

Sermon Notes September 13, 2020  
“A Call to Faithfulness: The Cost of Commitment”  
2 Timothy 2:1-13

**Possible helpful background that may aid your understanding:**

Strong influences in Timothy’s faith development - His mother, his grandmother, Paul, Peter, Silas, Barnabus, Apollos, Aquila, and Mark to name a few.

In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, Timothy is called to respond by living a disciplined life, based on the power of God. Timothy is further exhorted to be strong in grace.

**In addition, Timothy is reminded of 3 metaphors regarding commitment:**

**Loyalty:** One cannot have divided loyalties and still be considered “committed.” For Timothy, this means that he must cut out of his life everything that will not be pleasing to Christ or that will cut into his total commitment to Christ.

**Discipline:** Just like an athlete is not free to do as he/she pleases, not if they wish to compete. For Timothy, the key to this metaphor is long-term discipline.

**Hard Work:** Disciplined to do the work that needs to be done. For Timothy, a reminder that being a Christian is hard work. Paul reminds Timothy that he has to keep working at faith and life.

What would it mean to be in better spiritual shape every year?

What kinds of discipline would you have to follow to do that?

Have you heard the statement, “**It’s just a cross you have to bear.**”? What is meant when this term is used? (ex: self-sacrifice, giving freely of ourselves, etc.)

(Responses from Facebook and website posts)

- “A lot of important worrisome, burdens.”
- “Unwanted, not asked for, expected (because of role or position), a responsibility one is expected to address, take care of, often by themselves, without appreciation or support of others...much like Jesus did carry his cross (literally)”

“Bearing the marks of Christ” – This could lead others to say, “Look at these Christians, how they love one another.”

How would people in our community know that we love one another – and that we love the world?

What kinds of discipline do Christians follow in order to be more faithful disciples?

John Wesley encouraged “Works of Mercy” and “Works of Piety” – check out the resources below or go to UMC.org and explore

<https://www.seedbed.com/meeting-jesus-in-the-works-of-mercy/>

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/grace-responding-with-piety-and-mercy>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/works-of-piety>

What are some ways to reinforce a choice to be faithful?

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Regular communion,
- ◆ Participate in a “Baptismal Remembrance”
- ◆ Faithful service (singing in choir, teaching Sunday School, Habitat for Humanity, teaching English as a Second Language, etc.)

If you have additional means to remain faithful, share those so others will be strengthened.

**Reminder:** All who follow Jesus will fall short in discipleship. Be mindful of God’s grace. Grace means God does not deny us, even when we deny God.

**How can Granger UMC support you and your household to nurture living into “A Call to Faithfulness”? Please email [pastor@grangerumc.org](mailto:pastor@grangerumc.org) with your suggestions.**