**Be Strong**

*2 Tim 2:1-7*

3 features of being strong in grace

**I. Entrust the things you’ve heard to others**

**2 Timothy 2:2**—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.*

A. What? – The teaching that you have received

B. To whom? – Faithful men

C. For what purpose? – So that they can teach others also

**II. Please the One who enlists you—even in hardship**

**2 Timothy 2:3-5**—*Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 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. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.*

A. By suffering well

B. By not being entangled with the affairs of everyday life (IOW, that take your eyes off the goal with distractions)

**2 Timothy 2:4**—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.*

C. By focusing on your commander’s desires—And how do we know what His desires are for us?

1. Will it be spiritually profitable?

**I Cor 6:12**—All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

1. Will it build me up?

**I Cor 10:23**—All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

1. Will it slow me down?

**Heb 12:1**—Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

1. Will it be likely to start a habit?

**1 Cor 6:12**—All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

1. Will it move me to look more like Christ?

**1 Jn 2:6**—the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1. Will it glorify God?

**1 Cor 10:31**—Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Cor 5:9**—Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

D. By competing according to the rules

**2 Timothy 2:5**—Also *if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules*

**III. Keep your eye on the prize**

**2 Timothy 2:5-6**—*Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.*

A. To the athlete who plays according to the rules wins

B. To the hard working farmer goes his harvest