

RETHINK, RESET, REFOCUS

— A SERMON SERIES IN 2 TIMOTHY —

GOD CALLS US TO
RETHINK THE LIES,
THE DISTRACTIONS,
AND THE HABITS
THAT DULL OUR FAITH.



GOD CALLS US TO
RESET OUR HEARTS,
OUR PRIORITIES,
AND OUR DIRECTION.

GOD CALLS US TO
REFOCUS ON HIS PURPOSE,
HIS POWER, AND HIS PRESENCE.



Finding Strength in Grace (2 Timothy 2:1-13), August 23, 2026

Shalom Ministries International Worship Service

For Your Name Is Holy

I enter the Holy of Holies
I enter through the blood of the
Lamb
I enter to worship You only
I enter to honor I Am
Lord, I worship You
I worship You
Lord, I worship You
I worship You
For Your name is Holy
Holy, Lord
For Your name is Holy
Holy, Lord

Led by Paul Musembi, Worship Leader

Lord, I worship You
I worship You
Lord, I worship You
I worship You
For Your name is Holy
Holy, Lord
For Your name is Holy
Holy, Lord
For Your name is Holy
Holy (Lord)
Holy, Lord
(For Your name is Holy)
Your name is Holy (Holy)
Holy, Lord (Lord)
For Your name is Holy
Holy, Lord
(For Your name is Holy)
Your name is Holy (Holy)
Your name is Holy, Lord (Lord)
So Holy, so Holy

Intercessory Prayer



(Led by Marc Musimbi, Prayer Leader)

Faithful Endurance, Discipleship, and Service (2 Timothy 2:1-10)

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

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am **suffering** even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I **endure everything** for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The Power of Grace

- Strength comes from grace which is found in Jesus
 - You then, my son, be **strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:1).
 - A passive command: Allow yourself to be strengthened.
- Justice, mercy & grace
 - Justice (mishapat): **Getting what we deserve**; punishment for breaking the law (The wage of sin is death, Romans 6:23).
 - Mercy (eleos): **Not getting what we deserve** (forgiveness); withholding the penalty of sin (He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, Psalm 103:10).
 - Grace (charis): Unmerited favor; **Getting what we do not deserve**; All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).
- Why strengths comes from grace?
 - Grace supplies what you lack.
 - Grace shifts the focus from ego to Christ.
 - Grace empowers, equips, strengthens Timothy to keep going and finish the race.
 - Be strong not in his own strength, but in that unearned, empowering grace in Jesus.

Suffering, What Does This Mean?

- Suffering (kakopatheō)
 - kakos (bad, evil, hardship) + patheō (to experience, endure)
 - Enduring hardship, mistreatment, or affliction specifically on account of a loyal commitment to Christ and the Gospel. For ex., imprisonment and physical confinement, abandonment and loneliness, active opposition and slander.
 - It is not the common pains of living in a fallen world (like getting sick, experiencing financial inflation, or natural aging); nor the natural consequences of poor choices or foolish behavior.
- Paul's case
 - Deserted by believers in Asia (2 Tim 1:15); imprisoned as a criminal (2:9); Demas abandoning Paul for the world (4:10); Only Luke with me (4:11).
- Suffering in the contemporary contexts
 - Relational abandonment and family exclusion from atheist, hostile family.
 - Standing up for biblical integrity, truth in a secular organization.
 - Facing penalties, cancellation, loss of promotion for refusing to compromise on faith.
 - Professionals who risk losing licenses or corporate standing because they refuse to participate in practice that violate the Christian truth.

Rethink Suffering

- Suffering in Paul's letter
 - Join with me in **suffering**, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2 Tim 2:3).
 - Remember Jesus Christ, for which I am **suffering** even to the point of being chained (2 Tim 2:8-9).
 - Rather, join with me in **suffering** for the gospel, by the power of God (2 Tim 1:8).
 - That is why I am **suffering** as I am (2 Tim 1:12).
- Suffering is a grace-filled privilege
 - For it has been granted (privilege, NLT) to you not only to believe in him, but also to **suffer** for him (Philippians 1:29).
 - The apostles, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of **suffering** disgrace for the Name (Acts 5:41).
 - If indeed we share in his **sufferings** in order that we may also share in his glory (Romans 8:17).
- How we view suffering differently?
 - It normalizes hardship in ministry and highlights the unstoppable nature of truth because it confirms that the world recognizes Christ in us.
 - Even suffering may bind the messenger, but it can't stop the message.
 - Suffering strips away self-reliance and deepens spiritual endurance, character, and hope.
 - Biblical suffering is never pointlessly endured; it carries eternal weight and future reward.

Reset Ministry Through Holy Discipline

- Three distinct images of dedicated labor.
 - No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops (2 Timothy 2:4-6).
 - The soldier: single-minded focus and detachment from civilian entanglement.
 - The athlete: Discipline, training, and competing according to God's rules.
 - The farmer: Patient, endurance, laboring faithfully before seeing any tangible results.
- Application
 - Embracing multi-generational multiplication, through quiet, disciplined, and patient obedience.
 - Reset your daily routines, habits, and endurance for the marathon of faith.
 - Reset your ministry by relying on grace, not legalism or self-effort, to stay the course.

Refocus on Grace

- Grace as the source of strength
 - Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim 2:1)
 - When you are weary, failing, or facing opposition, stop trying to manufacture your own strength. **Refocus on grace** as your daily fuel, which is power for the present.
- Grace as the foundational Gospel truth
 - The object of grace: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead... (2 Tim 2:8).
 - When ministry or life gets hard, **refocus on grace** by looking backward at the cross and empty tomb. That is where grace originated.
- Grace as God's unshakable character
 - The preservation of grace: If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself (2 Tim 2:13).
 - Our security doesn't depend on our flawless performance; it depends on God's unchanging character. When you feel like you've blown it or lack discipline, **refocus on grace**—because even when we are faithless, He remains faithful.
- Why we need to refocus on grace?
 - It prevents ministerial burnout, sustaining endurance through suffering.
 - Ministry is not fueled by your stamina, but by Christ's empowering grace and faithfulness

Human Response with Divine Character

- God's absolute faithfulness to His covenant
 - Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him, If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself (2 Timothy 2:11-13).
- Key points
 - Union with Christ in present spiritual renewal and future eternal glory.
 - Active perseverance through trials, persecution and hardship carries an eternal reward. It warns against turning away from the truth to avoid temporary earthly suffering.
 - God's covenantal promise rests on who he is, not on human perfection.
- Application
 - Remind that current trials are temporary preparation for reigning with Christ.
 - Resist the cultural temptation to deny or compromise core convictions for comfort, status, or social approval.
 - Daily dying with Jesus allowing Christ's resurrected life to dictate daily choices, service, and relationships.

Rethink, Reset and Refocus

- Rethink suffering
 - Suffering not as a sign of abandonment, but as a normal, necessary cost of advancing the Gospel.
 - Do not be shocked when faithful living brings friction. Chains cannot bind the Word of God. Your current suffering is not the end of your story—it is the hallway to His glory.
- Reset ministry through holy discipline
 - Ministry requires intentional effort, adherence to God's standard, and patient labor rather than casual effort.
 - Drop the distractions just like a focused soldier. Play by the rules like a disciplined athlete. And keep planting seeds like a patient farmer, trusting that the harvest is on the way.
- Refocus on grace
 - Without grace, suffering crushes us and discipline becomes legalism. Grace is the invisible fuel behind the endurance Paul calls for.
 - Step out of your self-sufficiency and be empowered by the grace that is in Jesus. His faithfulness does not depend on your perfection.
- Applicable points
 - Embrace the grit by refusing comfort-driven Christianity/ministry.
 - The relay hand-off by practicing generational faithfulness.
 - No cultural trends by anchoring your endurance in the unchained Word.