Grace Evangelical Free Church November 22, 2026

2 Timothy 2:1 Strong in the Grace of Christ

Paul tells Timothy that God's grace has placed him in an intimate association with Jesus Christ as described in **John 17:21**: "**just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**" This is due only to God's grace:

2 Timothy 2:1: "**You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus**"

- **Grammatical Usage:** "**strengthened**" or in the Greek, "endynamou" meaning, "to enable/empower with ability; "**grace**" or "chariti" meaning, "benevolence; influence; gratitude.

- **Literal Interpretation:** So, my son, be enabled and empowered in the benevolence, influence and gratitude that Jesus Christ gives and is due…

- **Contextual/Comparison:** God keeps His Word: God continually uses His Word.

I. **THE GRACE THAT IS IN CHRIST**

A. **FREEDOM FROM THE GUILT OF SIN...**

1. In Christ there is no condemnation for sin - **Romans 8:1**
2. For we have forgiveness of sins, redemption through His blood - **Ep 1:7**

-- We are therefore "justified" (declared "not guilty") by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus! - cf. Romans 3:24

B. **VICTORY OVER THE POWER OF SIN...**

1. Jesus offers to free us from the dominion of sin - **John 8:31-36**
2. He does this by giving us His Spirit - **Jn 7:37-39**; cf. **Ro 8:2, 12-13**

-- We are therefore "strengthened" by God through His Spirit - cf. Ephesians 3:16

C. **ABILITY FOR FRUITFUL SERVICE...**

1. Jesus revealed that we cannot bear fruit apart from Him - **John 15:4-5**
2. By His grace we are enabled to be a functioning member of His body - **Romans 12:6**
3. We can have an abundance for every good work – **2 Corinthians 9:8**

-- We are therefore "enabled" by God for service as stewards of His grace - cf. 1 Peter 4:10-11

D. **HOPE FOR A GLORIOUS FUTURE...**

1. Jesus has given us "good hope" by His grace – **2 Thessalonians 2:16**
2. By His grace we become heirs of eternal life - **Titus 3:7**

II. BEING THANKFUL FOR GOD'S GRACE

A. **Remember God's character and gifts.** "**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever**" (**Psalm 107:1**). Gratitude begins with recognizing God's goodness.

B. **Pray with thanks.** **Philippians 4:6** encourages bringing requests to God "**with thanksgiving**," while **Colossians 4:2** calls believers to be devoted to prayer and thankful.

C. **Give thanks through every circumstance.** "**Give thanks in all circumstances**" (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**) doesn't mean pretending hardship is good; it means holding on to gratitude and trust even during difficulty.

D. **Express thanks in worship and daily life.** The Psalms model praising God with songs (**Psalm 95:2**), and **Colossians 3:17** says to let gratitude shape what we say and do.

E. **Show gratitude through generosity and care for others.** In **2 Corinthians 9:11–12**, generosity meets people's needs and leads to thanksgiving to God.

III. SPIRITUAL FRUIT CONNECTED TO THANKFULNESS

A. **Hope: Psalm 33:22**: "**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**"

B. **Prayerfulness: Philippians 4:6**: "**in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.**"

C. **Peace of mind: John 14:27**: "**Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you…**"

D. **Generosity: 2 Corinthians 9:11**: "**through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**"

E. **Thoughtfulness: Psalm 103:2**: "**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**"

F. **God's Presence: Psalm 100**: "**Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.**"

G. **Healthy Thoughts: Philippians 4:8**: "**whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, anything worthy of praise, think on these things.**"

- **Conclusion:** Am I thankfully strong in the grace of Jesus?