



1 Timothy 2:1-7

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

NKJV

Paul was an unlikely hero of faith because he spoke the truth about Christ.

The word true means fact or reality.

Paul was a theologian. He was an expert in the truth about God. He received the truth by divine revelation that came from Jesus Christ and the holy scriptures. (Romans 16:25-27; Galatians 1:11-12; Ephesians 3:1-5)

Paul spoke the truth in some very difficult situations.

On his mission to make disciples, Paul encountered false teachers, hypocrites, and lost people.

- False teachers-those who pervert the truth
- Hypocrites-those who misrepresent the truth
- Lost people-those who deny the truth

Examples:

- False Teachers

Galatians 1:6-10

- Hypocrites

Galatians 2:11-14

I Corinthians 5:1-13

- Lost People

Acts 25-26

Paul became a hero of the faith because he spoke the truth in these very difficult situations.

Because Paul spoke the truth, many repented or changed their minds about what they believed and changed their lives. (Acts 14:1; Acts 17:12; Acts 18:8; Acts 19:18-19)

Because of Paul's commitment to speak the truth, he also suffered a great deal.

2 Corinthians 11:22-28

22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? — I speak as a fool — I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness —

28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

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It took tremendous courage from the Holy Spirit for Paul to speak the truth. He enlisted the church to pray that for him to have that courage. (Ephesians 6:19-20)

It is natural to be courageous to defend yourself or someone you love from physical harm.

It is not natural to speak the truth when what you say could cause you or someone you love to suffer harm.

Unlikely heroes of our faith have the courage of the Holy Spirit to speak the truth no matter what it cost!

The same types of people that Paul confronted with the truth are present in our world.

- False teachers—those who pervert the truth
- Hypocrites—those who misrepresent the truth
- Lost people—those who deny the truth

We have been called and commissioned by Jesus to make disciples. (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:18-20)

How can you share the truth with these people in the most effective way?

There was only one Apostle Paul. He had extraordinary knowledge of the scriptures. He was an apostle and missionary. He had the gifts of an apostle.

In the church today there are those people that have extraordinary knowledge of the scriptures and the spiritual gift that enables them to communicate that knowledge in a very effective way.(Ephesians 4:11) They have a unique and special calling from God.

What about you?

Jesus modeled for us a way for every member of His church to share the truth with others!

- **Jesus recruited others to be in His group. (Matthew 4:19)**  
Those that joined invited other people to be in Jesus's group.
- **Jesus created a relational environment with those in His group. (John 13:34-35)**  
He loved them. He called them to love one another.
- **Jesus used a reproducible way to share the truth with those in His group. (Matthew 13:1-9)**

Jesus told stories that revealed truth about people and God. Luke recorded 24 parables that Jesus shared.

Jesus asked questions. In the Gospels Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. Jesus asks **307 questions in the gospel accounts**. He is asked **183 questions**. He directly answers only 3.

Sharing stories and asking questions was central to Jesus's way of making disciples.

Jesus modeled a way to share the truth with others that any member of His church can do.

What is preventing you from doing what Jesus did?

- **Calling?**  
Jesus calls every one of His followers to go make disciples. (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:18-20)
- **Training?**  
We will provide the training from the life of Jesus (2 Timothy 2:2)
- **People?**  
Recruiting people starts with loving people that are not like you. Jesus did not recruit one carpenter. Jesus did not recruit one person from his hometown. Jesus recruited a very diverse group of men to disciple.

Recruiting people means inviting people to join your group. People would not have followed Jesus if Jesus had not said, follow me! Jesus said follow me at least 21 times in the gospels.

People that are lost or immature will require you to have perseverance in discipleship. God uses perseverance to grow our faith and love.

- **Time?**

There is nothing more important than the souls of men and the Word of God.

Matthew 10:27-28

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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They are eternal. This world will perish. The elements will be melted with intense heat. (2 Peter 3:10-13)

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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Wow! The created will become uncreated. When this world is gone, those of us who are in Christ will not have any recollection of this world. We will know everyone that is with us in eternity, but we will know them only in their perfected condition.

This makes me happy and sad. It makes me happy to think about never having any sorrow or pain. It makes me sad because there are people that I love right now that will not be in heaven and I will not have any memory of their existence. There is not a more important way to use our time than to share the truth with others.

- **Shame?**

Being defeated by habitual sins causes you to suffer from shame. Shame deflates your enthusiasm for sharing the truth with others.

To defeat habitual sin and shame, you must believe the gospel of Jesus and share life with others.

- **Fear?**

The Holy Spirit was given to us to empower us to have courage to share the truth with others. (Acts 1:8)

You overcome fear by being ready to die for the name of Jesus.

You overcome fear by working as a team with others. Making disciples is a team sport.

- **Passion?**

To have this passion you need to be born again of the Spirit of God. (John 3:3)

He will give you the passion if you have received Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and He dwells in you.

I invite you to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and savior.

I invite you to answer the call of Jesus to share the truth with others.

I invite you to join our training. That training starts with joining one of our small groups.

I invite you to become an unlikely hero of our faith.

(Prayer)

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a **sinner**, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus, I surrender to your call upon my life to share the truth with others. I dedicate myself to follow the way that you made disciples.

Lord Jesus, fill me with your Spirit and help me speak to the truth to others, one person at a time.