

Endure: A Study of 2nd Timothy  
Lesson 1 “Genuine Faith”

I. Introduction - Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, which we call **2 Timothy** in 64-65 A.D. shortly before his death. Paul wrote from a prison cell in Rome in order to encourage and strengthen Timothy as he continued to lead the church Ephesus.

A. The tone and focus of this letter is different than **1 Timothy** because Paul knew he was about to die (**2 Timothy 4:7**). Paul knew this would be difficult for Timothy especially as Roman persecution of Christians was increasing beginning in 64 A.D.

1. Timothy would be tempted to give into fear and shrink back (which would affect the entire church), which we'll talk about next week. Paul didn't want that.
2. Paul also knew that doctrinal error was attempting to sweep through the church in Ephesus (less than ten years after the revival). These doctrinal errors would lead people away from faith as faith comes by hearing the word. These doctrinal errors included the resurrection had already passed, Gnosticism, and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (compromise). **Revelation 1:6**.

B. The major theme of this letter is the battle over the word (truth).

1. **Acts 19:8-10** All in Asia Minor/Turkey heard the word and they then experienced the largest New Testament Revival.
2. **2 Timothy 1:15** All in Asia who had heard the word 10 years prior had now turned from Paul and many had turned from Jesus. They turned from Paul because he was imprisoned and they didn't want to associate with him. Many of these also left their faith, which we'll see throughout the letter.

II. Genuine Faith - Tonight we'll discover genuine faith comes from a genuine encounter with God.

A. **2 Timothy 1:1-5**

1. **Verse 1** This is a different greeting than most of Paul's other letters. It's possible Paul references the promise of life in Christ because he knew his natural life was about to end. This would be a way to encourage himself and Timothy during a tremendous time of hardship.
2. **Verse 2** Paul again addresses Timothy as his son (disciple in the faith). He's pouring into his son in the faith because Paul knew that no matter what happened to him, the show had to go on. He didn't want Timothy quitting.
  - a. Grace and peace - Paul's traditional greeting. What's God's posture toward us? Grace and peace!

b. Many don't hear the voice of God because they aren't tuned into the right frequency (Grace and Peace F.M.). These people's focus is on condemnation A.M, Judgment TV, or fear.com. **Wrong expectations lead to wrong believing!**

3. **Verse 3** When we walk in the light we have and endeavor to obey our conscience is clear. When our conscience condemns us, it's hard to believe because we hear a voice accusing us.

a. Forefathers - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, etc.

b. Paul prayed for Timothy regularly. We should pray for our disciples regularly.

4. **Verse 4** Mindful of your tears is probably a reference to **Acts 20:37** when Paul bid goodbye to the Ephesians elders at Miletus.

a. Paul kept Timothy in his remembrance (power of imagination). When we use our imagination properly it will keep us sensitive to God and people.

b. We find out in **2 Timothy 4:21** Timothy planned to visit Paul while he's in prison.

5. **Verse 5** Genuine faith - The word genuine means sincere or authentic. If there is genuine faith, this means there is also non-genuine, hypocritical, or fake faith.

a. Examples of hypocritical or non-genuine faith: Pharisees, Ananias and Sapphira, some politicians, some musicians at the Grammys.

B. What does it take to have genuine faith?

1. What is faith? **Hebrews 11:1** faith gives substance to hope. Faith is not hope. Faith gives substance to or acts on hope. We also know from **James 2:17** that faith without works/action is dead. Ex: Chair example

2. Where does faith come from? **Romans 10:17** Faith comes from hearing and hearing the rhema (declared word of God). We hear it in our heart (spirit man), not just with our natural ears.

3. Genuine faith comes from a genuine encounter with God. We aren't saved our parents' faith, our spouse's faith or someone else's faith.

a. My testimony from when I was 21. I saw a woman raised out of a wheelchair when I was 12 so I knew God existed. When I was 21 though I questioned, "How do I know that it was the God of the Bible who healed that lady? Maybe it was a force or spirit?"

b. God showed me thing from the scripture about Jesus. He is the cornerstone of our faith. Both Josephus (Jewish historian) and Tacitus (Roman historian) verify his life, death, and resurrection. This confirmed scripture. The scripture also says Jesus proclaimed He was God, His disciples did, His enemies said He made this proclamation, which is why they put Him to death. After He was put to death, the Romans placed guards at the tomb, but the tomb was still empty. After the resurrection

Jesus appeared to 500 witnesses (*1 Corinthians 15:6*). 10 of the 11 remaining disciples died martyrs deaths, and John was burned in oil. **All of these things confirmed the truth that Jesus was who He said He was and since He had done the most impossible task which was raise from the dead and He believed in the word of God, this is how I came to believe the Bible is God's word.**

III. Conclusion - Genuine faith comes from a genuine encounter with Jesus and with truth.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Tell Online Audience Goodbye

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from this teaching?
2. Tonight we learned that all of Asia heard the gospel in **Acts 19:10**, yet everyone he heard and many who believed abandoned Paul when things got hard. What are some things you can do to keep from abandoning your calling and key relationships when things get hard?
3. Share your story about how you came to faith in Christ.
4. What questions did you have get answered before you were able to give your life to Jesus?