

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS
2 TIMOTHY



Building Foundations 2 Timothy

Study Guide

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Table of Contents

Progression Toward Maturity, Page 2

2 TIMOTHY *Building Foundations*

Lesson	Page
1	6
2	10
3	18
4	21

5/29/26

Revision 5

Progression Toward Maturity

Phase 1: *Relationship with God* (Revelation 4:11; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

- The Call of God Is First to Himself.
- Foundation for Salvation (“Creation to Christ”)

Phase 2: *Position with Christ* (1 Corinthians 1:30a)

- We Become a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Foundation for Salvation (“Positioned in Christ” and “New Birth Explained”)

Phase 3: *Dependence upon the Spirit* (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13-14)
- Church Is the Pillar and Foundation of Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Acts/Building Foundations

Phase 4: *Practical Sanctification–Identification with Christ, Co-crucified with Christ, Conformed to Image of Christ* (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:28-29)

- Romans to Revelation/Building Foundations
- Principles of Spiritual Growth
- God’s Masterpiece–The Cross
- Looking unto Jesus Lessons

Conclusion: *Recommended Order of Study*

Detailed Explanation of Each Phase

Phase 1: Foundation for Salvation (“Creation to Christ”)

The Christian life is a relationship; therefore, our desire is to lead our readers into a deep and intimate relationship with God. In order to grow into that level of relationship with God, there are foundational truths that must be

clearly taught and understood. These foundational truths include the following:

- The attributes of God – His love, power, grace, omniscience, omnipotence, justice, immutability, hatred of sin, faithfulness.
- The sinfulness of man, his helplessness to save himself, and his need for a Savior.
- Only God can provide a way of salvation.
- The Gospel

Phase 2: Foundation for Sanctification (“Positioned in Christ” and “The New Birth Explained”)

The moment someone is born again, there is an immediate change of position that takes place in his or her life. At that very moment, one becomes a child of God, and is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. All that Christ is and all that Christ has become ours. Therefore, before service to God is considered, one must be grounded in an understanding of who we are in Christ. Some important foundational truths that should be emphasized in Phase 2 teaching include the following:

- Placed into Christ
- Justified (declared righteous) and accepted in Christ
- Child of God
- Restored to oneness with God
- Eternally secure in Christ
- His Divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through His finished work on the cross.
- Our part is to believe.

Phase 3: Dependence upon the Spirit and Introduction of the Church (“Acts/Building Foundations”)

The position change that takes place in every believer's life at salvation is immediate and complete. The daily “living out” of that position, on the other hand, is a growth

process. It is the progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is working all believers through in His process of conforming us to the image of Christ.

In order for believers to move on to maturity, we must learn to walk and depend upon the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our purpose in Phase 3 teaching is to reveal the Holy Spirit's ministry and His faithfulness to lead, guide, feed, and protect God's children, as well as to introduce the church. Some of the important foundational truths that should be emphasized include the following:

- The Holy Spirit's ministry to lead, guide, feed, protect, and establish us in truth
- To emphasize the FAITHFULNESS of the Spirit to fulfill all that Jesus promised
- To reveal the early church's dependence upon the Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is as faithful in our lives today, as He was to the early church in the book of Acts.
- Introduction of the church and her role

Phase 4: Practical Sanctification–Identification with Christ; Conformed to the image of Christ (“Romans to Revelation/Building Foundations”), “Principles of Spiritual Growth,” God’s Masterpiece the Cross of Christ,” and “Looking Unto Jesus” lessons)

The Holy Spirit is teaching us to walk less in the flesh and more in the Spirit, with Christ becoming more and more the object of our hearts.

In Phase 4, we will study through the epistles with the purpose of learning to rest in our identification with Christ and His finished work. As we, by faith, begin to appropriate identification truths, our co-crucifixion with Christ, our lives will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

Some of the important truths that will be emphasized in Phase 4 includes the following:

- The believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (crucified with Him and raised to newness of life)
- Sanctification is the process of walking less and less in the flesh and more and more in the Spirit.
- Our part in the process is faith in the finished work of Christ and our identification with it.
- What it means to truly walk in the Spirit
- Putting off the old and putting on the new
- Manifesting the life of Christ/fruit of the Spirit

Conclusion: Recommended Order of Study

Because there truly is a progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is taking all believers through, our Bible lessons have been developed and arranged to line up with that work of the Spirit in our lives. Each set of lessons contains the foundational truths that must be in place in a person's heart in order to facilitate their growth onto the next stage of spiritual growth. Therefore, we believe that it is important to teach the lessons in the following order:

- ***God's Eternal Plan***
- ***Building Foundations Order of Study:***

Acts	2 Corinthians
Romans	Philippians
Ephesians	Philemon
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy
1 Timothy	1 and 2 Peter
Titus	1, 2 and 3 John
1 and 2 Thessalonians	Hebrews
Revelation	James
Galatians	Jude
Colossians	
- ***Knowing God*** before the ***Digging Deeper*** studies
- ***Digging Deeper*** studies in any order

2 TIMOTHY LESSON 1

A. Introduction

- Paul wrote 2 Timothy while in prison for the second time.
- He was condemned to death and wrote this last letter to Timothy who was in Ephesus.
- Paul urged Timothy to remain faithful to the Lord and the work God had given to him.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-2.

- Timothy was very special to Paul and he loved him greatly. Paul had been his spiritual father and Timothy had grown up to become Paul's traveling companion and fellow laborer in the gospel.
- It's interesting to consider Paul's very last thoughts and words of instruction were given to Timothy.
- Paul begins by reminding Timothy that grace, mercy, and peace all come from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord, not from anything that man does, achieves, or obtains in this life.

Read 2 Timothy 1:3-5.

- Paul showed his love and care for Timothy.
- He was unceasingly depending on God for Timothy's life and wellbeing.
- He remembered Timothy's tears—possibly over Paul's imprisonment and sentencing or when they parted ways for the last time. He longed to see him again.
- Paul also mentioned that he remembered Timothy's faith as he often remembered the faith of others (**Colossians 1:4; Ephesians 1:15; Romans 1:8**).

- Timothy was a man who leaned on and depended on God with an absolute trust and confidence in God's power, wisdom, and goodness.
- In the flesh, our dependence is on ourselves and our view of God and His attributes become clouded.
- In the flesh, we lose sight of the goodness and sovereignty of God and respond to circumstances based on our own perspective as they relate to us and our desires.
- Paul said that Timothy's mother and grandmother set godly examples as those who walked by faith, trusting in God.

B. Timothy Rested in God

Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7.

- The ability Timothy had to trust and rest in God was a gracious gift from God.
- As Timothy walked in the Spirit listening to Paul share the scriptures and studying on his own, his faith and trust in God grew even greater (**Romans 1:7**).
- In a similar way, to the degree that we walk in the Spirit, by resting in the finished work of Christ, we will also trust in God. However, in the flesh our focus will be on ourselves and we will lose sight of God and His purposes in our lives.
- God has not given us a spirit of shrinking back in fear and anxiety, but rather He has given us strength (through the life of Christ) and spiritual giftedness for the purpose of building up the body of Christ for His glory and honor (**Ephesians 4:11-12**).

C. All Is Of God

Read 2 Timothy 1:8.

- As Christians, we will suffer persecution and tribulations, but in the Spirit, He will enable us to patiently endure with joy (**Colossians 1:11**). However, in the flesh, we often become discouraged and fall away or compromise.
- The flesh seeks comfort and self-preservation.

Read 2 Timothy 1:9-10.

- Notice Paul makes clear that, “All is of God.”
- It is God who has saved us and who has called us to His own purposes by His grace, not because of our works.
- When did He call us? Before the world began. This makes it obvious that God’s calling of us was all of grace and had nothing to do with any effort on our part.
- What is God’s purpose in calling us? To glorify and honor him by the life of Christ that is being manifested more and more through our lives as we walk in the Spirit (**2 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:28-29**).
- The fact that such a sinner could manifest the life and nature of Christ is a true miracle and loudly proclaims His grace, by the fact that life could come out of a dead thing.

Read 2 Timothy 1:11-12.

- Paul clearly states to Timothy that God had called him to pass on to the Gentiles those things he had been freely given.
- In a similar way, the truth that the Spirit leads all Christians to is for our good and God’s glory, but it is also for the purpose of our passing on this truth to others.
- Paul continues by saying he suffered greatly because God had called him for the purpose of passing truth

on to others (Acts 9:23, 29; 13:45, 50; 14:2, 18; 16:22-24; 17:5, 13; 18:6, 12; 20:3, 19; 21:27, 30; 22:22; 23:12; 25:7).

- He was often persecuted for preaching Christ, but he was not ashamed because he was confident that his hope was guarded for him in heaven.
- Paul said, “*I know whom I have believed.*” In the Spirit, it will be our hope in Christ that will be the true source of joy and peace in our lives.

D. Hang On to the Truth

Read 2 Timothy 1:13-15.

- Paul encouraged Timothy to, by grace through faith, trust the Holy Spirit to guard the truth that had been passed on to him.
- How do we hold onto truth and continue to walk in it in the midst of struggles and difficulties? It will only happen as we rest in our co-crucifixion with Christ and walk in the Spirit.
- Those who walk in the flesh are ashamed of the gospel and cannot endure the hardship and suffering that a child of God experiences in a world that rejects Christ.
- In the flesh, we walk in unbelief because the flesh cannot and will not live by faith.

Read 2 Timothy 1:16-18.

- Paul fondly remembered Onesiphorus and his loving concern and ministry to him.

2 TIMOTHY

LESSON 2

A. Be Occupied With Christ

Read 2 Timothy 2:1.

- After reminding Timothy of the many things God had freely bestowed upon him, Paul encouraged him to “***be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus,***” to be inwardly strengthened; encouraged by all that we have undeservedly received as we rest in our position in Christ.
- In the flesh, money, possessions and earthly position encourage us, and we lose sight of our hope in Christ.
- However, in the Spirit, our hearts will be occupied with Christ and free from worry regarding our possessions and human position.
- Our confidence will be in what we have received in Him; therefore, circumstances will not affect or control us.
- Only by God’s grace can we be strong and steadfast.

B. Remain Steadfast

Read 2 Timothy 2:2.

- Paul knew Timothy would be persecuted and that there would be opposition to his teaching.
- Therefore, Paul encouraged Timothy to remain steadfast in the grace that is only in Jesus Christ.
- Paul went on to encourage him to pass truth on to faithful men who not only would believe the message but also share it with others.
- Many reject truth and ridicule Christians, so Paul’s exhortation was to be strong in grace while looking

for faithful men who also hunger for truth and are teachable.

C. Endure Hardship

Read 2 Timothy 2:3-4

- When an army goes to war and the conditions become difficult, the good soldiers endure the hardship.
- It's interesting to think that in the flesh, we seek to preserve self and most often avoid hardship.
- But in the Spirit, our focus is not on ourselves, but rather on Christ and what He has called us to do. The degree of difficulty is irrelevant.
- In verse 4, Paul shares another characteristic of a good soldier—he does not “*entangle himself with the affairs of this life.*”
- In war, a soldier is single-minded. In the Christian life, God intends for us to also have a singleness of mind: an occupation with Jesus Christ—trusting, resting, and depending on Him.
- Again, this will be manifested in our lives as we walk in the Spirit.
- In the flesh, our focus will be on anything but Christ.
- Paul gave the reason or motivation for being a good soldier who endures hardship and is not entangled with the affairs of this life. It is to please the One who called us to be soldiers, God Himself.

D. Sports and Farming

Read 2 Timothy 2:5-6.

- The second comparison Paul draws in the Christian life is that of an athlete.
- Only as the athlete competes according to the rules of the game will he win the prize.
- What are the “rules” of the Christian life? **Colossians 2:6** answers this for us: “*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.*” How did we receive Him? By grace through faith. The rules for living the Christian life are “by grace” through faith (**Romans 5:1-2**).
- Next, Paul compares the Christian life with that of a farmer.
- It is the diligent farmer who enjoys the fruit of his labor.
- Just as the farmer enjoys the fruit of his labor, the Christian who walks in the Spirit will also experience the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

Read 2 Timothy 2:7.

- Paul encouraged Timothy to seriously consider those things he had shared with him.
- We, too, must see the seriousness of the Christ life (“*Christ in you*” **Colossians 1:27**).
- If we don’t see the value of the Christian life, we will continue entangling ourselves in the things of this world, living a life that is not pleasing to God and not experiencing the fruit of the Spirit.

E. Jesus Has Risen

Read 2 Timothy 2:8.

- Paul told Timothy to always be mindful that Jesus had risen from the dead and remain focused on the risen Lord Jesus.
- Why? What is the significance of the risen Jesus as opposed to Jesus crucified or Jesus walking on the earth?
- The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is proof that all of our sins have been paid for and that we now have been restored to oneness with God.
- If God was not satisfied with the finished work of Christ, He would have remained in the grave.
- Therefore, we must consider the ramifications of Christ's resurrection and of God's satisfaction with His finished work. We are saved from eternal punishment, made His children and joint heirs, and have a new resurrected life and nature for us.

Read 2 Timothy 2:9-10.

- It was the truth of God's Word that motivated Paul to endure persecution and imprisonment.
- He said he was imprisoned because of the gospel but that God's Word was not imprisoned nor hindered.
- In a similar way, if we by faith are resting upon our identification with Christ, regardless of our circumstances, God's Word will remain unhindered in our lives and the fruit of the Spirit will be produced.
- Paul also mentioned that the facts of the gospel were so true and wonderful that he was willing to endure anything so others could come to know and believe it.
- In the flesh, our goal is to preserve self. We may still proclaim the gospel but only as it is benefiting us in some way.
- But in the Spirit, we will be willing to spend and be spent for the sake of others (**2 Corinthians 12:15**).

F. Raised To Live A New Life

Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13.

- We have died with Christ, but we have also been raised with Him to live a new life.
- We have been taken out of Adam and placed into Christ.
- We are a new creation in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- All this happened positionally; as we, by faith, appropriate this positional truth, it will become experiential.
- If we walk by faith, enduring hardship and suffering as a good soldier in Christ, then we will reign with Christ. His life and the fruit of the Spirit will be manifested in our lives.
- However, if we do not walk by faith and continue living life in the flesh, He will let us experience the consequences of our sinfulness (**Psalms 99:8**).
- Even when we walk in unbelief, experiencing the consequences of our sin, He remains faithful. All that we have received by His grace will always be ours because He will never deny Himself.
- The finished work of Christ will always be sufficient; God will never reject what He has done for us.
- As Christians, we may refuse to accept our identification with Christ and suffer conditionally, but what is ours positionally will never change or be taken away.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14.

- It is the truth of our identification with Christ that Christians need to know and believe.

- If we are being led to trust and depend upon any other truth, it will only lead to the deeds of the flesh (envy, strife, jealousy, anger, arguments and division).
- Only as we are taught to appropriate our identification with Christ is it possible to walk in the Spirit and maintain unity.

G. Approved Unto God

Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

- Paul encouraged Timothy to present himself approved unto God or “tested by trial.”
- It is easy to walk by faith when life’s circumstances are going well, but what do we do during hardship?
- Do our hearts remain steadfast, continuing to appropriate and rest in our identification with Christ?
- Are we confident enough in God’s goodness to rest in Him and remain content even when in great need?
- Paul went on to say that Timothy should present himself as a workman who does not need to be ashamed—someone who is correctly analyzing, rightly handling, and accurately teaching God’s Word.

Read 2 Timothy 2:16.

- If Christians are focusing on trusting in anything other than Jesus Christ, then they are fleshly/carnal and to partake in this with them will lead to more ungodliness (the deeds of the flesh, **Galatians 5:19-21**). That which is born of the flesh is flesh. All the flesh will ever produce is more of the same.

Read 2 Timothy 2:17-18.

- The flesh will always be drawn to false teaching.
- If false teaching is left unchecked in our churches, it will eat away at the body like a cancer.
- This does not mean we constantly question the doctrine of those in our churches to make sure they believe correctly. People need time to grow and be matured by the Spirit. It is the responsibility of the leaders to discern where the flock is in their understanding of truth (**Proverbs 27:23**) and work to raise their spiritual understanding.

Read 2 Timothy 2:19-21.

- In the body of Christ, there are those who are learning to walk less in the flesh and more in the Spirit and are vessels for honor; they are becoming more Christ-like and thus more fit for the Master's use.
- However, there are also those who live out their lives in the flesh and are vessels for dishonor, continuing to walk after the desires of the flesh.

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-23.

- Christians are to flee youthful lusts by faith in their co-crucifixion with Christ which will lead to the Spirit's control and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
- Our co-crucifixion with Christ is the only thing that will free us from the reign and control of the flesh and move us toward a life of righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

- The characteristics of God's servant are as follows:

- Not a striver, but rather trusting and resting in God.
- Kind and gentle to all people, even those who don't deserve gentle kindness.
- Able to teach.
- Patient toward all.
- Able to instruct those who oppose with a meek and gentle spirit.
- Trusting in God to open the eyes of those needing truth.
- The servant of the Lord understands that those who oppose the truth are deceived and caught in the snare of the devil; therefore, he does not take their opposition personally.

2 TIMOTHY

LESSON 3

A. Paul Warns Timothy

Read 2 Timothy 3:1.

- Paul warned Timothy about difficult times ahead.
- It was approximately 60 years from the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost to when Paul wrote the book of 2 Timothy.
- The apostles' teaching had grounded the church in pure, accurate, and new truth.
- But, as time goes by, the church will become more carnal and complacent and will face "perilous (difficult and dangerous) times."

Read 2 Timothy 3:2-9.

- Paul said the future times would be perilous because of men walking in the flesh.
- It appears Paul was not talking of only unbelievers, but also carnal believers in the Church; as believers move away from truth, they will walk less in the Spirit and more in the flesh, and as a result, face flesh driven, troubled times.
- Notice verse 5. Is this not a picture of the Church today? ***"Having a form of godliness, but denying its power."***
- It appears the church today has lost what it means to truly walk in the Spirit, thereby denying God's power.
- The cross and our co-crucifixion with Christ appear foolish and of no value to many Christians.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-12.

- Paul brings to the attention of Timothy that times would be difficult because of carnal believers, but Timothy had seen Paul's life and heard his teaching and had watched as he walked in the Spirit through it all.
- Paul assured Timothy that all who desired to live godly (God-like) lives would suffer persecution.
- If we are truly walking in the Spirit and living a God-like life, we will by faith stand firm in the face of ungodliness and willingly confront it by God's grace.
- If we are truly walking in the Spirit, being persecuted for righteousness' sake will not be an unbearable yoke (**Matthew 11:28-30**).
- But, in the flesh, our goal will be to preserve self and its pleasures, and we will often compromise our stand.

Read 2 Timothy 3:13.

- Paul goes on to say that Timothy should not be surprised if evil and deception increase and worsen.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

- Even though the world is becoming progressively more evil and deceptive, Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in those things he had heard and was assured in his own heart that they were/are true.
- The days are evil, but God's Word offers hope, wisdom, and deliverance and will keep our hearts stable, even in the midst of evil and wickedness.

B. God's Word Is Inspired By God

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

- God's Word was given by inspiration of God. Not one word was man's ideas or thoughts. Therefore, it can be trusted and believed.
- God's intended purpose for His Word is as follows:
 - It teaches truth to man.
 - It reproves and corrects.
 - It gives instruction in righteousness.
 - It assures the man of God will be spiritually mature and equipped to do God's work in God's way.
- Different people have different spiritual needs and as we are grounded in truth, we are equipped to minister to them regardless of their needs.
- Without the truth of God's Word, we do not have a solution for the problems of life.

2 TIMOTHY

LESSON 4

A. The Charge

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-2.

- Based on the truth and hope that Paul had brought to Timothy's remembrance in prior chapters, he now begins this last chapter with a charge to "***Preach the Word of God!***"
- Maintain urgency by always being ready to share God's Word, whether it's convenient or even welcomed.
- As ambassadors for Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**), we have many opportunities to show people ways in which their lives are not being lived according to truth.
- Paul mentions how the Word can daily affect people—it rebukes and corrects, warns, urges, and encourages.
- Paul writes, "***Be ready in season and out of season***" to teach and encourage others.
- Living as if God's Word is all important and urgent is an area in which many are lacking.
- Our lives may show more urgency in the things that the world considers wise: saving money, planning for the future, meeting our earthly needs. These things are not to be neglected, but where is our urgency for growing in truth and for seeing others coming to a deeper relationship with Christ?
- Our urgency for the things of God will be in direct proportion to our walk of faith.

Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

- Paul warned that there was a time coming when believers would not want to hear sound doctrine, but they will gather teachers who will teach them what they want to hear.
- Furthermore, they will turn away from truth and will hold more to fables and untrue stories than to the Word of God.

Read 2 Timothy 4:5.

- Paul told Timothy that even though others leave the faith, you remain calm and steadfast, accepting unflinchingly every hardship.
- Do the work of an evangelist, continually trusting the Lord for the salvation of the lost, while fully performing all the duties of the ministry.
- In the flesh, we often want to take shortcuts or do less than people really need. We become impatient and want instant success or growth.

Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

- The day is coming when, like Paul, our race will be over, and we'll find ourselves standing before God.
- We will either receive rewards for living and ministering in the Spirit, or we'll miss out for having lived our life in the flesh.
- Even in the midst of trials and difficult circumstances, Paul stayed the course. He continued to walk in the Spirit, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, fully giving himself to the work that God had prepared for him (**Ephesians 2:10**).
- Here, Paul alludes to a reward that believers will receive in heaven: those who, by faith, walk in the Spirit will be given a crown of righteousness.

- The crown of righteousness will include being forever separated from the flesh, sin and the sorrows of this life and being forever in the presence of God as His completely holy and righteous child (**I John 3:2**).

B. Closing

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-15.

- It is interesting to note that this godly old saint at the close of his life was still very interested to obtain and read the Word of God (the parchments).
- In Paul's closing thoughts and instructions, he had a sincere warning for Timothy.

Read 2 Timothy 4:16-18.

- Paul is again encouraging Timothy with the remembrance of how bleak things looked at one point in his own life but how God always was and always will be faithful to deliver him from all that is not His will.
- Regardless of what circumstances may come into our lives, God is preserving us for His Heavenly kingdom.

Read 2 Timothy 4:19-22.

- Paul's final words are "***Grace be with you.***" He knew that Timothy was well equipped with faith and the truth. He knew Timothy's only hope in remaining steadfast and faithful would be by the grace of God.



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