

# 5-Day Devotional: Strengthened • Entrusted • Enduring

*Based on 2 Timothy 2:1–7*

## DAY 1 — Strengthened by Grace

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:1; 2 Corinthians 12:9–10; John 15:4–5

Paul begins this section with a deeply personal command: “*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*” Before Timothy can lead, teach, or disciple anyone, he must first live anchored in the grace of Christ. This isn’t a call for Timothy to “dig deep” or muster up willpower. It’s an invitation to receive strength that only Christ can give.

The verb “be strengthened” is a present passive imperative. In simpler terms: **keep on being strengthened by someone else’s power.** This means our endurance, our faithfulness, and our disciple-making are not fueled by our own resources. They are fueled by union with Christ. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it abides in the vine (John 15:4–5), we cannot bear spiritual fruit unless we stay rooted in the grace that saved us and sustains us.

Grace is not merely pardon for sin; it is daily power for obedience. Paul experienced this repeatedly. When he felt overwhelmed, Christ reminded him, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.*” (2 Cor. 12:9) Strength is not the absence of weakness—it is Christ meeting us in our weakness with His power.

Before we talk about discipling others, we must talk about dependence. Before we pass on the faith, we must drink deeply from Christ ourselves. You cannot give what you do not have. Discipleship begins with abiding.

### Reflection Questions

1. Where are you currently relying on your own strength instead of Christ’s grace?
2. How would your disciple-making change if you lived more consciously dependent on Jesus?
3. What spiritual rhythms help you stay rooted in grace?

### Practical Application

Spend 10 minutes today in quiet prayer, asking Christ to strengthen you in the areas where you feel weakest.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen me with Your grace today. Help me abide in You, rest in You, and draw from Your power rather than my own. Shape me into someone who reflects Your strength through my weakness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DAY 2 — Entrusted With the Gospel

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Matthew 28:18–20

Paul moves from grace to stewardship. Timothy is commanded to *entrust* the gospel to “faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” In one verse, Paul paints four generations of disciples: Paul → Timothy → faithful men → others. Discipleship is not random or accidental. It is intentional, relational, and generational.

The word “entrust” means to place something valuable into safe hands. The gospel is not a message we merely admire—it is a treasure we steward. And stewardship includes reproduction. The gospel did not come to you to stop with you; it came to you on its way to someone else. When God saves us, He also sends us. When He teaches us, He expects us to teach others. When He forms Christ in us, He intends for us to help form Christ in others.

Paul’s model overturns our modern assumptions. Discipleship is not reserved for experts or pastors. Timothy was not called to find impressive, outgoing, charismatic leaders—he was to look for faithful ones. Faithfulness, not flashiness, is the soil where mature disciple-makers grow.

You may feel ordinary, unqualified, or unsure where to begin. But God has placed people in your life—family members, coworkers, neighbors, friends—who need encouragement, guidance, Scripture, and prayer. Your story, your growth, and your faithfulness are meant to bless others.

### Reflection Questions

1. Who in your life has God already placed near you to disciple or encourage spiritually?
2. What fears or excuses keep you from relational discipleship?
3. How does understanding “entrust” change the way you view the gospel?

### Practical Application

Identify one spiritually receptive person in your life. Pray for them by name today.

### Prayer

Father, thank You for entrusting me with the gospel. Help me invest in others the way You have invested in me. Give me eyes to see faithful people and courage to walk with them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## DAY 3 — Multiplication Over Addition

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:2; Acts 6:7; Colossians 1:28–29

Most churches celebrate addition: a few people saved here, a few joining the church there. Addition is good—but Paul calls Timothy to something far greater: **multiplication**. Multiplication happens when disciples make disciples who make more disciples. It's the difference between a ministry that grows and a movement that spreads.

If a church adds 100 new disciples every year, that's exciting. But after 15 years, that church reaches 1,500 people. Now compare that to multiplication: one disciple who makes one disciple each year, who then makes one disciple each year. In 15 years, that's 32,768 disciples. In 33 years, that number surpasses the population of the world.

This is not math; this is mission. This is exactly what Jesus envisioned in the Great Commission—a gospel that spreads through people investing in people. Paul didn't disciple Timothy just so Timothy could follow Jesus better. He discipled Timothy so Timothy could disciple others, who would disciple others.

Circles exist to build this type of movement in our church: small, intentional groups designed to reproduce every 12–18 months. Not holy huddles. Not static friend groups. Spiritual greenhouses where disciples grow and multiply.

Multiplication is not a strategy—it is obedience. And your investment in one or two people could change generations.

### Reflection Questions

1. Do you tend to think of discipleship as addition or multiplication?
2. How does the reality of generational impact motivate you toward intentional investment?
3. What step can you take toward multiplying disciples rather than simply growing yourself?

### Practical Application

Write down the names of 2–3 people you could disciple over the next year. Ask God to open doors for intentional relationships.

### Prayer

Lord, help me see discipleship the way You see it—not as addition but multiplication. Make me faithful with the people You entrust to me. Use my life to impact generations for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DAY 4 — Enduring Like a Soldier, Athlete, and Farmer

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:3–7; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:1–3

To prepare Timothy for the real world of disciple-making, Paul uses three vivid images: a **soldier**, an **athlete**, and a **farmer**. Each highlights a different form of endurance essential to spiritual multiplication.

A soldier teaches **focus**. He doesn't get entangled in civilian distractions because he aims to please his commanding officer. Likewise, disciple-makers must guard their time, attention, and commitments so they can invest deeply in a few.

An athlete teaches **discipline**. Victory requires training, self-control, and competing according to the rules. There are no shortcuts in spiritual growth. We cannot pass on obedience we are not practicing ourselves.

A farmer teaches **perseverance**. Farming is slow, hidden, and repetitive—but the harvest is worth it. Discipleship works the same way. People grow slowly. Progress is often invisible. But God brings fruit in His time.

These images remind us that disciple-making is not glamorous—it's gritty. It demands resolve, patience, sacrifice, and faith. But the promise is this: *"In due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* (Gal. 6:9)

### Reflection Questions

1. Which of these images—soldier, athlete, farmer—best describes your current season?
2. What "civilian pursuits" or distractions might be hindering your disciple-making?
3. Where do you need renewed discipline or perseverance?

### Practical Application

Choose one unnecessary distraction to limit or remove this week so that you can focus more fully on disciple-making.

### Prayer

Lord, strengthen me to endure with the focus of a soldier, the discipline of an athlete, and the perseverance of a farmer. Make me faithful in the work You've given me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DAY 5 — Joining God’s Disciple-Making Movement

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:1–7; Matthew 4:19; Ephesians 4:11–13

At the end of this passage, Paul leaves Timothy—and us—at a crossroads. He has given the pattern: **be strengthened by grace, entrust the gospel to others, endure hardship with focus and faithfulness.** The question now is simple: *Will we join God in His disciple-making movement?*

The early church grew not because the apostles preached to crowds, but because ordinary believers invested in others. Homes became mission fields. Friendships became discipleship pathways. Every believer saw themselves as a steward of the gospel.

That same movement continues today—and God invites *you* into it. You may feel weak, inexperienced, or uncertain, but Paul has already told us: weakness is the perfect place for God’s strength to shine. The mission is not powered by giftedness but by grace.

Imagine what God could do if everyone in our church committed to investing in one or two people over the next year. Imagine the spiritual children and grandchildren that would emerge. Imagine generations shaped because you said yes.

The gospel reached you because someone obeyed 2 Timothy 2:2. Now it continues through you.

### Reflection Questions

1. What next step is God calling you to take in disciple-making?
2. Who can you invite into a Circle or relational discipleship this year?
3. How can you rely more fully on Christ’s grace as you step into this mission?

### Practical Application

Take one concrete step today—invite someone into discipleship, schedule a meeting, or commit to launching a Circle.

### Prayer

Father, thank You for entrusting me with the gospel and inviting me into Your mission. Strengthen me by Your grace to make disciples who make disciples. Use my life for Your glory and for the good of generations to come. In Jesus’ name, Amen.