

EQUIPPED TO PERSEVERE



By Lester Lockyer
Christian Centre Abbotsford

18 August 2024

Key verses: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Introduction

The first part of Chapter 3 talks of perilous times and perilous men - Craig covered 2 weeks ago.

The second part addresses the man of God and the word of God - thoroughly equipped every good work.

Equipped to persevere

2 Timothy 3:10-17 NKJV

¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Note – Timothy followed Paul's doctrine, manner of life, etc. That's discipleship 101. **How many Timothy's are you discipling?**

Definition: Perseverance... continues in a course of action, even in the face of difficulty, with little or no indication of success.

Focus fact: We have been saved and need to live in that **victoriously – to make an impact on the world.**

If we're doing something for the kingdom of God, we must expect persecution. There's a battle raging... The kingdom of darkness used to be subtle but is now open and in your face. But we have been equipped by God for these times.

The Word of God (v16-17)

Craig – Paul's hope for the future - **the Gospel** and **Timothy** (the younger generation).

It's the same for us. At CCA two weeks ago, nearly half of the church stood, being under 40 years old.

Regarding the Word of God, let's look at Paul's encouragement to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

He encouraged them to be strong, because they were in a battle for the souls of men and women. The armour is part of what God has provided for us. It all relates to the Word of God.

Girded with truth-John 17:17- *sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Breastplate of righteousness. Romans 1:17. *I am not ashamed of the gospel, for in it the righteousness of God is revealed.*

Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. 2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word*

Shield of faith. Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*

Helmet of salvation. Romans 1:16. *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation.*

Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

These are all parts of what we have been equipped with, however, I see the **word or gospel is like the anchor or foundation.**

Our lives should be so intertwined in the word of God. It contains life, healing, salvation, power, deliverance and so much more.

Examples:

1. David

Samuel visited to anoint a king. He was not even considered a candidate by his father or brothers. Only by God.

David had such affinity with the word of God.

In Psalm 119 alone **David** refers to the word of God 13 times.

So often we read that **David** strengthened himself in the Lord and enquired of the Lord 66 times.

Psalm 51:10 When he sinned - Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Cast me not away from **Your presence**, and do not take Your **Holy Spirit** from me.

Facing Goliath, armed with a sling and a stone and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it seems insurmountable in the natural, but enquire of the Lord.

2. Shamgar

One of the judges. His name is mentioned in Judges 5:6 with Jael -highways deserted and walked along byways. Ch 3:31. After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 men of the Philistines with an ox goad (a sharpened cattle prod/ stick) and he also delivered Israel. - Samson did likewise with the jawbone of an ass

Timothy generation:

What do you have that needs sharpening and to be made available to God to be used?

3. Paul and Silas

Praising in the Philippian jail. See the outcome! Salvations and baptisms.

We have as part of our equipping, God's word, God's presence in our lives, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, worshipping Him in Spirit and truth, being fathers to the Timothy generation, being part of the body of Christ, being disciplined and more.

A scripture that speaks into this ...

Ephesians 3:17-20 NKJV

¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Matthew 24:14 ...*this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations.. then the end will come*

This gospel ...I was a dead man walking, no hope, no plan, and no ability to lift myself out of the mess—But for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross. We did not deserve it, could not earn it. Jesus paid the price. No one has faced that kind of violence. When He says, it is finished - It is finished! He died and was buried...on the 3rd day, He rose again and the same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in us and quickens our mortal bodies. We have been set free ...to worship Him.

How is your heart? Do you have a burden to raise the next generation?

Testimonies:

- James Kawalya's (warlock, exceedingly wicked man. Title - master). Jesus sent a young Christian girl, Sarah to tell him that He loves him. He saw her on fire and fell to his knees, saying to Jesus 'From this day you're my Master. I serve you.'
- Blind eyes healed on Kenyan border.

Conclusion

We are all well equipped. We have the Word of God and the indwelling Spirit of God.