

## Endure: A Study of 2nd Timothy

### Lesson 3 “Feasting In The Presence of Enemies”

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. Last week we looked at **2 Timothy 1:6-8** about “Overcoming the Spirit of Fear.” When Timothy heard Paul was in prison because Rome increased persecution of the church, it gave opportunity for the spirit of fear to overwhelm Timothy. Satan uses negative circumstances and negative words in our lives to attempt to overwhelm us and stop the move of God in our lives.
  - a. Key to overcome - Use our authority and speak the word of God.
  - b. Key to overcome - Revelation of the love of God.
2. Just because you evict the spirit of fear, it doesn't you won't have to continue to face adversity. It doesn't mean all your believing is done! Tonight we're going to study talk about how to “Feast In The Presence of Enemies.”

## II. Feasting In The Presence of Enemies

### A. **2 Timothy 1:8-12**

1. **Verses 8** Shame is rooted in fear because it produces a sense of inadequacy. One of the ways Paul helps Timothy deal with this is by changing his paradigm. He shifts it from a prisoner of Rome to a prisoner of the Lord.
2. **Verse 9** Paul then reminds Timothy of his salvation not based on His works (when we remember past victories we exercise our imagination and get ourselves back in faith). He then says God saved us He did so for His divine purpose.
  - a. purpose - **próthesis**, a setting forth, i.e. (figuratively) proposal (intention); specially, the show-bread (in the Temple)/presence bread.
    - i. **Matthew 12:4**
    - ii. **Romans 8:28** called according to His presence/purpose - this chapter is about overcoming adversity/persecution.
  - b. Our purpose in life is directly tied to God's presence in our life. The more aware we are of His presence, we increase in our capacity to walk in purpose. This is especially true in the midst of adversity!
  - c. **Psalm 23:1-6**
    - i. Jehovah Rā'â - the Lord our shepherd. He is the one who cares for for us, especially when He leads us into adversity.

- ii. Restoring our soul is a picture of us feeding on His word. Restores it to original condition. Important to do in times of peace.
- iii. Valley of the shadow of death - Refers to the Kidron valley which was a vast graveyard east of Jerusalem. Absalom's tomb is there. David walked this path in **2 Samuel 15:23** when fleeing from Absalom. It was on this path that he found out his chief counselor, Ahithophel had defected to Absalom. In the midst of that, the presence of God was with David. 1,000 years later Jesus walked this same path to the Garden of Gethsemane in **John 18:1**. Judas defected/betrayed Jesus in this valley.
- iv. In the midst of all this hardship, God sets a table for us in the presence of our enemies! He is present in our hardship and gives us a table to feast upon (healing, provision, favor, wisdom, peace).  
**The anointing flows in these difficult seasons.**
- v. The key to overcoming adversity is the presence of God and focusing on goodness and mercy in the challenge. When all else fails we can remind ourselves we will dwell in His house forever.

3. **Verse 10** Paul reminds Timothy that Jesus abolished death. This is referring to spiritual death. This picks up on a theme from **Psalm 23:6** about dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. Ex: Andrew Wommack story

4. In **Verses 11-12** Paul connects his suffering to his purpose. Paul suffered to bring a message of freedom to others. A powerful way to overcome adversity is to be able to connect your suffering with your purpose.

- a. If what we are doing in life isn't worth suffering for, it's probably not a God-ordained purpose.
- b. God will keep everything we commit to Him, but without our committing, there is no keeping.

### III. Conclusion

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Tell Online Audience Goodbye

### IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from this teaching?
2. What are some different ways you have learned to experience the tangible presence of God?
3. Tell about a time where you experienced the presence of God in the face of tremendous hardship or betrayal. How did experiencing God's presence help you overcome?
4. What are some of the promises of God you feast on in the midst of adversity?
5. Have you been able to connect things you are currently suffering to your divine purpose? If so, please share.