

1 2 **A Faithful Servant**3 **2 Timothy 1:8-10**

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David according to my gospel, in connection with which I suffer misfortune to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but the word of God is not bound. Because of this, I endure all things for the sake of the chosen, in order that they also may obtain salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

4 **2 Timothy 1:11-13**

The saying is trustworthy: For if we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are unfaithful, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself.

5 **Unchained power**

- Preaching the good news about the crucified but resurrected Son of David was what had landed Paul in a Roman jail.
- While Paul was chained, the Gospel is never chained.
- God's Word accomplishes His purposes of redemption even when Christians suffer.

6 **Endure as an example**

- Paul is willing to endure "all things" for the sake of the Gospel. Why?
 - That others may come to know Christ
 - That others will follow Paul's example of faithfulness.

7 **3 Assurances to endure**1 If we...2 • Die with Christ

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• If we suffer for Christ

• If we lose faith in Him

3 then...4 • We shall live with Him

• We shall reign with Him

• He remains faithful to us

8 **One warning**

- If you deny Christ, it is proof that you were never a true follower of Jesus Christ.
- If you deny Him, then He will deny you.
- So make sure you are a TRUE believer!
 - Not someone who just temporarily went through the motions but whose life was never changed by a relationship with Christ.

9 **A Faithful Saying**10 **1. Die to live**

- *If we die with Christ* is not referring to martyrdom. It refers to dying to our:
 - Personal desires
 - Personal ambitions and plans
 - Plans for selfish comfort
- *We shall also live with Him.* We experience:
 - Presence of the Lord in our lives
 - Seeing God's ways work in our lives
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11 **2. Endure to reign**

- *If we suffer*
 - Literally, *if we continually endure suffering*
 - "Suffer" = to heat silver for the purpose of removing the dross (impurities) resulting in pure sterling coinage
 - This is suffering with a reason – the goal of purification.
- *We shall reign together with Him*
 - Reign as kings with the King of Kings in the Messianic kingdom

12 **Heat makes dross float**

13 **Smith removes the dross**

14 **What remains is pure silver**

- Armenian silver dollar features picture of Noah's ark (since Mount Ararat is located there).

15 **How Firm a Foundation**

- Verse 5 (of 7 verses of this 1787 hymn)

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flames shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

16 **Purity required to reign**

- Barak Obama promised "the most ethical administration ever." Did we get it?
 - Eric Holder (attorney general of the U.S.)
 - Lisa Jackson (former EPA administrator)
 - Steven Chu (former sec. of energy)
 - Hilda Solis (former labor secretary)
 - Lois Lerner (former IRS official who went after conservative groups)
 - Kathleen Sebelius (former secretary of Health and Human Services)

17 **3. Be real!**

- If we deny Him
 - deny = disassociate from Jesus or deny ever having a relationship with Him
 - Indicates there was never a real relationship
- He will deny us

- God only denies those who never had a real relationship with Him
- The Father ALWAYS acknowledges His children, even when they stray from Him!

18 **4. Take comfort!**

- If we become unfaithful, Christ remains faithful to us because He cannot be unfaithful to Himself.
- Genesis 15:8-18 – God’s covenant to us is one He made with Himself (because that was the only way the covenant could be permanent)
- God still loves you even when you aren’t faithful to Him.

19 **Applications for Dad**

20 **Maybe Timothy was a Dad**

- Being a Dad is the most difficult job you will ever love.
- If Timothy was a Dad, would any of these truths in these verses apply to that job?
 - Timothy was a pastor
 - From the qualifications in 1 Timothy set for a pastor, it seems likely that Timothy was married
 - So it is not unreasonable to believe he was a father.

21 **1. Use the power of God’s Word**

- Paul was in chains
- Many Dads have constraints, too.
 - Bound by our jobs, constraints of time, limited energy, aging, the will of our authorities
- But while YOU are limited, God’s Word is not.
 - Get God’s Word into the lives of your children.
 - Model God’s Word for your children.
 - Point to the Word as the source of authority.
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22 **2. Be authoritative**

- 3 kinds of fathers:
 - Apathetic – Don’t really care as long as they are comfortable
 - Authoritarian – “My way or the highway!”
 - Authoritative
 - Explains principles of God’s Word
 - Looks for solutions in God’s Word
 - Helps family see life from the perspective of God’s Word
 - Makes God’s Word the source of authority.

23 **Matthew 7:28-29**

- *And it happened when Jesus finished these words the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.*
- The Pharisees and scribes were authoritarian (demanded respect because of their position)
- Jesus was authoritative – pointed people to the principles of God’s Word.
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24 **3. Recognize character-building**

- ITBT
- An authoritarian father cites his position as the source of authority.
- An authoritative father humbly recognizes that like his children, he is a work in progress in need of purification to be fit for service.
- He recognizes the need for God to remove the dross of His life.

25 **4. Humbly repent to honorably reign**

- The “my way or the highway” Dad soon learns that no one wants any part of his way. He loses the hearts of his family.
- The Dad who keeps the hearts of his children and grandchildren:
 - Humbly recognizes when he has failed and seeks forgiveness
 - Remembers that “fellowship” is 2 fellows in the same ship; goes on a journey w/ his family

26 **5. Be real**

- Christ recognizes those who make unreal temporary professions that do not change their lives. It causes Him to disassociate from these people on judgment day.
- In the same way, kids have a “hypocrite radar.”
 - They know if your walk doesn’t match your talk.
 - They respond to hypocrisy by denying future association with you.

27 **Failure at Ziklag (1 Sam 30:1-6)**

Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. When they attacked Ziklag, they burned it with fire. They took captive the women who were in it, from the youngest to the oldest. They did not kill anyone, but carried them off and went on their way. When David and his men came to the city, they saw, and it was burned with fire, and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until there was not enough strength in them to weep.

28 **Failure at Ziklag (2)**

Two of David’s wives had been taken captive. Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. And David was in a very precarious situation, for the people spoke of stoning him, for the souls of all the people were bitter, each one over his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in Yahweh his God.

- The people had put David on a pedestal and when he failed, they were ready to stone him.

29 **6. Let love take priority**

- Every time that mercy and truth are used together in the Bible, it mentions mercy first. Why?
 - People don’t care about your truth (teaching) if they do not feel that you love them.
 - Compare the outcomes of 2 sets of parents
- Do at least these 2 things as a Dad:
 - Hug your kids and wife
 - Take every conversation back to Christ

30 **7. Forgive and be forgiven**

- Christ forgives us and remains faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to Him.
- So “forgive others even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”
- Forgive yourself.
 - You are not perfect and that information is of no surprise to anyone.
- Forgive your family.
 - It is your fault that your kids are human!

31 **Happy Father’s Day**

1. Use the power of God’s Word
2. Be authoritative, not authoritarian
3. Recognize character building
4. Humbly repent in order to honorably reign
5. Be real
6. Let love take priority
7. Forgive and be forgiven

32 **Get help from your Father!**

- Fathering = an earthly task with eternal consequences.
 - At times you feel low
 - At times you feel like just a little more pressure will cause you to explode
- The world tries to fill you with itself – entangling you in its demands.
- But you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit; without Him, you have disaster.

33 **So...Happy Father’s Day**

- Here’s a gift to remind you to daily be filled with the Holy Spirit so you can handle the pressures of life.
- Humbly ask others to help you gauge when you are walking in the Spirit.