



Introduction: “...*the time of my departure has come,*” Paul writes in 2 Timothy 4:6.

The apostle writes his final letter from a Roman prison, under the shadow of his impending death.

- The churches he has planted are fragile.
- Persecution is rampant.
- False teaching is spreading.
- Leaders are wavering.
- Timothy is young and tempted toward fear.

In his pastoral encouragement, Paul provides his protégé with a flesh and blood prototype as a pattern of discipleship, and not an institutional technique doomed to fashion changes.

After all, the survival of the church will not depend on one person, as Paul’s death makes clear. It will, instead, depend on making disciples; on multiplying Christian lives, much as our mission, “making disciples here and around the world.” And so, in this passage, Paul encourages Timothy to do just that. And this is why mentoring is another spoke on our Discipleship Wheel.

Big Idea: Mentoring is grace-strengthened believers entrusting Bible truth (knowledge and application) to faithful people who will reproduce it in others.

First: Mentoring Centers on Grace-Generated Strength Before a Created Strategy

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (v. 1)

Notice that Paul begins with the end in mind and it is grace-infused strength, not structure. He’s basically saying, “you” are the source of mentoring, not a program or a building.

Christian mentoring is person-to-person transmission of Bible truth

IMP: GR / *'be strengthened'* is passive. Timothy does not generate strength. He receives it. As much as Timothy may be the human source of mentoring, he has a divine source behind him.

That source is specific for all of us: it is God's grace expressed in Christ Jesus.

This means that

- Mentoring is not personality transfer.
- It is not leadership cloning.
- It is not institutional survival.

Here's the plan as our church employs it:

- Large group, to small group, to person to person.
- The church *should and can* create the opportunity for people to meet and get to know each other.
- But genuine transformation takes place inside those organic, person-to-person relationships, not through a planned event or in a church building.

In other words,

- the church should create a (discipling) mentoring environment, but (discipling) mentoring relationships are not confined to the gathered church or its ministries.
- The hope is that structured natural/organic opportunities outside of this building or the leadership's planning will create organic opportunities in which meaningful relationships are created and maintained.

ILL – John Temple introduced me to Conrad Mbewe. I encouraged Conrad to preach at Heritage where he met our elders who decided to support his church's internship program in Zambia. When he planted a church in Burundi, he asked if Heritage would consider supporting it. Our mission team agreed to do so and recently received a note from our church plant that a member of our congregation had given \$2,000.00 to help with their children's ministry building. Heritage created the vision for that opportunity, but a family embraced it personally.

ILL – Nathan and Amy met Bill and Jen Nelson and introduced them to Teana and me. We went to Senegal (and are returning in June) and encouraged the church to support ARA. That baton has now passed from Nathan and Amy, through Teana and me, through the church and into many of you who are now personally supporting African missionaries throughout that continent.

Disciples here are making disciples around the world.

By our definition of success: *"making disciples here and around the world,"* that is exactly what we are striving for. The more disciples we make here, the more disciples we can make around

the world. The church can facilitate the environment for ministry and relationships, but you create those relationships.

Mentoring takes place in person-to-person mentoring relationship that occur in real time, in real life.

In this, leaders must remember that **Christian leadership is stewardship, not ownership**. The more people we can involve in ministry, the greater potential for its success. Why is this true? Because of our well-defined mission: How do we define success? *“Making disciples here and around the world.”*

It is all about the grace of God strengthening believers who strengthen others. This is our message and our method for making disciples here and around the world.

- Grace produces strong people.
- Strong people disciple others.
- Every opportunity should be taken to mentor others.

But it all begins with grace!

In John 15:5, Jesus says, **“Apart from me you can do nothing.”**

The apostle Paul says the same thing in another way -

Ephesians 4:11–12 - ***And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds^[c] and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.***

IMP: Strength to live the Christian life, often to endure the Christian life, flows from union with Christ before it flows to others.

The only question to ask before mentoring anyone is: Have I been strengthened grace? If so, you can mentor others.

You may say, “But I’m nervous. What if I don’t know enough?” Let me answer that three ways:

- 1 – Don’t confuse the vehicle with the passengers.
- 2 – Your life is the vehicle. It is all about God’s work in you, not you, so the life God has given you is the vehicle to mentor someone else.
- 3 – So mentoring is all about people to people transmission of *“what you have heard.”*

Second: Mentoring is Simply Entrusting to Others What You Have Heard

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (v. 2)

a) There are three aspects to this:

- 1 – Paul’s apostolic teaching
- 2 – Timothy’s hearing
- 3 – Entrusting the teaching and hearing to others

This is why knowing Scripture is so important. You want to translate the truth as God has applied it to your life.

- It’s the truth. That’s nonnegotiable and independent of you.
- It’s your life. That’s the negotiated application of God’s truth to you.

ILL – Someone called me last week asking for scriptures that might apply to a person in a particular situation. I sent the texts knowing the person would explain them and then use her own life to explain how those texts were applicable to the person to whom she was ministering.

God gives us unchanging scripture that applies to ever-changing lives.

We must do this? Why? Because - GR / “*entrust*” = to deposit for safekeeping = God has trusted you with the Gospel. You want to be a “*faithful witness*,” which implies not keeping it to yourself.

Acts 2:32 - This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

Acts 3:15 - You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Acts 5:32 - And we are witnesses to these things...

Acts 10:39 - And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

Acts 13:31 - And for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.

- The goal is transmission, not institution.
- It is flesh and blood, not brick and mortar.
- It isn’t the church building. It’s your kitchen table and your living room.
- It’s natural/organic, not organizational.

Each and every one of us...each and every one of you...can be doing this. How God has applied his truth to your life is one of the most valuable resources this church possesses.

ILL – Janel’s podcast: “*Your Story. His Glory.*” - <https://www.yourstoryhisglorypodcast.com/>

b) There are at least four generations in this verse:

- 1 – Me – the apostle Paul
- 2 – You – Timothy
- 3 – Faithful men
- 4 – Others also

APP: Where are you in that relational process? That’s an important question to answer.

However, and this is important: The church grows through entrusted truth. This means that

- Christian mentoring is not merely advice-giving.
- It is -
 - 1 - doctrinal stewardship and
 - 2 - life modeling.

In Titus 2:1–8, older believers shape younger believers in doctrine and life.

In Matthew 28:19–20, disciples are made by teaching them to observe all Christ commanded.

Mentoring is relational Great Commission obedience

IN other words, the Great Commission starts in your life, then your home, etc.

APP: Map your spiritual lineage.

- Who was your “Paul”?
- Who is your “Timothy”?
- Identify one person you are intentionally investing in.

Mentoring is not abstract; it is relational.

- If the church depends on the organization, it is as fragile as a budget or a building.
- If it multiplies faithful people, it is as strong as the number of its disciples.

Third: Mentoring Requires and Creates a Certain Kind of People (vs 3-6)

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

- The soldier endures suffering.
- The athlete competes according to the rules.
- The farmer works and waits for the harvest.

These images emphasize:

- Soldier – strength
- Athlete - discipline
- Farmer - endurance

This means mentoring is slow. It is costly. It requires patience.

- a) The soldier image reminds us mentoring is hard.

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. We do not know—anyway, I do not know—how things would have worked if the human race had never rebelled against God and joined the enemy. Perhaps every man would have been “in Christ,” would have shared the life of the Son of God, from the moment he was born. Perhaps the Bios or natural life would have been drawn up into the Zoe, the uncreated life, at once and as a matter of course. But that is guesswork. You and I are concerned with the way things work now.

And the present state of things is this. The two kinds of life are now not only different (they would always have been that) but actually opposed. The natural life in each of us is something self-centred, something that wants to be petted and admired, to take advantage of other lives, to exploit the whole universe. And especially it wants to be left to itself: to keep well away from anything better or stronger or higher than it, anything that might make it feel small. It is afraid of the light and air of the spiritual world, just as people who have been brought up to be dirty are afraid of a bath. And in a sense it is quite right. It knows that if the spiritual life gets hold of it, all its self-centredness and self-will are going to be killed and it is ready to fight tooth and nail to avoid that.

Did you ever think, when you were a child, what fun it would be if your toys could come to life? Well suppose you could really have brought them to life. Imagine turning a tin soldier into a real little man. It would involve turning the tin into flesh. And suppose the tin soldier did not like it. He is not interested in flesh; all he sees is that the tin is being spoilt. He thinks you are killing him. He will do everything he can to prevent you. He will not be made into a man if he can help it.

What you would have done about that tin soldier I do not know. But what God did about us was this. The Second Person in God, the Son, became human Himself: was born into the world as an actual man—a real man of a particular height, with hair of a particular colour, speaking a particular language, weighing so many stone. The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a foetus inside a Woman’s body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab.

The result of this was that you now had one man who really was what all men were intended to be: one man in whom the created life, derived from his Mother, allowed itself to be completely and perfectly turned into the begotten life. The natural human creature in Him was taken up fully into the divine Son. Thus in one instance humanity had, so to speak, arrived: had passed into the life of Christ. And because the whole difficulty for us is that the natural life has to be, in a sense, "killed," He chose an earthly career which involved the killing of His human desires at every turn—poverty, misunderstanding from His own family, betrayal by one of His intimate friends, being jeered at and manhandled by the Police, and execution by torture. And then, after being thus killed—killed every day in a sense—the human creature in Him, because it was united to the divine Son, came to life again. The Man in Christ rose again: not only the God. That is the whole point. For the first time we saw a real man. One tin soldier—real tin, just like the rest—had come fully and splendidly alive.
C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

Take that image into your mentoring relationships to understand why they are hard but also to as a model for mentoring. We are all, toy soldiers, becoming real human beings like the ultimate human being, Jesus.

b) The athlete image reminds us that mentoring is costly.

It takes time to prepare, to invest, to ensure. It costs:

- Physically – you have to be somewhere at a certain time and place
- Mentally – you have to prepare what you will share
- Emotionally – you have to engage with another person different from you
- Spiritually – you're constantly refining your own life and praying the Holy Spirit will do what only the Holy Spirit will do in you and another person

c) The farmer image reminds us mentoring requires patience.

A farmer plants in one season and harvests in another. (I can never remember to plant pumpkins in May).

There is no such thing as instant maturity.

Galatians 6:9, "Let us not grow weary... in due season we will reap."

In Mark 4:26–29, Jesus notes the seed grows into a blade, then the ear, then the full grain.

God will grow what we faithfully sow.

APP: Mentoring will require:

- Time you could spend elsewhere.
- Endurance when our nature resists cruciforming.
- Patience when growth is resisted or uneven.

But the harvest belongs to the faithful.

Psalm 126:6 - *He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.*

Fourth: Mentoring is Spirit-Enabled from Start to Finish

“Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

The Christian life is lived in the Holy Spirit’s application of the Word.

ILL: It’s the track (the Bible) and the train engine (the Holy Spirit) analogy

1. Studies have definitively demonstrated that mentoring focused on the Bible produce more spiritually resilient followers and build long-term faithfulness. (M. L. Tyree, Jr. *Youth to Adult Continuance of Faith*. DMin thesis, Liberty University, 2021).

2. Paul calls Timothy to real effort, “think,” but he is not saying, “*You think hard, and then God blesses your effort.*” He refuses to make “*understanding*” a human achievement.

He is saying: “*Your thinking is necessary, but understanding is a gift from God.*” So, he ends by placing illumination in the Lord’s hands. Even understanding is grace.

Mentoring is grace to grace.

The decisive giver is the Lord. Mentoring can put truth in front of someone, walk with them, and model faithfulness, but only the Spirit can make the truth land, connect, take root and grow.

- This keeps mentoring humble, prayerful, and patient.
- We labor, but we do not play God.
- We plant and water, and we trust the Lord to give understanding.

1 Corinthians 3:6 - *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.* (Hmmm. Was Paul thinking about that 3-fold cord when he penned 1 Timothy 2:2?)

- Mentoring does not produce results mechanically.
- It trusts the Lord to give understanding.

Or, we could say it this way -

- The Father entrusts the truth.
- The Son embodies the truth.
- The Spirit empowers the truth.

In this way, mentoring finds its source and model as participation in the life of the triune God.

Conclusion: The church survives and thrives not by its organizational structure for various ministries but by faithful, person-to-person, flesh and blood transmission of the truths espoused in the Bible.

- When grace strengthens leaders, and
- leaders entrust truth, and
- truth forms faithful people,
- the body matures and grows...globally.

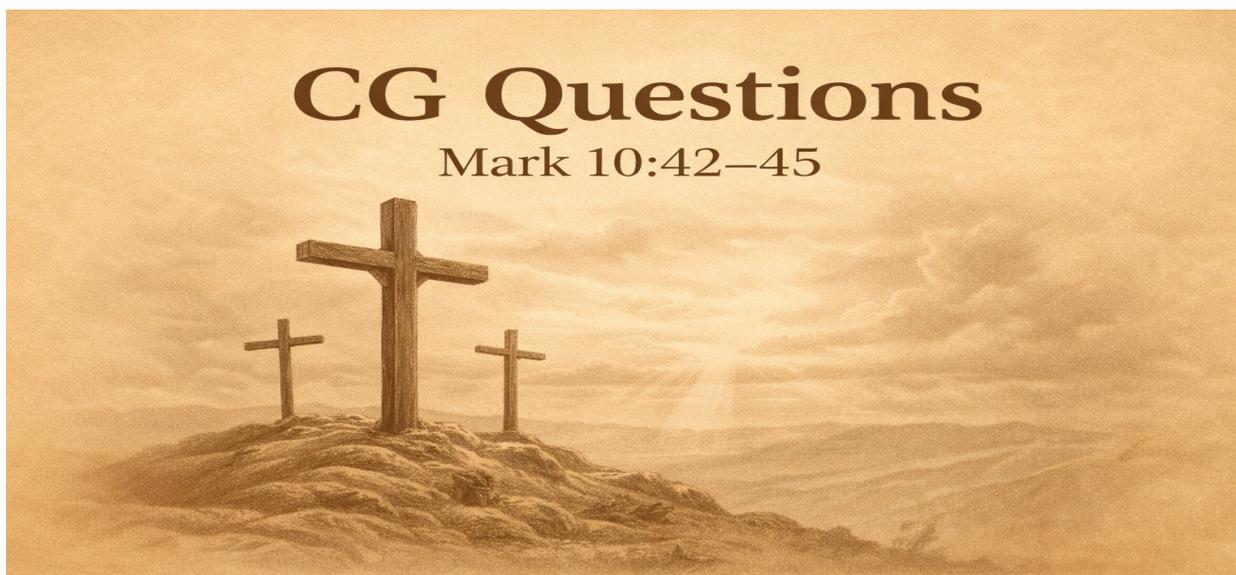
Ask yourself today:

- Who strengthened me?
- Who am I strengthening?

A final charge:

- Be strengthened by grace.
- Entrust what you have heard.
- Endure for the harvest.

That is how Christ builds His church and this is why Mentoring is on our Discipleship Wheel.



Observation
(What does the text say?)

1. What command does Paul give Timothy in verse 1?
2. What is the source of the strength Timothy is to receive?
3. In verse 2, who are the four “generations” implied in the text?
4. What does Paul tell Timothy to do with what he has “heard”?
5. What three images does Paul use in verses 3–6?
6. What particular qualities are attached to each of those images?

7. What two actions are present in verse 7?
8. Who ultimately gives understanding?

Interpretation
(What does the text mean?)

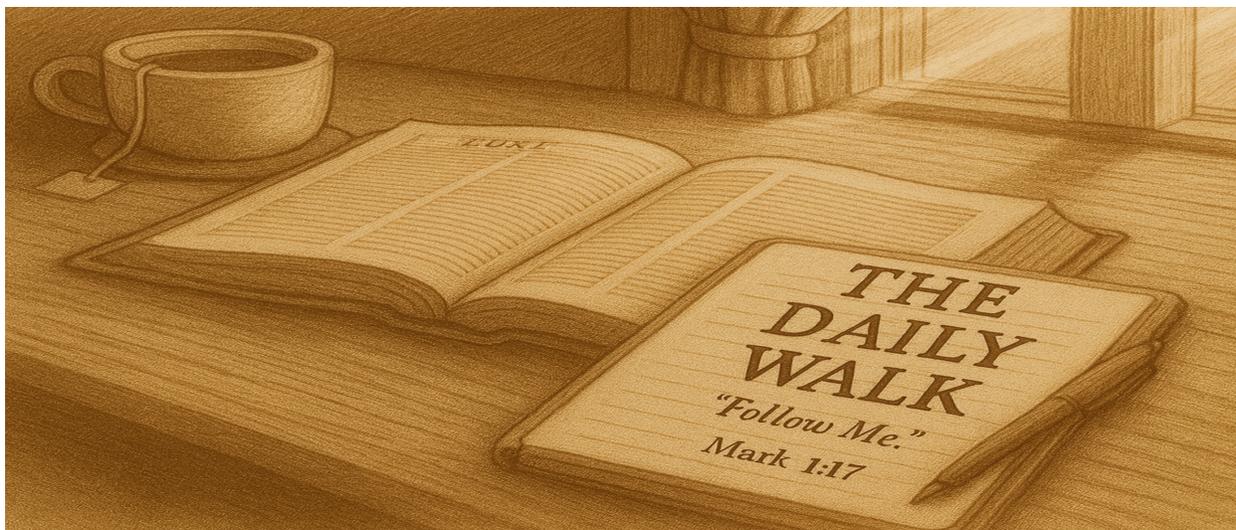
9. Why does Paul begin with grace-generated strength before speaking about mentoring others?
10. What does the passive verb “be strengthened” teach us about dependence on Christ?
11. Why is mentoring described as entrusting truth rather than creating new ideas?
12. What does the word “entrust” imply about stewardship and responsibility?
13. Why does Paul emphasize endurance, discipline, and delayed reward through the soldier, athlete, and farmer?
14. What does verse 7 teach us about the relationship between human effort and divine illumination?

Correlation
(How does this connect to the rest of Scripture?)

15. How does John 15:5 reinforce the necessity of grace-strengthened dependence?
16. How does Ephesians 4:11–13 describe leaders equipping others rather than replacing Christ?
17. How does Matthew 28:19–20 frame mentoring as relational Great Commission obedience?
18. How do Galatians 6:9 and 1 Corinthians 3:6 support the farmer imagery of patient sowing and God-given growth?

Application
(How should this change us?)

19. Map your spiritual heritage in the names of your mentors.
20. Who are you intentionally strengthening?
21. Think soberly about this. Have you been strengthened by grace, are you strengthening by grace, or are you trying to be strong for others? That can be exhausting for you and counterproductive for your relationship.
22. Where are you tempted to expect quicker fruit in you or someone else than God typically produces?
23. What is one concrete step you can take this month to move toward intentional mentoring?



This **Daily Devotion** is intended to help you – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* (Colossians 3:16) - and is intended to anchor mentoring in grace-strengthened identity, not in a performance or a platform.

Monday - Strength Before Strategy (2 Timothy 2:1)

Think. Paul does not begin with a plan. He begins with grace. “Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” The command is passive. You don’t manufacture strength. You receive it. Before Timothy is told to invest in others, he is reminded that he is dependent on Christ. Your Christian life is not sustained by willpower but by your union with Jesus.

Reflect. As a single adult, you may feel either overlooked or overloaded. You may feel invisible in church culture or heavily relied upon. In either case, the temptation is the same: prove your strength. Paul points you elsewhere. Strength does not come from relevance, usefulness, or productivity. It comes from grace in Christ.

Apply. Before thinking about who you might mentor, ask a deeper question: Am I being strengthened by grace? Where do I need to slow down and receive from Christ instead of striving? That’s a hugely important question,

Pray. Lord Jesus, apart from you I can do nothing. Strengthen me by your grace so that my life flows from you and not from pressure.

Tuesday - Entrusted Truth (2 Timothy 2:2)

Think. “What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful people.” Mentoring is not innovation. It is transmission. You need to know the truth to share the truth. Are you learning the truth and growing in it? If so, that truth is carried from one life into another. Paul envisions four generations in one verse. This because the church survives through multiplication, not personalities. Your transmitting truth, not you. Don’t confuse the two. And have confidence in the truth.

Reflect. You do not need a title, spouse, or platform to participate in this mentoring chain. If you have received the gospel, you are already in the line of transmission. Your singleness is not a delay in disciple-making. It is often an opportunity for deeper relational investment.

Apply. Who has poured into you? Have you thanked them? Who might God be placing in your life to invest in spiritually, even informally?

Pray. Father, make me faithful with what I have received. Help me see relationships not as accidental but as entrusted opportunities.

Wednesday - The Kind of Life That Forms Others (2 Timothy 2:3–6)

Think. Paul uses three images: a soldier, athlete, and farmer. Strength. Discipline. Endurance. All three emphasize that mentoring is slow and costly. Fruit does not appear overnight. God is creating this person in you and then, through you, creating this person in others.

Reflect. The Lewis illustration of the toy soldier reminds us that growth is hard and often even feels like dying. When you follow Christ, He reshapes your desires, priorities, and expectations. That cruciforming may seem punishing but it is not. It is spiritual formation. It is cross-shaping.

Apply. Where is God asking you to endure patiently rather than look for quick results in your own life or the lives of others? In your habits? In your relationships? In your purity? In your faithfulness?

Pray. Lord, make me patient in the process. Help me embrace slow growth rather than demand instant fruit.

Thursday - Illumination Is a Gift (2 Timothy 2:7)

Think. “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding.” You are commanded to think. God doesn’t bless mental laziness. But understanding is given by the Holy Spirit in grace. Mentoring is supernatural at its core. The Spirit grants illumination. You have to remember that, or you will exhaust yourself and others.

Reflect. This understanding (which only the Holy Spirit can give. Ha!) frees you from pressure. You are not responsible to produce transformation in yourself or others. You are responsible to think, listen, obey, and trust. God gives understanding. That’s a glorious truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to do this in you and then rely on the Holy Spirit to do what only God can do in you and others.

Apply. Where have you been discouraged because someone has not “grown” the way you hoped? Release the outcome to the Lord. Pray for Spirit-given illumination instead of control.

Pray. Spirit of God, open my eyes. Give me understanding. Do what I cannot do in myself or in others.

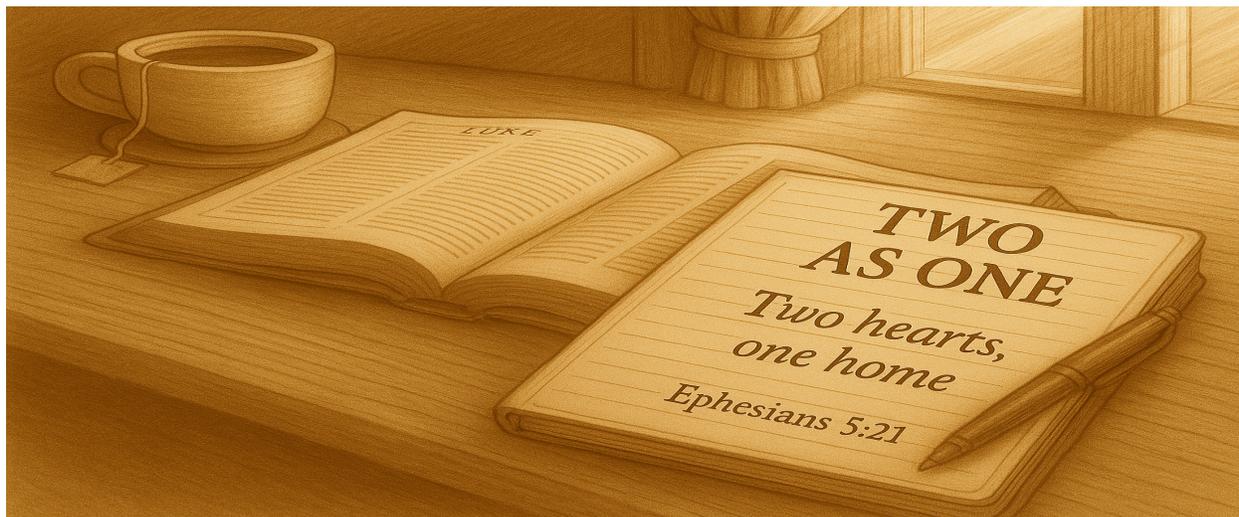
Friday - From Grace to Generations

Think. Grace strengthens leaders. Leaders entrust truth. Truth forms faithful people. This is how Christ builds His church. Not by structure alone, but by person-to-person transmission of Bible truth.

Reflect. Your season of life is not peripheral to God's mission in the world. It is the mission. The church needs spiritually resilient single people who are strengthened by grace and willing to invest in others.

Apply: Answer honestly: Who strengthened me? Who am I strengthening? What one step will I take this month to move toward intentional mentoring?

Pray. Lord, use my life for more than myself. Strengthen me by grace and make me part of your multiplying redemptive work. Make me a disciple so disciples will be made all over the world.



This **Daily Devotion** is based on Colossians 3:16 and is intended to anchor mentoring in grace-strengthened identity, not in a performance or a platform.

Monday — Strength Before Strategy (2 Timothy 2:1)

Think. Paul begins with grace, not a plan. “Be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” The strength needed for mentoring does not come from your personality, your chemistry you’re your compatibility. It comes from Christ. This is imperative for you to understand and practice in your marriage. Otherwise, your marriage will be driven by the strongest personality and not Scripture or grace.

Reflect. In marriage, it is easy to slip into performance. One spouse tries to be the “strong one.” Or you lean on your roles rather than on Christ. But strength to build a gospel-shaped home

flows from your union with Jesus before it flows toward one another. In other words, love God first, in order to love each other best.

Apply. As a couple, ask: Are we being strengthened by grace together? Or are we trying to be strong on our own? Pray together this week specifically for grace-generated strength to love each other in Christ's love.

Pray. Lord, strengthen our marriage by your grace so that what we pass on flows from you, not from pressure.

Tuesday — Entrusted Truth (2 Timothy 2:2)

Think. Mentoring is entrusting truth. In our text, Paul envisions generations of transmission. In marriage, the first place truth is entrusted is often in the home.

Reflect. This means your relationship is not merely companionship; it is first a stewardship of God's truth. You are entrusted with the gospel, and that truth, living as Christian disciples, should travel through your conversations, decisions, and rhythms.

Apply. How is the Bible shaping your roles as a husband and a wife? What gospel truth have you recently discussed together? Where might you intentionally speak Scripture into your marriage this week? If you have children, how are you entrusting God's truth to them?

Pray. Father, make our home a place where your truth is spoken, modeled, and lived.

Wednesday — The Kind of People We Are Becoming (2 Timothy 2:3–6)

Think. Think about these terms. Soldier. Athlete. Farmer. What does that look like? Strength. Discipline. Endurance. You'll need each of these to thrive in a marriage in which you mentor one another in God's grace.

Reflect. Marriage exposes our weakness. It is one of the most powerful forges for spiritual formation. God uses the friction of life together to shape patience, discipline, and endurance. But your growth and growth in your spouse will not be instant.

Apply. Where do you need greater patience with one another? Where are you expecting quicker fruit than God typically produces? Where are you trusting your ability to sanctify your spouse more than you are trusting God's grace?

Pray. Lord, make us patient farmers in our own home. Help us sow faithfully and trust you for growth.

Thursday — Illumination Is a Gift (2 Timothy 2:7)

Think. "Think... for the Lord will give you understanding." Here, Paul commands effort. But he also realizes that understanding is a gift. The Holy Spirit must illuminate our minds and hearts

for us to understand God's truth. That's why it is pivotal to be a Christian to understand the Bible as you read it.

Reflect. You cannot change your spouse. Say that to yourself. "I cannot change my spouse." Nor are you responsible to change your spouse. Say that to yourself. "I am not responsible to change my spouse." For one, you can't manufacture conviction. Only the Spirit can give understanding. That frees you from control and moves you toward the dependence of prayer which does change you. Isn't that amazing? To pray for change in my spouse, changes me.

Apply. Instead of correcting one another this week, pray for the Holy Spirit's conviction and the gift of repentance where necessary. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you understanding in areas where growth is needed.

Pray. Holy Spirit of God, give us understanding. Do in our marriage what we cannot do ourselves.

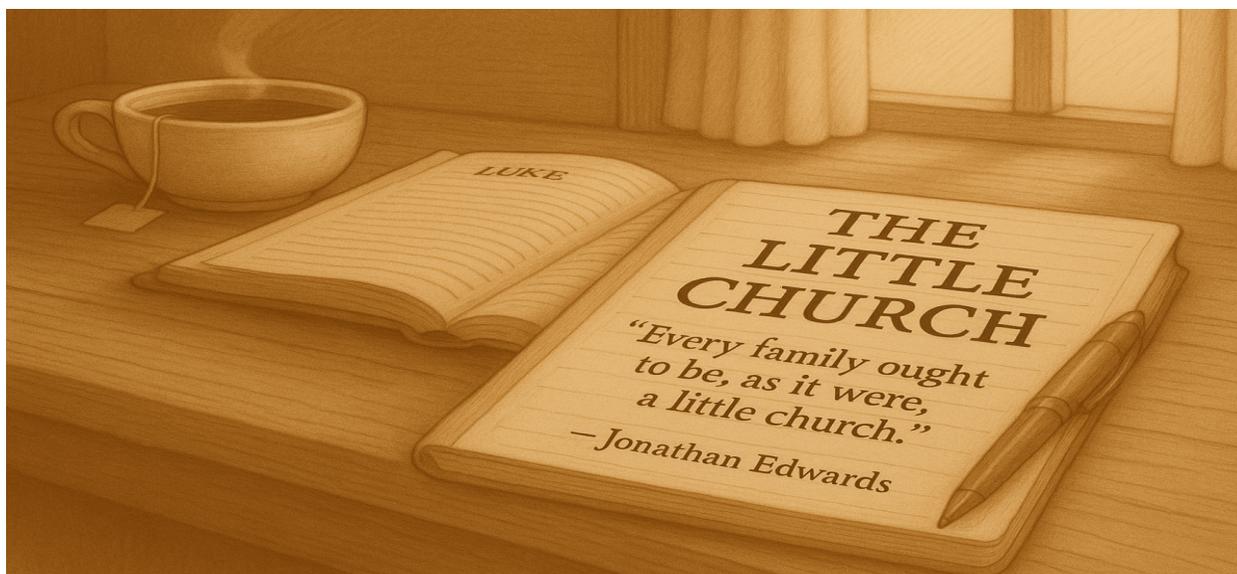
Friday — From Grace to Generations

Think. Grace strengthens leaders, whether in the home, on the job or in the church. It happens like this. Leaders entrust truth to others. That truth forms faithful people. This makes marriage is a means of making disciples, of mentoring one another.

Reflect. Whether through children, friendships, hospitality in your home, your union can become a conduit of gospel transmission.

Apply. As a couple, answer this together: Who strengthened us? Who strengthens us? Who are we strengthening? What step can we take this month toward intentional mentoring?

Pray. Lord, make our marriage a channel of your multiplying grace to each other and others.



This Daily Devotion is based on Colossians 3:16 and is intended to anchor mentoring in grace-strengthened identity, not in a performance or a platform.

Monday — Grace in Our Home (2 Timothy 2:1)

Think. Paul tells Timothy to be strengthened by grace. Strength in a family does not come from its structure or roles alone but from Christ who is our strength,

Reflect (Parents speaking to children). Children, we cannot raise you in our own strength. We need Jesus. And you need Him too. We all depend on grace. Let's make sure we are living in God's Spirit this week, trusting God's grace and not just living as parents and children.

Apply. Parents: Where are you parenting from exhaustion rather than grace? Children: Where do you need God's help to obey or grow?

Pray. Lord, let your grace strengthen our whole family.

Tuesday — Passing It On (2 Timothy 2:2)

Think. In this text, Paul describes truth as being entrusted from one generation to the next.

Reflect. Parents, your home is a place of Bible transmission. Children, you are part of that chain. What you receive, you will one day pass on. What are Bible truths are you modeling and teaching your children so they can pass those truths to others.

Apply. Have a conversation tonight with your children about who taught you the gospel. Share your stories of your spiritual heritage. If, like Teana and me, you are first generation Christians, share that with your children and tell them God is creating a new genealogy in your family through them.

Pray. Father, help our family carry your truth faithfully.

Wednesday — Slow Growth (2 Timothy 2:3–6)

Think. Farmers work and wait. Agricultural growth is gradual. They plant one season and harvest the next. It requires a lot of patience in God.

Reflect. Spiritual maturity in any family takes time. Parents will not be perfect. Children will not mature overnight. God grows what we faithfully sow. And as children see their parents growing in grace, it gives them the liberty to trust God in that environment of grace and growth.

Apply. Where, children, do we need patience with ourselves? Where do we need patience with one another.

Pray. Lord, help us trust your timing in our growth.

Thursday — God Gives Understanding (2 Timothy 2:7)

Think. Here, Paul tells Timothy to think. This is because God does not bless mental laziness. But he also recognizes it is the Lord who gives understanding.

Reflect. Parents, you can teach Scripture. But only God can open the hearts of your children. Know that. Believe that. Practice that. Children, you can listen. But God helps you understand.

Apply. Before and after your family devotion time, pray together for God's illumination.

Pray. Spirit of God, open our minds and hearts to your Word.

Friday — A Multiplying Family

Think. Grace strengthens us. Truth shapes us. The Spirit empowers us. This is how we live the Christian life reflecting the Trinity.

Reflect. Just like all creation is the overflow of Trinitarian love, your family exists for more than yourselves. Your love should overflow to other couples, families, and children. In other words, God is forming you so that others may know Him.

Apply. As a family, ask: Who can we encourage this week? A friend? A neighbor? A missionary?

Pray. Lord, make our home a place where disciples are formed and sent.