

## Verse: 2 Timothy 4:7-8 NKJV

*<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Like Paul, Timothy and so many others, we get to co-labour with Jesus to continue His work on earth.

When we look at Paul's life, we see much fruit. Churches were planted and grew, entire households were baptised, miracles took place, younger leaders were discipled and mentored, many revelations were committed to writing, and more. He testified before political leaders, and he sat down and spoke to a group of women at a riverside. He was following Jesus and doing His will.

His life was full of glory, adventure and opposition, just like his leader, Jesus.

Amidst all the hardships he experienced, he was constantly aware of Jesus. He had an eternity mindset. In his writings he often reflected on the temporal nature of our life on earth, contrasting it with the eternal glory that awaits us. His perspective empowered him to endure rejections, beatings and imprisonment, because he was looking forward to an eternal, heavenly reward.

Now he had come to the end of his life and could say with confidence that he had fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. There was awaiting him the crown of righteousness, his heavenly reward.

His final encouragement to Timothy was his testimony of the ever-presence and faithfulness of Jesus.

*<sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*

*<sup>18</sup>And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!*

## Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the encouragement of your Word. Thank you that we can trust You; that Jesus is always with us through the Holy Spirit. We receive comfort and strength from your presence. Continue to strengthen us, so that we, like Paul, may preach your message fully and reflect the life of Christ to others, snatching them from death, in Jesus' name. Amen.