



We're not going to find ourselves in a better place until we have a change of heart—and that begins with the people of God. The potential for heart change is one reason to systematically read our Bibles each day and invite others to join us in this practice. Doing so will bring God's blessing to our lives, our homes, and our nation. It can also help "stormproof" the foundations of our lives. Jesus told us storms would come to everyone, but He also said it's possible to establish our lives in such a way that the storms don't bring total devastation and destruction. Often the storms in our lives begin in our minds and thoughts. Church, without significant transformation within our minds, our hearts, and within our nation, the course we're on is unsustainable. But we have great hope because we serve a God of redemption, transformation, and renewal. As we seek Him, He will show us the pathway forward.

I. AN ASSIGNMENT & NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

2 Timothy 2:1–7 ¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

****What does being "strong in grace" mean to you?**

A. Gift of Power

Acts 1:4–5 ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift** my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

****How do you currently handle tasks that seem beyond your strength or ability? What strategies can you share to break down overwhelming tasks into manageable steps?**

B. The Gift of Peace

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give you**. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

A Change of Mind: Not Anxious & Unafraid

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 5:29–33 ²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—**whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree**. ³¹God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

****Share a time when you felt a deep sense of peace, despite a challenging circumstance. How can you encourage others to apply biblical truths to combat their conflicts or fears?**

C. Gift of Discipline

Hebrews 12:6 *“because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”*

Accept Correction

Revelation 2:4–5 ⁴ *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. ⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*

****What comes to mind when you hear the word "discipline"? How do you currently understand the purpose of God's discipline in your life?**

II. TOXIC IDEAS

A. Destructive Tolerance

Revelation 2:20–22 ²⁰ *Nevertheless, I have this against you: **You tolerate that woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.*

****Share an experience where you struggled to set boundaries or speak up against something destructive. What held you back, and what was the result of your silence?**

B. Don't Be Foolish

Luke 12:19–21 ¹⁹ *And I'll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰ “But **God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’** ²¹ “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”*

****What are some common excuses or rationalizations that can lead to foolish behavior?**

C. Pride...Lack of Awareness

Revelation 3:16–18 ¹⁶ *“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and **do not need a thing.**’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”*

****When was a time you overcame pride or saw someone else overcome it. What did you learn from the experience?**

PRAYER

I choose to honor God with my life.

I will honor Him with my strength, my wealth, and my attention.

I will offer my days to Him as an expression of loyalty.

I will yield my thoughts to Him in humility and respect.

I submit my will to Him, that I may see His purposes.

My ambition is to be included in His Kingdom and to be faithful to His purposes for my life.

May His Kingdom come and His will done throughout the earth, amen.