

“Running the Race”
Loyalty to Christ – persevering through suffering
2 Timothy 1:1-2:13

Loyalty (v.1-5)

Timothy:

Paul:

Jesus:

1. God's power is sufficient in suffering (1:6-14)

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline” (v.7)

- God has saved us
- God planned it and followed through
- God has destroyed death
- God can be known
- God is able

2. Train yourself ready for suffering (2:1-7)

- a. The soldier (v.3-4) – we’re in a battle: “don’t be a coward”
- b. The athlete (v.5) – we’re in a race: “don’t be a cheat”
- c. The farmer (v.6) – we’re in the growing season: “don’t be a slacker”

3. The Gospel is not limited by suffering (2:8-13)

“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.” (v.9-10)

“Running the Race”

Loyalty to Christ – persevering through suffering (2 Timothy 1:1-2:13)

Digging Deeper questions for small group discussion & personal reflection

Loyalty

Have you given up or been close to giving up in some area of life? Why? What happened?

Have you ever been close to giving up, either trusting in Jesus, or serving him? What happened?

How have you known the ‘loyalty’ of Christ in your life, and how has that helped you to keep going?

1. God's power is sufficient in suffering (1:6-14)

What reasons do we have to confident in God’s power, when we feel like giving up or being a coward?

How might we ‘fan into flame’ the gift of the Holy Spirit (v.6) in our lives, so we can live in His power more effectively?

2. Train yourself ready for suffering (2:1-7)

Why do we need to prepare ourselves for suffering and struggle in the Christian life?

What do the images of the:

- Soldier
- Athlete
- Farmer

tell you about the discipline and rewards from Christ in training for suffering?

3. The Gospel is not limited by suffering (2:8-13)

What reassurance can you gain from the fact that even when things look like they’re going wrong, that God will still save those He’s chosen?