***The Pastoral Epistles Series "Faithfulness In The Believers Life"* 1 Timothy 1:12-20 - 1/13/18**

*How is faithfulness to be understood and fleshed-out*, *in a believer's life?*

Far too many today are more worried about what people think, than about what God thinks.

The desire not to offend others (which is a *good thing* in itself), is often elevated to be the most important thing. As a result, many shrink from speaking the truth. **Proverbs 29:25**

**1 Timothy 1:12**

1) We Are To Serve God Fully & Faithfully Through The Blessing Of, *His* Strength

The key word in this verse is, "because". It was "because" Paul was faithful, that the Lord *strengthened* him and *put him* into service.

Jesus will strengthen you and put you into service, as He sees your desire, consistency and growth in faithfulness.

You've got to step-out in faith and then *stay with it*. Don't take your eyes off of Jesus or you'll begin to sink! It begins with baby steps.

We have to learn to crawl, then stand & walk, to become spiritually mature & then *run* this life marathon of faith, *fully* serving the Lord!

**1 Timothy 1:13+14**

2) As We Grasp God's Grace We're To Live It Out In Faith & Love

When you repent and believe on Christ, He enters you and your life and He fills you with the potential for a life of faith and love.

Many won't pursue this life of faith and love, through relationship. It's as though they left the One Who is full of faith and love for *lesser* things. **Revelation 2:2-4**

It's His grace that grants faith and love to us. **\*1 Tim.1:14*b***

*"The branch bears fruit, by remaining at rest in the vine."* **\*Jn.15:5**

**1 Timothy 1:15-17**

3) By Promoting God's Perfect Patience

Paul understood as much as anyone, the perfect patience of God when it comes to a sinner repenting.

It's God's grace, mercy +kindness that led many of us to repentance. **\*Rom.2:4**

We need to be carefulnot to allow our proximity to Jesus, to affect our passion and priority of Him. **Luke 7:44-47**

Remember to promote God's perfect patience; there are people all around you who need to hear this. **\*Vs.15**

*"There no longer remains a single sin on me - no matter how many or how great my sins may have been.” -* R.A. Torrey **\*Vs.17**

**1 Timothy 1:18-20**

4) By Fighting The Good Fight & Keeping The Faith

The gifts that God has given you are to *help you* fight the good fight, as well as to facilitate your faith. **Vs.18*c*+19*a***

We must trust this great compass that God has given us on this journey (The Bible), which warns us of this arduous voyage - telling us clearly of its difficulty. **Proverbs 14:12**

We must use the tools that God has placed in our lives - His word, the Holy Spirit, prayer and fellowship - as well as the faith that He's placed in hearts in order to avoid any shipwreck.