



INTRO

One of the biggest questions I hear as a youth pastor is this: "What is my purpose in life?"

What was I created for? Why am I here? Questions like these are common among students, but honestly, many of us ask these same questions as adults. What I'm really saying right now, students, is not to expect adults to understand what's going on, because we're often just as lost as you are. In all seriousness, the question of "*What I'm here for?*" is one that people have struggled with for thousands of years.

But here's the good news: I believe God gives us the answer to this question in His Word. The tricky part is that His answers are not always what we want to hear. You see, we're all created with a purpose but we're often hit with the tension between what God calls us to do and what we would *rather* do.

Hopefully, today we'll be encouraged by the truth that, although it is difficult, it is **very possible** and **very worth it** to maintain a strong and healthy faith.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

With that being said, we're going to be looking at **2 Timothy 1:1-14, 3:14-17**. 2 Timothy is actually a letter written to a guy named... Timothy. The author was a guy named Paul – you may have heard of him before – he wrote most of the New Testament. So, before we dive in, here are some things you need to know.

1. Paul was writing from prison and his trial wasn't going well.
2. Paul was writing to his dear co-worker, Timothy.
3. Paul really wanted to see Timothy because he felt abandoned by everyone else.
4. Timothy was still on assignment in Ephesus, and Paul gave him encouragement and instructions about how to carry on with their mission.

5. There were leaders in Ephesus who had a negative view of Paul because of how many times he'd been in prison.
6. There are two main sections of the letter:
 - First, a challenge for Timothy to accept his calling.
 - Second, instructions for how to deal with corrupt teachers in Ephesus.

So, it seems that the purpose of the letter was twofold: to remind Timothy of the calling God had on his life, and to encourage him to remain faithful to the truth of the gospel. What we see play out in 2 Timothy is a difficult truth that we often face as Christians: **Following Jesus involves Risk & Tension**. Following Jesus isn't always easy.

I'm excited because there's a lot of good stuff in this letter. And even though it was written specifically to Timothy, there's so much that we can learn from as it relates to living out our faith. With that in mind, let's jump into our Scripture.

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14 (CSB)

*"1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, for the sake of the promise of life in Christ Jesus: 2 To Timothy, my dearly loved son. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. 4 Remembering your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I recall your **sincere faith** that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also. 6 Therefore, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.*

Our first point today is:

1. HOLD FAST TO YOUR FAITH

Raise your hand for me if you've been going to church for at least a year. Okay, keep them raised if you've been going for:

- 5 years

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