

Thriving under pressure part 6

Finish the race

2 Timothy 4:1-8

"...fully carry out the ministry God has given you." 2 Timothy 4:5b

For Timothy this was being a pastor – shepherd of flock

Preaching was one of primary callings of pastor

"Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching." v 2

"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." v 3-4

How?

1. Live with God's gaze in view

"I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead..." v 1

God sees the struggles you are going through.

God sees what everyone else misses

God sees your hardships

God sees your tears & pain

God sees when you mess up! BUT God never condemns you. He only shows you unconditional love.

2. Keep going if you feel like it or not!

"Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not." v 2

3. Expect difficulties

"Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord." v 5

4. Be faithful

"The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." v 7

So easy to get distracted by fulfilling everyone else's demands on your life not God's calling.

"But you should keep a clear mind in every situation." v 5a

5. Focus on the prize

"And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing." v 8