

Unstoppable

Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do

“How to Stay Focused on What Matters Most”

2 Timothy 2:1-26

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 6, 2016

In **2 Timothy 2:1-26**, Paul tells us some things we need to know if we're going to stay focused on what matters most.

I. Recognize How Powerless You Are

2 Timothy 2:1-2 “You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

The only strength you have is the GRACE you get from being in relationship to Jesus Christ!

When you stay conscious of how little you can do, you get excited about equipping others instead of building a kingdom of ‘one.’

If you want to stay focused on what matters most, then spend your life giving away all you've got and investing in others who can go on and do things even better than you.

II. Stop Looking for Some Spiritual ‘Secret’ that Eliminates Struggle and Launches You into ‘The Zone’

Paul blows up the notion of living a struggle-free Christian life by giving us three metaphors that scream struggle, effort and sacrifice. In **v.3-6** he talks about a soldier, an athlete and a farmer.

Those callings will tax you and tap you out, if you choose to do them well. You can't just do it when you feel inspired. You have to do it when you're not feeling it at all and when you think you've got nothing left to give.

Be faithful and work hard even if nobody sees what you're doing. There will be a harvest, a reward, and a ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’

III. Never Settle into a Cold but Correct Doctrine that No Longer Stirs You

After 3 missionary journeys, planting churches all over the known world and writing 14 books of the Bible, Paul never allowed his doctrine or the Gospel to become something he simply trafficked in and dispensed to others.

The Word and the Gospel should stay personal and passionate to you! Infuse your doctrine with doxology – worship and warmth.

IV. Dig into Your Bible But Don't Get Sucked into Useless Arguments that Don't Lead to Changed Lives

One of the best ways to keep our unity and love alive is to recognize that not all doctrines are equally important.

v. 14 "... charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearer."

Biblical information is never the goal. The goal is being made more like Jesus! If the Bible knowledge you're gaining doesn't change your life in ways that reminds the people closest to you of Jesus, then you're doing something wrong.

v. 23 "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."

V. Refuse to Make Peace with Your Greatest Enemy – Your Own Sinful Desires

Your biggest problem is your sin nature that tries to deceive you and lead you astray. The devil and the world can only tempt us because of our own desires that are so prone to those temptations.

James 1:14-15 "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, bring forth death."

Keep fighting and running away from your own sinful desires. The best way to do that is to chase after and go hard after something better.

v. 22 "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

The day you settle in and quit running from your sin is the day you'll be snared in it. The Christian life is comprised of positionally resting in Christ and running from sin and towards holiness. Chase after righteousness, faith, love and peace believing, by God's grace, that you can get there.

VI. Serve God But Don't Try to Be God

In **v. 24-26**, we're told what to do, but we're also told about what only God can do.

You'll never argue someone into the kingdom. This is where you need to let God be God! God grants them repentance so that they may know the truth. You just need to be His humble servant.