

Move Outside The Comfort Zone

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And 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. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs -- he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:1-15)

One time the Lord Jesus Christ sat with a sinful woman, the Bible called her the Samaritan woman, and He revealed Himself to her as the Messiah. At that time the woman repented from all her sins and she come back to God. In ***John 4:7-8*** we can read the following: ***“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)”*** What we understand here that Jesus waited for the woman to come to that place to preach to her the gospel, while His disciples they went to the town to buy food. Jesus was not interested to satisfy His hunger, He was not after food to fill His stomach but He was after that lost soul to hear the Word of God and be saved. The Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven to save mankind from sin and death. He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried but rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives.

Now to the disciples of Jesus and those who are following Christ or who want to follow Christ the message is this: To be interested to satisfy your own wishes and desires it means you want to live in the comfort zone like the

disciples of Jesus who went to the town to buy food and they did not care about the Samaritan woman that Jesus waited at the well to give her the gospel. The message today is for the whole body of Christ, to all those who set their hearts to follow God: You need to move out from your comfort zone and reach out to preach the gospel to the lost souls.

1- *“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)* Now is the time to move outside the comfort zone and rely not on your self and your power but on the grace of God and the Spirit of God.

2- *“And 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” (2 Timothy 2:2)* Now you need to put into practice what you have learned and received from teaching, and teach others and train them in the way of righteousness.

3- *“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs -- he wants to please his commanding officer” (2 Timothy 2:3-4)* Now the time for you to endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ. Life of soldier is not easy but difficult. The same will be to you, when you set your heart to preach the gospel you will face hard time but you have to endure it. The soldier is not interested in the civilian affairs or worldly things, like the best food, the best transport, the best salary and accommodation, etc. You don’t need to compete with others for such worldly things but, ***“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mathew 6:33)***

4- *“Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.” (2 Timothy 2:5)* The life of disciples should be the same life of athletes; should wake up at the certain time and eat certain food and practice hard. As workers for Christ you need to put yourself in the discipline of prayer, fasting, preaching the gospel and teaching the Word of God in accord of the sound doctrine and the right method that God gave us in His Word.

5- *“The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.” (2 Timothy 2:6)* The farmer labours hard in the land in order to have the crops. Now if you want a crop and the blessings of the Lord then you have to work hard and be patient like the farmer until you bring true fruit to the Lord Jesus Christ.

My Dear and Beloved: “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” (2 Timothy 2:7) Sit with the Lord and think and meditate on the Word of God that had been delivered to you. The Lord had done great things in your life, now the time had come to you to prove your faithfulness to God. The Lord had given you much, and you need to be productive and effective and bring new souls into the kingdom of God; this is your new commitment to God as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to be an effective worker and to bring new souls into your kingdom. This is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.