

Timothy the Faithful – “O man of God” 1 Timothy 6:11
“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”
2 Timothy 2:3.



“Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God” 1 Samuel 17:36¹

Picturing 2 Timothy 2:3, 1 Samuel 17:36 is a “Timothy” called at age 20 to:

- **“endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”**
- face **“the lion and the bear”** and the **“Philistine”**
- be faithful **“that thou...mightest war a good warfare”** 1 Timothy 1:18:

*“A flood of thoughts came across my mind regarding the different fields I had fought on, and the many hair-breadth escapes I had had. I thought of the Alma and my Christian comrade who lay buried beside the river. I thought of the wild charge of our handful of cavalry at Balaclava, of our desperate fight at Inkerman, of our terrible work in the trenches. And after all I had gone through - death staring me in the face in a thousand shapes, both in the field and in camp, for upwards of twelve long months...yet a merciful God had thought fit to throw His protecting arm of love around me - truly I had much for meditation; verily I had much to be thankful for...” – Sergeant Major **Timothy** Gowing, Royal Fusiliers².*

Like David and S/mjr. Gowing, Timothy did **“endure hardness,”** face **“the lion and the bear”** and the **“Philistine”** and **“war a good warfare.”** If you will, **Timothy’s your man** ☺!



Timothy the Follower

Timothy means *Honouring God*³, from his full name “*Timotheus*,” found 17 times in scripture. The embedded word “*theus*” is God. With God in his name, Timothy followed God in his life. He alone is called “*O man of God*” 1 Timothy 6:11 in the New Testament.

Timothy was from Lystra in Asia Minor and Paul first meets him in Acts 16:1. “*Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:*”

Thank God for “*a certain woman...which believed.*” Paul identifies her in 2 Timothy 1:5. “*...I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*” Timothy became a follower of the Lord via *believing generations*. “*You may be the first link in a person’s conversion, you may be the last link. Make sure you’re not the missing link!*”⁴

Timothy the Fellowlabourer

Timothy became a “*fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ*” 1 Thessalonians 3:2 but some things threatened his labour. Timothy’s *past life* threatened his labour⁵. Galatians 3:28 says “*There is neither Jew nor Greek...in Christ Jesus*” but Acts 16:3 states “*Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.*” Self-explanatory. Timothy therefore overcame his *past life* to be a “*fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ.*”

Timothy’s *ill-health* threatened his labour. Paul even advises him in 1 Timothy 5:23 “*Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.*” Yet Paul says of Timothy in Philippians 2:22 “*he hath served with me in the gospel.*” Timothy therefore overcame his *ill-health* to be a “*fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ.*”

Timothy’s *fear of shame* threatened his labour. Paul urges him in 2 Timothy 1:8 “*Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;*” Foxe⁶ states that Timothy was Bishop of Ephesus in A.D. 97. There he rebuked a procession of pagans, like a Notting Hill Carnival, for their idolatry. They beat him to death. Timothy therefore overcame his *fear of shame* to be a “*fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ*” no matter what.

So despite *your past*, *ill-health*, *fear*, whatever, *you can be* a “*fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ*” because the Lord said “*Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*” John 16:33.

Timothy the Faithful

Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:10-11 “*But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*” The 9 aspects listed may be 9 roots for the 9 fruits of Galatians 5:22, 23. Fruitfulness comes from faithfulness. Timothy was faithful because he *lived through* experiences like 2 Timothy 3:10-11 with Paul and he did “*endure hardness,*” face “*the lion and the bear*” and the “*Philistine*” and “*war a good warfare.*” He could say with Paul in 1 Timothy 1:12 “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*” So, how are you “*counted...faithful*”?

Being “*counted...faithful*” includes *cross-generation witness* like Lois to Eunice to Timothy, as Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:2 “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*”

Being “*counted...faithful*” also includes *learning* “*the holy scriptures*” 2 Timothy 3:14-15:

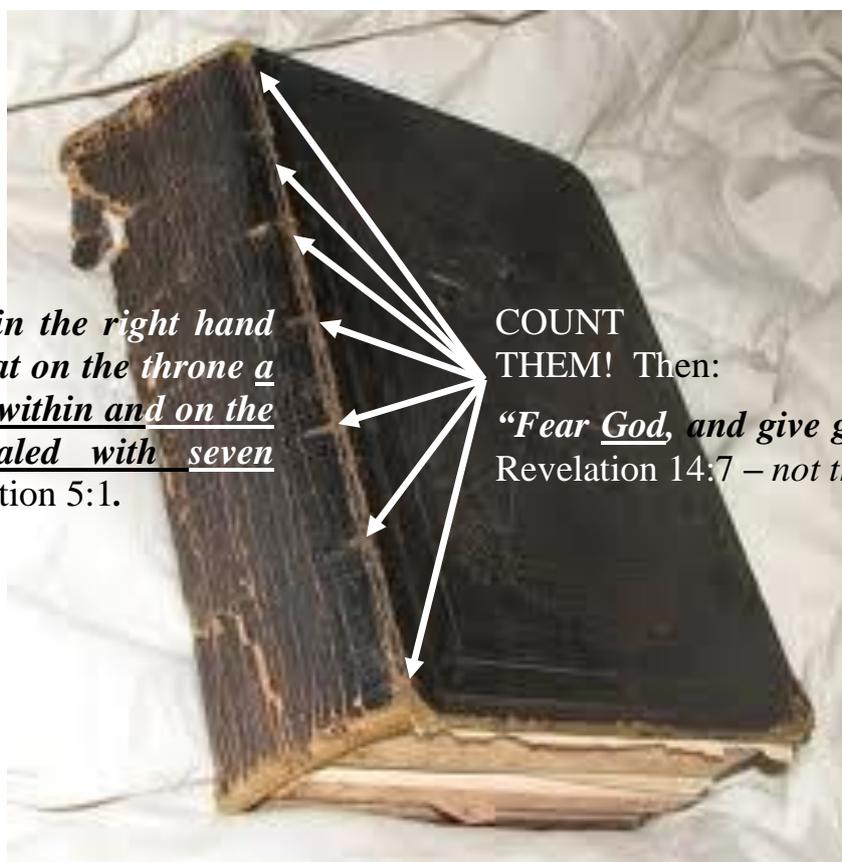
“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

The hymn My Mother’s Bible is Timothy’s Testimony:

My Mother’s Bible⁷

Blessèd Book, precious Book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day, as I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above

What Book is that? See below:



“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals” Revelation 5:1.

COUNT THEM! Then:

“Fear God, and give glory to him”
Revelation 14:7 – not the publisher!

“A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t”
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon⁸.

Paul therefore exhorts Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15. It should be memorized:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

You must rightly divide the Book⁹ because you must learn it - THE BOOK is:

The Timothy’s Charter: *How to Follow, Work, Wage War, Be Faithful.*

May it be yours.

References

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- ⁴ Jack Griffin, *Sydney Navigators*, d. 1973, direct quote
- ⁵ *Ruckman Reference Bible*, Bible Baptist Bookstore, 2009, p 1460
- ⁶ *Fox's Book of Martyrs* edited by William Byron Forbush, Zondervan, 1967, p 7. See also en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Timothy
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