

Speaker : Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
Title : Building on the Words of Faith
Text : 1 Timothy 4:6

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed” (1 Timothy 4:6).

Introduction

Paul has four of these "faithful sayings" or "words of faith". We may trace a connection between these faithful sayings.

1. Foundation of Eternal Salvation – 1 Timothy 1:12-15

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

This first faithful saying lays the foundation of our eternal salvation. It builds upon the rich grace of God.

Paul knows & had experienced that richness of the grace of God. No one knows the grace of God better than Paul. It is just like Jesus' comment that he whom God has forgiven much will love God more.

“Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little” (Luke 7:47).

2. The Double Blessedness – 1 Timothy 4:1-6

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.”

The second affirms the double blessedness which we obtain through this salvation both now and for eternity.

The Word of God prepares us for both now and eternity.

“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

3. The Duty as Suffering for Christ - 2 Timothy 2:11 - 14

“This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 14 Remind them of these things ...”

“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. 14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers” (2 Timothy 2:11-14 (KJV).

The third faithful saying exhorts us regarding one of the duties to which God’s people are called.

We are ordained to suffer for Christ with the promise that “if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.” It is like the saying “no pain no gain.”

4. Christian Service – Good Works – Titus 3:8-9

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. 9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.”

This fourth ‘faithful saying’ sets forth the active form of Christian service.

We are to diligently maintain good works.
And as we serve Christ, we are loaded with the fruits of the Spirit.

“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful” (Titus 3:14).

Conclusion

The apostle of the Gentiles proved these 4 ‘faithful sayings’ to be faithful.

These words are still faithful today. They are still relevant today.

We can prove their faithfulness. Let these four faithful sayings be written on the four corners of your house. They will serve like the four corner pillars that hold up the whole house.

You want to build a strong family?

You want build up good and healthy relationships?

Practice these faithful sayings.

Treasure these faithful sayings.

Let them be the guides of your life, your comfort, and your constant reminders on how to live a life that is pleasing to God.