

STAND FIRM IN RELATIONSHIPS

STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER

INTRODUCTION

- **Connect:**

- “You might not think of Muhammad Ali as someone who needed anyone to believe in him, but that's because you saw him only later in life. You saw the confident boxer, the brilliant self-promoter, the master of his craft, the fearless warrior. But there was a time when he was a scared child, like every other kid. He was a young black boy named Cassius Clay in a segregated America, who struggled at Central High School in Louisville, Kentucky. His parents, worn down by life and work, expected little of him; the world, even less.
- One person believed in Cassius Clay, however, and it was enough to change everything. "Here he is, ladies and gentlemen!" his school principal, Atwood Wilson, would shout when he saw him, "Cassius Clay! The next heavyweight champion of the world. This guy is going to make a million dollars!" When some teachers wanted to fail Cassius, whose priority was athletics, not academics, Wilson intervened and gave a speech that few ever forgot. "Do you think I am going to be the principal of a school that Cassius Clay didn't finish?" he told them. "He's not going to fail in my school. I'm going to say, 'I taught him!'" Every kid needs someone like this. Somebody who believes in them, Why was Muhammad Ali such a great fighter? Because somebody fought for him. You know who can do this for your kids? Who has to be that first, loudest, most resolute cheerleader for them? You.

Interrogative: Who in your life challenges you and strengthens you? Who in your life sees something more in you? Your voice, your presence matters in the life of others matters to strengthen them. Who are you strengthening?

- **Main Idea:** (Slide)

- We need to strengthen one another and be strengthened in our relationship with God

Today we look at the relationship between Paul and Timothy, and the role that Paul played in strengthening Timothy and see how we can be people that strengthen one another.

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-7 (Slide)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Prayer

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Text in Focus: Explanation

Context:

- Paul awaits his death from a Roman prison, with the expectation of being executed. He writes to Timothy who has been a co-worker in ministry and a spiritual son to Paul. This letter urges Timothy to continue in faithfulness for the sake of the gospel in spite of hardship and suffering.

V:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, **To Timothy, my beloved child:** Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The relationship and affection that Paul has toward Timothy is that of a beloved child. Paul had played a crucial role in leading Timothy to faith in Jesus. He had journeyed with Paul in his missionary journeys; and would often be sent by Paul to other churches. It was a relationship

that spanned over 20 years. So Paul had seen and been part of the full spiritual journey of Timothy. So he expresses these last words to him.

V:3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as **I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.**

- Paul is thankful for Timothy, because he is a blessing in Paul's life. He thanks God because he sees Timothy as a gift from God in his life. We then get a glimpse of Paul's prayer life in prison, night and day he would pray and in Paul's mind Timothy would come to remembrance and he would pray for him. Without fail he would pray for Timothy. In the midst of his own imprisonment and hardship Paul's prayers are directed toward Timothy.
- He lets Timothy know this fact. That he is thankful for him, that he remembers him, and he is praying for him. **(expresses)**

V:4-5 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

- Paul in a prison perhaps recalling all his final goodbyes, the tears that were shed with people he might never see in this present life. Paul remembers the tears that Timothy shed. He then expresses his longing, his earnest desire to see him once again so that he might be filled with joy.
- He recalls Timothy's faith that is without hypocrisy-faking. He knew Timothy's family and the faith of his grandmother and mother.
- We see the closeness between Paul and Timothy here that had been developed over the years of doing life together and being invested in each other's life. Displayed in emotional affection.

V:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is **in you** through the **laying on of my hands,**

- Paul then moves toward Admonishing Timothy. "For this reason" "Because you are my beloved child, because I am invested in praying for you, because of the blessing and joy that you are in my life and the faith that is in you I remind you"

- I remind you-call to mind, call to remembrance-
- Fan into flame the gift of God: Keep in full flame, stir up. What God has given you, the gift that is in you. Is capable of dying out through neglect. So Paul encourages Timothy to kindle the fire.
- Paul recognizes the gift of God in Timothy's life and so he doesn't want him to neglect the gift within him.
- Paul encouragee Timothy to take personal action in his life.

V:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

- Lastly, reminds Timothy what God has given US vs what he has not. He says fear is not from God.
 - Fear "one who flees from battle-cowardice"
 - Power, Love, Self-Control
 - The power of God is working in you
 - Why self-control? Soundness of mind. If we are talking about fear it is often in our minds where we let fear gain control and grow. But here Paul says you have the self-control to not give in to the fear because of the Spirit of God dwells in you.
 - So he reminds Timothy of the Holy Spirit working in his life

Transition: What are the lessons from Paul in his relationship with Timothy that we can takeaway?

ESSENTIALS (Slide)

1. Be Prayerful
2. Be Invested
3. Be Admonishing
4. Be Encouraging

1. Be Prayerful (Slide)

- a. Pray for one another

- i. Illustration:
 1. Friend: What is one thing that would grow our friendship? We realized that we would come together and share but never pray for one another.
 2. House Church-We want to be a HC where God answers our prayers.
- ii. Hindrances:
 1. Fear, pride, and shame. These things often cause us to refuse to share deeply. So we give shallow general prayer requests.
- iii. Application:
 1. Ask: How can I pray for you?
 2. Ask for Prayer
 3. Ministry Time

2. Be Invested (slide)

- a. Illustration:
 - i. Breaking down before Jade and deciding to be vulnerable
 - ii. Former HC that gathered around us and wept with us during a difficult season in our lives.
- b. Hindrances:
 - i. Fear of vulnerability is exposure to rejection
 1. Sometimes we want the reward of deep friendships/relationships without the cost of what it takes to build those relationships. You will never build deep friendships in your life if you are not invested, if you are not willing to be vulnerable.
- c. Application:
 - i. Express
 1. Paul let Timothy know that he is thankful for him, that he remembers him, and that he is praying for him.
 2. If someone matters in your life let them know.
 - ii. Allow others to know you and get to know others

3. Be Admonishing (Slide)

Define: What is admonishing? To warn or reprimand someone firmly

- a. Illustration: My dad admonished me once while playing football, he said I became satisfied and relaxed whenever I scored a goal

early and said there was still more in me to do more. He was seeing something more in me that I wasn't seeing myself.

b. Hindrance:

- i. Receiving Admonishing: Fragile ego that we are unable to receive so we become offended and defensive
- ii. Admonishing: Fear of potential conflict

Being admonished or admonishing others is not what we often want but it is what is often needed.

c. Application:

- i. Remind: sometimes people already know they just need to be called out and reminded
- ii. See what God has placed in that person's life and call that out.

4. Be Encouraging (Slide)

Defined: To motivate and give courage

- i. Illustration: Pastor Porrás inspired me to believe in more than I could believe.
- ii. Hindrance:
 1. Lack of encouragement
- iii. Application:
 1. See the gold in people-see people in the way God has created them

Conclusion:

- The application of these principles can impact the relationships in our lives so that in strengthening one another we stand firm.
- Be Prayerful-Accept Prayer
- Be Committed-Accept Commitment
- Be Admonishing-Accept Admonishment
- Be Encouraging- Accept Encouragement

COMMUNION

- **Scripture 1 Corinthians 11:23-30 NASB**

- For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; [24] and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." [25] In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [27] Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. [28] But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. [29] For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. [30] For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

- **Purpose of Communion**

- **Congregation Check**

- Ask if anyone hasn't received the elements

- **Personal prayer and examination**

- **Lead congregation**

- To take the elements together.
- "This is Christ's body broken for you, and this is the blood of the new covenant poured out for you."

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace,

shalom, from this day forward

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen