

# **THE PASTORAL EPISTLES**

**God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family**

**Week 9: Fidelity in Suffering**

Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we hold up all our weaknesses to your strength, our failures to your faithfulness, our sinfulness to your perfection, our loneliness to your compassion, our little pains to your great agony on the Cross. We pray that you will cleanse us, strengthen us, guide us, so that in all ways our lives may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice and for you alone Show us how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love.

**Amen.**

*COLLECT FOR*

**FOR TIMES OF  
SUFFERING OR  
WEAKNESS**

## FIDELITY IN SUFFERING

# Outline

- St. Paul's Fatherly Encouragements (2 Tim 1.2–5)
- The Encouragement of God's Gift (3 Tim 1.6–8)
- The Encouragement of God's Fidelity (2 Tim 1.8–12)
- The Help of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 1.14)

## **ST. PAUL'S FATHERLY ENCOURAGEMENTS**

- **St. Paul's Fatherly Affection**
- **St. Paul's Fatherly Affirmation**

ST. PAUL'S FATHERLY  
ENCOURAGEMENTS

> **St. Paul's Fatherly Affection**

St. Paul's Fatherly Affirmation

## 2 Timothy 1.1–5

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child:*

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and now, I am sure, lives in you.*

ST. PAUL'S FATHERLY  
ENCOURAGEMENTS

> **St. Paul's Fatherly Affection**

St. Paul's Fatherly Affirmation

## St. Paul's Fatherly Affections

- “To Timothy, my beloved child” (v1.2)
- “I thank God...for your sincere faith” (vv1.3–5): Paul's affections evidenced by
  - Paul's continual prayers for Timothy
  - Recalling Timothy's tears at last departure
  - Desire/longing/yearning to see Timothy one last time
  - Fill him with, or completes, his joy
  - The grammar itself
- Throughout the Epistle

ST. PAUL'S FATHERLY  
ENCOURAGEMENTS

St. Paul's Fatherly Affection

> **St. Paul's Fatherly Affirmation**

## St. Paul's Fatherly Affirmation

- “To Timothy, my beloved child” (v1.2)
  - Echoes Jesus' baptism: “You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased”
  - Proclamation helped prepare and encourage Jesus for his entire ministry.
- The sincerity of Timothy's Faith (v1.5)
  - Suffering reveals where we truly place our trust and hope.
  - Timothy's faith is the same as that of his mother, his grandmother, and Paul himself.

**THE ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF GOD'S GIFT**



THE ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF GOD'S GIFT

## 2 Timothy 1.6

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands*

- “For this reason,” i.e. Because of your sincere faith...
- Recalls Timothy’s ordination (cf 1 Tim. 4.14)
  - God gifted Timothy precisely for this ministry.
  - Elders’ prophecy, referring to the affirmation of Timothy’s calling.
  - Paul himself was there

THE ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF GOD'S GIFT

## 2 Timothy 1.7–8

*For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed then of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel*

- There are two loves, of which one is holy, the other unclean; one turned towards neighbor, the other centered on the self; one looking to the common good, keeping in view the society of saints in heaven, the other bringing common good under its own power; arrogantly looking to domination.  
– St. Augustine

**THE ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF GOD'S FIDELITY**

THE ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF GOD'S FIDELITY

## 2 Timothy 1.8–12

*...join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has not been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.*

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**THE HELP OF  
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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THE HOLY SPIRIT

## 2 Timothy 1.13–14

*Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.*

## TODAY'S SOURCES

- Augustine, *Literal Commentary on Genesis*.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.