

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions.

Today's topic is: A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM 2 TIMOTHY 1-4.

(S) **SHARING FROM 2 TIMOTHY 1-4**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from 2 Timothy 1-4. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

Sharing quiet times from 2 Timothy chapter 1.

(T) I want to share from 2 Timothy 1:7-8 about **God's gift to Christian workers**. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline". When Paul wrote the 2 Timothy letter to Timothy, he was chained in a prison in Rome. This was his last letter and soon afterwards he was executed. Paul was suffering. In the mean time, Timothy was continuing Paul's work in Ephesus. At that time false teachers stood up, opposed Timothy and tried to destroy his work. Timothy was younger, less experienced and he had a tendency toward fearfulness. Timothy was also suffering. Paul encourages Timothy by reminding him that God's gift to every Christian is nothing less than the Holy Spirit dwelling in the heart of each Christian. This Holy Spirit is God's Spirit, God's very presence and work *within* each Christian!

The Spirit of God is not a Spirit of timidity, who is scared of the persecuting circumstances or who makes people ashamed to testify that they are Christians! No, the Spirit of God is a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. He is the Source of all the Christian needs on earth.

2 Timothy 1:8 says that the Spirit gives a Christian *power* to endure suffering for the sake of the gospel.

The Holy Spirit gives the Christian *love* to be patient and kind with their enemies, to forgive their persecutors, to have good manners even when they are ill-treated and not to criticise or judge their persecutors, just as 1 Corinthians 13 teaches.

The Holy Spirit gives the Christian *self-discipline*. If a person fears Satan's persecuting power more than he trusts God's ability and ever-readiness to help, then he has lost his mental balance. The Holy Spirit gives the Christian worker self-discipline, which means, good reasons to keep one's mental balance, self-control to avoid undesired consequences, and advice to make good judgements.

Paul reminds Timothy of the Holy Spirit who lives in him and who makes him strong in every situation of persecution! I too am encouraged to know that the same Holy Spirit lives in my heart!

(S) I want to share from 2 Timothy 1:9-10 about **God's plan of salvation for every Christian**. Paul says that God has saved us and called us to a holy life ... because of his own purpose and grace, ... which was given to us in Christ before the beginning of time, and has now been revealed through the first coming of Christ and the preaching of the gospel!

First. God's plan of salvation for every Christian does not begin when a person is saved and becomes a Christian. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 says that God chose to save us "from the beginning". God's plan for every Christian also did not begin at creation or after the fall into sin. Ephesians 1:4 says that God chose us to be Christians that live holy and blameless lives "before the creation of the world". And 2 Timothy 1:9 teaches that God's plan for every Christian began "before the beginning of time".

Second. God's plan of salvation for every Christian does not depend on what man does, but solely on God's unmerited grace.

2 Timothy 1:9 says that God's plan or purpose is based on God's grace and not on anything man did. Your race, nationality, ancestors or traditional religion cannot save you. Your free will and your good works cannot save you. There is nothing in you that contribute to your salvation.

Third. God's plan of salvation for every Christian is made known to him at the time he is saved.

2 Timothy 1:10 says that God revealed his eternal plan of salvation only *after* he sent Jesus Christ into the world at his first coming and *at the time* when a person hears the gospel being preached to him. This truth is taught by Jesus Christ, by Paul, by John and by Peter. I believe what 2 Timothy 2:19 says, that "God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his'." This truth gives me great assurance of my salvation!

Sharing quiet times from 2 Timothy chapter 2.

(T) I want to share from 2 Timothy 2:1-7 about **the task of the Christian worker as producer of teachers.**

First. The task of the Christian worker as reproducing teachers.

In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul says to Timothy, "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others". Paul is at the end of his life. He knows that he would soon be put to death. Therefore he entrusts his co-worker, Timothy, with a very important task. Let Timothy be a teacher and let him produce new teachers! *What the Church needs is many more teachers!* Paul gives Timothy the task to reproduce and multiply teachers! Paul had trained many teachers. Now it is the turn of Timothy to train many teachers!

How should Timothy train more teachers? 2 Timothy 1:14 says that he should first guard the deposit that was entrusted to him. This *deposit* is the gospel as it was preached by Paul. It is the truth of the Bible in the form of sound doctrine that Paul taught to Timothy and many other witnesses. Therefore, Paul instructs Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13, "What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus". The truths of the Bible may not be taught just as anybody likes. No, the apostle Paul has given *the framework of sound doctrine* as well as *the pattern of correct teaching!* Both *the contents of the Bible* and *the method in which it should be taught*, has already been established. Timothy and all other Christian teachers and workers should follow this body of sound teachings and this pattern of teaching the truth.

The contents of the truth is what Paul had taught Timothy and many other witnesses and in his letters.

The method of teaching is especially through love and not through quarrelling! The method is to entrust this truth to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Christ entrusted it to Paul. Paul entrusted it to Timothy and many others. Timothy must now entrust it to men who show that they are faithful and able to teach. These men in turn should entrust it to many other people. In this way, Christian teachers are reproduced and multiplied all over the world!

Second. The task of the Christian worker as a soldier, athlete and farmer.

Timothy and other teachers and Christian workers should do their work as these people.

Like good *soldiers*, they should endure hardships. They should not desire or demand comfortable lives, but be willing to do their work for Christ under all circumstances. They should be single-minded and wholehearted, pleasing only Christ, who is their commanding officer.

Like *athletes*, they should compete according to the rules, which God has determined. For example, the rule to teach the truth just as Jesus Christ and the apostles taught it (1:13). Also the rule to love people and even their opponents (1:13). And the rule to be faithful to the end (2:13).

Like *farmers*, they should toil energetically, avoiding laziness and wastefulness. I am praying that our church will reproduce and multiply many such teachers as this passage describes!

(S) I want to share from 2 Timothy 2:14-16 and 24-26 about **the task of the Christian worker as teacher.**

First. The Christian teacher should do his very best to handle the Word of God in the proper, straightforward manner and not to quarrel about words like the false teachers do.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul says that these false teachers are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, and lovers of pleasure. They were without godly love, not lovers of the good and not lovers of God. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Paul says that the followers of these false teachers do not like to hear the truth and sound doctrine. Instead they invite teachers who say things they like to hear, so that they do not have to change their lives! In contrast, Christian teachers must learn how to interpret the Bible correctly and how to teach the truth of the Bible in a correct and straightforward way.

Second. The Christian teacher should not quarrel, but gently instruct people.

The method of the false teachers is to quarrel about words and to conduct futile debates. Their method is to continually contradict what you say and try to prove their false teachings. The false teachers find it hard to even listen to the truth or your teaching. The organisations of many false teachers forbid them to even listen to your teaching of the truth from the Bible. False teachers get irritable, intolerant, sarcastic and abusive. Their only concern is to advertise and sell their false teachings and to try to recruit or capture you for their point of view. Paul calls their talking "godless chatter, which will

only become more and more ungodly” (2:16). Therefore, Christian teachers must not enter into their arguments, debates or quarrels!

In 2 Timothy 2:24-25, Paul says that the Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but he must be kind to even his opponents and gently instruct them. Christian teachers should be approachable in their conduct, easy to speak to, not scaring people away by quarrelling, but trying to win their opponents. Christian teachers should educate the uneducated, inform the uninformed, remind those who forget and warn those who don’t care. Instead of entering into the foolish questions or debates of the false teachers, the Christian teachers should *immediately proceed to impart positive instruction of the truth*. Christian teachers should follow *the framework of sound doctrine and the pattern of correct teaching* that the apostle Paul taught. Christian teachers should do this, hoping that the false teachers and quarrellers will come to their senses, escape the trap of the devil, and convert their thinking and life. Christian teachers know that the only One who can really change them and convert them is God. Only God through the Holy Spirit can give them knowledge of the real truth.

Therefore, when I am involved in a discussion with a false teacher, then I do not want to quarrel and try to win the argument, because I will probably lose him. Instead, I want to immediately instruct him in the truth and do it in a gentle and loving way, because I want to win him.

Sharing quiet times from 2 Timothy chapter 3.

(T) I want to share from 2 Timothy 3:1-9 about **the relationship of Christians to false teachers.** This cult or group of false teachers were Gnostics. Gnostics were Christian heretics who claimed that those initiated into their cult possessed spiritual knowledge beside what was revealed in the Bible. The *ascetic Gnostics* taught that the whole creation including the body is evil and only the spirit of man is good. Therefore these Gnostics had to become ascetics, avoid marriage and all other contamination by the creation. The *licentious Gnostics* taught that only the spirit of man is important and the whole creation including the body has no influence on the spirit of man. Therefore these Gnostics indulged in every kind of sin. They believed that nothing in creation nor even the sins of their body could contaminate their spirit. For example, they advocated that sins like over-eating or sexual immorality could not influence the spirit. Paul described some of their characteristics. They only love themselves and money, but hate God and everything good. They speak boastfully, abusively and disobey their parents. They are without love, without holiness and without self-control. They are brutal, treacherous and worm their way into the homes of unsuspecting people (3:6). They are liars (3:7), depraved (3:8) and deceiving impostors (3:13). Such false teachers also live in our time.

In 2 Timothy 3:5, the apostle Paul teaches how ordinary Christians should relate to these people: He says, “*Have nothing to do with them!*” In 1 Corinthians 5:11 he says, “*You must not associate with any of them!*” And in Ephesians 5:7 he says, “*Do not be partners with them!*” In 2 John 9-11, the apostle John commands Christians the same thing. He says, “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.*”

Therefore, I want to warn my brothers and sisters not to welcome false teachers into their homes and also to have nothing to do with them!

(S) I want to share from 2 Timothy 3:14-17 about **the relationship of Christians workers to God’s Word.**

First. The Christian worker should be fully convinced that the Bible is completely inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*” In the time Paul wrote this, the whole Old Testament was written as well as the whole New Testament with the exception of the writings of the apostle John and Jude. Therefore, *all Scripture* means the whole Bible! The whole Bible owes its origin and contents to the *divine breath*, that is, to the Holy Spirit of God. 2 Peter 1:21 teaches that the writers of the Bible “*spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*” As a result, what they have written is *without error, is of supreme value for man and constitutes God’s supreme rule* of what all people should believe and of how all people should behave!

Second. The Christian worker should know the Holy Scriptures.

By reading, studying, meditating, memorising and obeying the Bible every day, the Christian worker becomes wise for salvation, and knows how to teach, rebuke, correct, train and equip other people to become healthy growing Christians.

Third. The Christian worker should continue in what he has learned and has become convinced of.

In 2 Timothy 3:14, Paul urges Timothy and other Christian workers never to stop learning, never to stop developing personal convictions and never to stop doing their ministry! They should continue to believe the truths according to the way Jesus Christ and the apostles have taught them. They should never give up their convictions about the sound doctrines of the Bible or their convictions about the correct pattern of teaching other people.

Therefore, like Timothy, I make it my aim to be a man of God's Word: I believe that the Bible is infallible and trustworthy, and the absolute authority for human thought and behaviour. I read, study, meditate, memorise and obey God's Word in order to teach and train other people to become teachers and trainers!

Sharing quiet times from 2 Timothy chapter 4.

(T) I want to share from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 about **the task of the Christian worker.**

Paul teaches that the Christian worker has two main tasks: He should do the work of an evangelist, preaching the gospel to non-Christians. And he should also preach and teach the Word of God to Christians, correcting them, rebuking them and encouraging them.

(S) I want to share from 2 Timothy 4:7-8,17-18 about **God's reward for Christian workers.**

When Christian workers, like the apostle Paul, have fought the good fight, have finished the race and have been faithful to the end, then they too may expect to receive *the crown of righteousness*. This was a figurative expression for possessing and experiencing eternal life in the new heaven and earth. On the judgement day, the Lord Jesus Christ will give them this victor's wreath! On the Judgement day the Lord Jesus Christ will also repay their persecutors for all the harm they have done (4:14). In the mean time, while Christian workers are still on earth, they may depend on the promise of Jesus Christ in 2 Timothy 4:17-18. The Lord Jesus Christ himself will stand at their side when people persecute them, and the Lord himself will rescue them from every evil attack and will bring them safely to his heavenly kingdom!

Because of all these wonderful promises, I want to persevere in being a Christian worker!

(T) **ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Divide Titus 1-3 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and build Christ's Church" and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".