



The Soldier, The Athlete & The Farmer | Doug Wekenman | 6.11.2023
Weekly Study

SHARE

During week two of our *2 Timothy* series, Doug broke down key elements of Paul's letter to Timothy. Doug's encouraging message showcased the importance of adopting the mindset and characteristics of a soldier, athlete and farmer if we are to endure for the gospel and be strengthened by the grace of Jesus Christ.

GROW

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7

This week Doug reminded us that the world is growing increasingly tired and weary of placing their faith in things that let them down, and that each and every day Jesus is becoming “more and more beautiful and intriguing to millions of people that never expected that he would, and the world is going to look to Christians for inspiration and answers.” Regardless of what we do, where we live, or how qualified we feel, we as believers are the light of the world called to be a town built on a hill for all to see. We are not capable of providing salvation for others, but Doug encourages us to adopt characteristics of a teacher, soldier, athlete and farmer into our lives in such a way that the rest of the world can't help but be drawn into an encounter with the truth and love of Jesus.

In verses 1-7, Paul uses metaphors to encourage Timothy to emulate the characteristics of four types of people: a teacher, a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. Which characteristic(s) stuck out to you most? Can you think of additional characteristics not mentioned by Paul and Doug that are important to our faith and ability to disciple others?

Do you consider yourself a teacher or mentor to others? What makes you feel qualified or unqualified to do so? Who is, or could be your Paul (mentor)? Who is, or could be your Timothy (student)?

As a “soldier of Christ,” where do you most often “Get entangled in civilian affairs,” instead of staying on mission for God?

M O V E

Doug mentioned that if we want to live an uncommon calling, we have to live with uncommon character. If we want to live an uncommon life we must embrace the spirit of a teacher and pour into the eternal destiny of others more than our own; the spirit of a soldier, being willing to sacrifice what we want in the moment for what’s best for the Kingdom of God; the spirit of an athlete, committing to discipline, excellence and effort; and the spirit of a farmer, sowing seeds now for a future harvest for all. It’s what we do with the gifts given to us and how we run the race set before us that has the potential to not only change the trajectory of our lives and eternity, but the lives and eternities of others.

Share a story of when someone in your life had a profound impact on the development of your faith. What attributes did they exhibit that you admired? Who is someone in your life you can extend the same courtesy to?

Are the characteristics and behaviors you exhibit on a daily basis sowing seeds for the future that God wants for you or are they building up barriers in front of you?

Doug shared a conversation he had with a couple in Austin from a few weeks ago who said, “If God wills it, we’ve got a few prime decades left on this planet and they will not be defined by saving, they will be defined by sowing.” He goes on to mention that Paul shared the same perspective in chapter 4 of 2 Timothy, stating that he would be poured out drop by drop to the end of his life.

What do you want the next decade of your life to be defined by? Will it be defined by saving or sowing?

Read 2 Timothy 2:13

What breakthrough have you been waiting for?

Are you feeling faithless about something in your life? How can the group help remind you of God's faithfulness in the midst of your faithlessness?

P R A Y

This week pray for wisdom, discernment and knowledge from the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can emulate the characteristics of a faithful teacher, soldier, athlete, and farmer to people who are watching you closely and from afar. Pray for a cup so full and a faith so strong that you can't help but pour yourself out to the very last drop this week, and for those who might feel empty and faithless, pray for God to give you the strength to do it anyway, trusting the sacrifice you've made and the seeds you've sown will lead to a season of harvest beyond anything you could have ever imagined, not just for yourself, but for everyone around you.