's an ongoing journey.

It is easy to get offended with younger Christians when they make mistakes, sometimes the same ones over and over, or their behaviour does not reflect Christ. This passage is particularly relevant in these situations. We are called to correct and encourage people, to "train them in righteousness" using the Word of God and by our example. They will not grow automatically; it is our responsibility to help them.

We must love people enough to correct them and show them the way of Jesus. Love is patient and kind; it always believes the best about the person and never gives up!

It's not just the job of the preacher or church elders, it is also our responsibility to disciple one another, with all longsuffering and teaching, so we can all be transformed to become more like Jesus and do what He did. As Paul said in Ephesians, "when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." We each have a part to fulfil, in order for the body to be built up in love.

May we love one another enough to stop judging and start getting involved and teaching one another, with great love and patience.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the body of Christ and the Word of God. Help me to understand my role and responsibility in continuing the work Jesus began on the earth. Lead me by your Spirit and give me boldness to share your gospel with others and teach and train younger believers in your ways, in Jesus' name. Amen.