

When Encouragement Feels Discouraging

Timothy

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- Told “be strong” or “endure” ~25 times in 1 & 2 Timothy

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2. Weakness (2:1)
3. Uselessness (2:20-22)
4. Incompetence (3:14-17)

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- “Share in suffering as a good **soldier**” (2:3)
- “An **athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules” (2:5)
- “It is the hard-working **farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops” (2:6)

“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

2 Timothy 2:8-10

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

