

2 Timothy: What Matters Most

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2 Timothy 2:1-7

September 28, 2025

Discussion and Reflection Guide

Paul challenges Timoth (and us) to look at ourselves honestly

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

***2** 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.*

*How does love and challenging or being challenged by those we love go hand in hand?

*In your words, what would you say is 'the grace that is in Christ Jesus'? How does strength in grace allow us to be challenged?

Entrust the message to reliable people – strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus

Don't chase those with only skill or popularity.

*What does make someone qualified to pass on the gospel?

*Who are some of the reliable people in your own life lately?

You cannot live like everyone else and expect to have a deeply transformative spiritual life and ministry

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:3-7 (NIV)

***3** Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. **5** Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. **6** The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. **7** Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.*

*What can we understand about becoming like Jesus from these metaphors Paul uses?

*Which one of these examples is standing out to you? Is the Spirit challenging you, in love?

Change will be needed for a rich spiritual life – and change can feel like suffering

We can allow culture to lead us or Jesus to lead us.

We have to orient our entire lives around knowing God.

We have to invest with a long-term view.

*What 'civilian affairs' are keeping you from pleasing your 'commanding officer' in your life?

*What could help you maintain engagement and attention on what matters most?

*What do you and God hope will be true of your spiritual life in 5-10 years? What can you do now that will lead to a harvest of that hope?

*How do you sense the Spirit is speaking to you through this passage or this message?