

Be Strong in Christ

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 2.

B. Impending problems appeared to weaken Timothy in the ministry. (I Corinthians 4, II Timothy 1)

C. Timothy was a sensitive man.

D. He struggled with timidity.

E. He struggled with youthful lusts.

F. He struggled with outside persecution.

G. There are four perspectives to being strong in the Lord.

II. You are a teacher.

A. We teach so that others can teach.

B. We must pass it on. (Acts 1:1)

III. You are a soldier.

A. Ministry is spiritual warfare.

B. Where there is a war one has to perceive himself as a soldier.

1. He will suffer hardship.

2. He must be single minded.

3. He must serve the Lord and not man. (I Corinthians 4)

IV. You are an athlete.

A. This requires tremendous commitment.

B. Athletes keep rules.

C. The key to success is work. (Ephesians 6)

V. You are a farmer.

A. This means that one waits for the harvest.

B. This requires patience.

VI. The focus is to remember Jesus Christ--He was all of these things in perfection.

Application questions:

1. Which of the four perspectives do you think is the most difficult to maintain? Why?

2. Why do you think that it is difficult for Christians to understand the importance of hard work in ministry today?

3. Why do you think strength can be found in perspective in the Christian life? Explain.
