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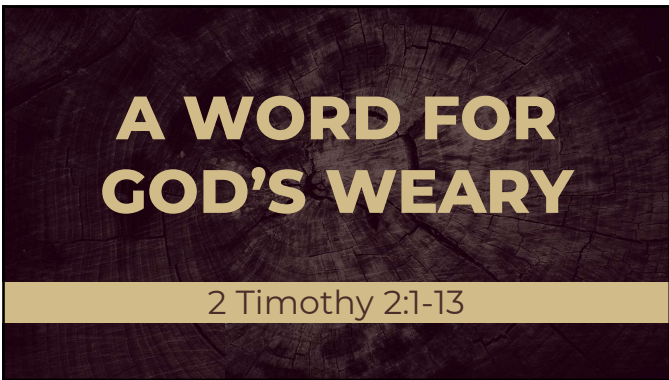
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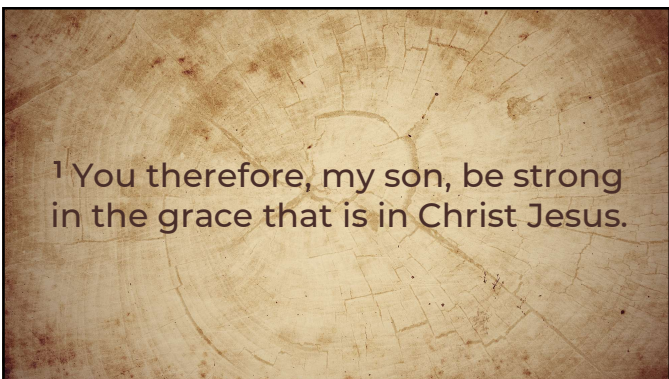
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<sup>2</sup> The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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<sup>3</sup> Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

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<sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

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<sup>5</sup> Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the crown unless he competes according to the rules.

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<sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

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<sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

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<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer hardship, bound with chains, as a criminal; but the word of God is not bound.

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<sup>10</sup> For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

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<sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy: if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; <sup>12</sup> If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

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If we deny Him, He also will deny us; <sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

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What Can Believers Do When the Struggle is Too Much.  
**Three Choices We Have.**

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**Exercise Inadequacy.**  
<sup>1b</sup> be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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**The Bible Offers Two Sources of Strength Here.**

1. The Strength of Christ
2. The Strength of Gospel Fellowship

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**Embrace Suffering.**  
V.3-6

<sup>3</sup> Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

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**Three Pictures of Facing Hardship Well.**

1. Soldier = Set aside Self
2. Athlete = Don't Take Shortcuts
3. Farmer = Give What it Takes

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**Endure to the End.**  
V.8-13

<sup>12</sup> If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

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**Three Motivating Promises**

1. Jesus Did It.
2. Gospel Living Always Holds Promise.
  - No One Can Take the Gospel's Power.
  - Lost People are Everywhere.
3. There is Reward & Risk in How We Relate to Christ.

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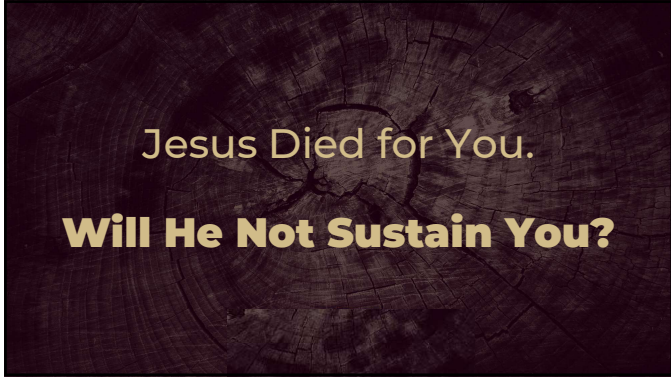
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