

| **Series Title:** Resilient Faith – Lessons from 2 Timothy |
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| **Weekly Title:** Resilient in Truth |
| **Date:** Sunday November 17 2024 |
| **Bible Passage:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17 |
| **Purpose of Preach:** To challenge people to commit to pursuing God and His transforming power in the Bible. |
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| **Introduction:**  [Please reference and use the general introduction to the series to remind people the heart and purpose for the series “Resilient Faith” looking at 2 Timothy.]  We finished last week by seeing how people were coming into the church and trying to lead people astray, these were false teachers who looked religious and impressive to some but in reality were spiritually bankrupt and powerless. As we move into the passage we are looking at Paul charges Timothy to continue, stand firm and remain in the truth that he has learned and believed in. He contrasts what it means to continue with these false teachers who we see in v.13 “will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” These are the people who Paul says in 4:4 will “turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” In contrast, Paul tells Timothy to stand firm and not let people pressure him to conform or move away from the truth of God’s word. In a day where many in the church are giving up on biblical truth, the Holy Spirit is speaking this same word to us. If we are to have resilient faith then we must be resilient in truth – we must continue, stand firm and remain in the truth of the Bible. In this passage we see four reasons why we should continue and stand firm and not let anyone shift us from the ground of biblical truth. |
| **1. v.15a. The Bible is the truth of God’s Plan of Salvation**  Paul says be resilient in the truth of the “sacred writings” you learnt from childhood that point to God’s plan of salvation.  i) Paul tells Timothy to stand firm on the Old Testament scriptures he learnt as a child. The term “sacred writings” literally means “holy writings”. The Old Testament has the fingerprint of God’s grace and holiness on every page. They are set apart, they are holy and different from any other ancient writing then and ever since. Then Paul links these sacred writings to the truth of the gospel he has been teaching Timothy.  ii) This book is the glorious plan of God for His creation. And the Bible contains truth to save sinners. This truth is “able to make you wise for salvation”. One of the main ways we can trust and stand upon the Bible is because it has the power to change people. The Holy Spirit speaks through Scripture and opens our eyes of our need of salvation and the reality of sin.  iii) In the Bible we see the reality of saving truth. Therefore, Paul says “don’t leave the scriptures Timothy, because there is no truth like this, that has the power to change people by giving them the wisdom that leads to salvation.” |
| **2. v.15b. The Bible is all about Jesus**  Paul writes “through faith in Christ Jesus.”  i) Paul is saying, “Timothy don’t lose the truth that the whole Old Testament is pointing to Jesus.” All the promises of a saviour are fulfilled in Him. All the promises of a glorious new relationship with God are only made possible through Him.  ii) Paul is saying “be confident Timothy, don’t let anyone move you. Jesus is so obviously the fulfilment of the promised saviour King, that we can’t move away from Him.”  Jesus said “I am the way, the truth and the life.” It is only as He is revealed in scripture that we see His glory, His majesty and His worth. |
| **3. v.16. The Bible is God Breathed**  Paul writes “All scripture is breathed out by God.”  i) Just allow the enormity of this statement to sink in: this book is breathed out by God.  Every word, all scripture carries His DNA, His power, His truth, His Holiness. Every word is inspired by God and written down by human beings. What they wrote God said. The Bible is as reliable as God is.  ii) Could it be that there are people that need to see afresh the authority of this word.  This is greatest prophetic word you will ever receive. We base our lives upon this word, we cling to this word. These are the very words of God Himself. If you want to know God’s ways then you need to read this truth. If you want to learn God’s heart, then you need to read this truth. If you want to know God’s opinion on your life, then you need to read this truth. |
| **4. v.16-17. The Bible is Powerfully Transformational**  Paul says the Bible is God breathed and is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”  i) Because the Bible is God breathed it contains the power of God to speak into and transform us from the inside out. The Bible in the hands of the Holy Spirit has the power to make us more like Jesus and equip us to grow into maturity. It shows us how to live and also the Spirit speaks and empowers us through it to enable us to live this way.  ii) This is where we see the huge importance of Bible teaching. When the Bible is rightly taught it is useful for reproof, correction and training. It has the power to reproof – the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and areas of our lives that we need to surrender to Jesus. Through the Bible God convicts us of sin. It also has the power to “correct” – the Holy Spirit will turn us around, and encourage and point us the way to live God’s way. Finally, the Bible has the power to training in righteousness – through this word the Holy Spirit will transform us and make us more like Jesus, we will be strengthened, encouraged and transformed into more and more of His likeness and righteousness.  iii) Because the Bible is God breathed it is a means of Grace, through which God’s transforming power can be poured into peoples lives. The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way: Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” This word has the power to work deeply into the heart and soul of every human being. As the Bible is communicated faith will increase and lives will be transformed. So for example Paul writes to the church in Rome:  Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” As the Bible is taught faith is strengthened and grown. Then we see Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica and says: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” As they accepted and received the biblical teaching from Paul they were transformed because it is at work in them. |
| **Application:** As we delve deeper into our series on “Resilient Faith,” we are reminded of the pivotal role Scripture plays in our spiritual journey. The Bible is not merely a book of words; it is the living Word of God, powerful and transformative. To fully experience its impact, we are called to immerse ourselves in Scripture daily, allowing its truths to shape our thoughts, actions, and relationships.  Here are four reflective questions to guide engagement with God’s Word:   1. **How often do I prioritise personal time in God’s Word each day?**    * Am I setting aside intentional moments to read, reflect, and pray over Scripture regularly? 2. **In what ways can I meditate on Scripture to deepen my understanding and application of God’s truths?**    * Am I allowing Scripture to not just inform me but to transform my perspective and actions? 3. **What practical steps can I take to integrate Scripture into my daily routine?**    * How can I adjust my schedule to ensure consistent engagement with God’s Word amidst life’s demands?   Give time for these questions and to pray together.  **Story from prayer partners - Open Doors. Pray for the persecuted church. *This example can be used within the sermon.***  PRAY WITH BENI  Beni\* remembers the time he was sent on his own to share the gospel with an unreached people group. “At first, I was afraid, but I knew that God was with me,” he says. “I faced rejection when I first began proclaiming the gospel, but I prayed that God would continue to give me the strength to persist and stand firm. He gave me insights and patience to approach these non-believers.”  Beni continues to serve in Sumatra, in western Indonesia, among the island’s predominantly  Muslim Malay tribe. Despite opposition, he has seen great breakthrough – including baptisms,  which are done secretly in people’s homes. He says, “When a person is willing to accept  Jesus and even give himself up for baptism, that is a huge victory for me. That surpasses all  accomplishments in this world to me!”  Please pray:  » Join in Beni’s prayer: “May God lead us to people who seek the truth, and may His signs  and wonders accompany us so that through us the power of God is revealed, and His  grace is poured out”  » For God to soften the hearts of those Beni serves, so that they will be receptive to the  good news  » For new believers in this tribe to have the strength to endure all kinds of pressure and  yet remain salt and light to those around them. |