

Bible Study Guide

Deciding to Decide / Rejecting Indecision

2 Timothy 1:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

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Introduce

The book of 2 Timothy is a personal letter written by the apostle Paul to his beloved friend, Timothy. Paul had mentored this younger missionary for many years, and Timothy would have received this letter as an encouragement and challenge to live out his faith with boldness and courage despite the hardships he was facing. Paul writes knowing that these words to Timothy may be some of his last as the end of Paul's life draws near.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Discuss

1. **Why might Paul be reminding Timothy about all God has given him?**
Paul points out the many ways that God has prepared Timothy for the ministry difficulties he is facing: a legacy of faith from his mother and grandmother, the guidance and example of Paul himself, the grace of Christ Jesus, life through the gospel, and the Holy Spirit alive in him. Why might Timothy need to be reminded of all that God had given him?
2. **What are the implications for Timothy's decision-making?**
Paul holds up his own life as an example for Timothy to follow, and he challenges Timothy to choose growth and boldness without fear of suffering. Why do you think Paul normalizes suffering as part of following Jesus for this young man he clearly cares so much about? How might this invitation to follow Paul's example have affected Timothy's decision-making?

Apply

1. **Remember the past, pray for the present.**
Just as with Timothy, God provides us with all we need to do the difficult things he asks of us. List the ways God has already prepared you to make any difficult decisions that are before you. If there are things you realize you still need God to provide, ask God to give you what you need right now.
2. **Look to the future.**
Timothy faces hard choices in his faith journey. He could let timidity hold him back, but Paul invites him to see boldness in the face of suffering as part of living out his faith. What decisions feel difficult to you right now? What next step can you take today in trusting God for the boldness to decide?

Conclude

Pray with each other.

For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)

Learn more!

Prepare yourself to understand a book like 2 Timothy by watching [this video](#) from The Bible Project on how to read New Testament letters.

