

E-votional 78

## Make Disciples/Teach Others

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT),

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

Paul's commission here to Timothy is exactly like the commission that Jesus gave in Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV), which reads,

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

I would also like to point out the International Standard Version of this as well, mainly verse 19, which reads,

Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The reason why I brought both versions up is the contrast where the passage says, go therefore as opposed to, therefore, as you go. Notice the part that says as you go as opposed to just go. Both are equally important, but the as you go illustrates a heart that is ever moving forward in everyday life to fulfill the calling of the Lord on their lives to go and make disciples of all nations.

It is important to realize that we should always be in a stance that is ready to make disciples. This is not just for pastors or whole congregations, but for each individual Christian. Paul's exhortation to Timothy really highlights the urgency behind the message to teach these confirmed truths of the Gospel to other trustworthy people who will also be able to teach others as well. The goal here is to have churches filled with people who will be able to multiply. Each Christian

has a part to play in passing the baton to someone else. Unfortunately, many do not take this commission as seriously as they should, for if they did, we would see more hearts on fire for Jesus.

The church needs to practice this or else they would eventually cease to even be a church. What would happen in a church that never discipled anyone fervently? Well, really simply, there would be no one else left to carry the torch. We all have a part to play in bringing up the next generation of followers of Jesus Christ. The question is, are you serious about this? And if not why? Or is your church serious about this? And if not, why?

Timothy was given an amazing opportunity to help unfold and maintain the truth of the Gospel through equipping others to carry the torch. We should be like this young minister whom Paul commissioned. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must ensure that the Gospel first remains pure and next remain in general. I say remain pure because we have a commission to keep the Gospel message true and pure. And I say remain in general, because it is not enough that we each believe the truth as a church or individual believers but that we multiply so that the message of Jesus Christ can continue undefiled. I see a lot of people gathering and talking about God's Word but I see a lot less actually and tangibly making disciples who will be able to carry the legacy.

Let us all resolve that no matter where we are at in life that we will pray the Lord to send us to those who need Him and then pray for the grace that is in Christ Jesus so that we can also raise them up in the faith. Brothers and sisters, this means being intentional about your faith. If the church is not at some point growing, it might be that it is dying. And God forbid.

Well, we love you all and pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the fields. Father, grant us all one heart and one mind so that we would be those that through the anointing of Your Spirit pour into another for Your sake. That through this You would receive many more into Your Kingdom and that they too would bring many more into Your Kingdom. Raise up an army Lord, from the dust of the ashes of this world. Those that would truly have a heart for You alone. Teach us once again Lord, what it is like to spread like wildfire, just like in the book of Acts, in Jesus name.

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In Christ's Love, Chris and Jeanne

