***Spiritual Strength***

**2 Tim.2:1-13 - 6/2/19**

*How do we acquire, sustain and show our spiritual strength?*

Strength is something we all need in life.

**2 Timothy 2:1+2**

1) We Acquire Spiritual Strength Through Grace, Then It's Sustained Through Faithful Teaching

Just as Timothy needed strength that's "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus", so do we.

It's not based on you mustering up strength, nor is it by 'pulling yourself up by your own (spiritual) boot straps'; it is by grace (in Christ). He is to be your all-in-all.

This strength is sustained through faithful teaching (as Paul relates vs.1 with vs.2), by affixing strength with grace, then tethering it to strength through good teaching.

One of the ways we're strengthened in the faith is through good and faithful teaching; it's one of the main reasons we enjoy good teaching, especially as a body of believers, as we need strength both individually and corporately.

We all have strengths & weaknesses. On our own, our weaknesses can break us, but together we can work to achieve strength for all.

**2 Timothy 2:3-7**

2) Spiritual Strength Is Sustained Through Commitment, Obedience, & Hard Work

Just as a true soldier is committed to His cause and commander, so is a true Christian. **2 Tim.2:4**

Just as the athlete understands that they are to compete according to the rules in order to win the prize, so the Christian understands that they are to obey, to inherit the grand prize. *"Faith without works is dead, being by itself"*.

Obedience to what the Bible teaches is essential to demonstrating authentic, saving faith. And it's our obedience that strengthens us spiritually as He affirms us through it, showing us that we are His.

Just as the hard-working farmer earns the right to share in his crops, so we who work hard the Kingdom and Land Holder, are to share in its benefits.

Yet some don't see this as a benefit, but a barrier.

Each of us has to choose *who* we will serve.

*"The first duty of every soul, is to find not its freedom, but its Master."*

We are all living to serve some purpose, or master (if you will). In life, we all worship - as we were made to worship.

Obedience to your master is a reality - whether it's self-worship, the worship of stuff, etc.; you choose your master to serve. **Joshua 24:15**

**2 Timothy 2:8-13**

3) We Sustain & Show Spiritual Strength By Remembering Jesus, His People, & Eternity

As we continue to remember Jesus, our spiritual strength will be sustained.

As we remember His people (our brothers and sisters in Christ), we're then showing our spiritual strength. **2 Tim.2:10**

We are also sustained spiritually, as we remember eternity. **2 Tim.2: 11+12*a***

Why does it matter that we sustain & show our spiritual strength?... It not only gives us focus & endurance, but it gives the same for those around us - especially when we're going *through* it!

We're inspired by other believers who stay true to the course and cause in the midst of adversity; and as is oftentimes the case, God does great things through us when we do.

Look to Him to sustain your spiritual strength and as you do, you can then show it to others who will be helped.