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| **SERIES** | 2 Timothy |
| **BIBLE** | 2 Timothy 1:1-7 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Keep Going |
| **OVERVIEW** | Life can feel like a marathon. As exciting and amazing as it can be at times, there are other times when you are exhausted and depleted, just feeling like you want to give up. One of the biggest helps to those running a marathon are those along the path who cheer on the runners. “Keep going! Here’s some water. You can do this!” As we run through life, 2 Timothy is a letter which gives us a message to keep going. An older, seasoned leader is speaking into the life of his younger protégé, knowing the difficulties he is and will going through, and encouraging him to keep going! We need this encouragement as well, and this letter is going challenge us and equip us to continue strong in our relationships with God.  |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | Letter Background: * The church is beginning to experience major persecution in Rome, being used as a scapegoat by Nero for a fire that broke out.
* False-teaching of the gospel is on the rise.
* Paul is in prison in Rome, knowing that his execution is coming.
* The older leader is writing to his younger protégé, warning him of the challenges ahead and encouraging him to press on in faithfulness.
* The tone of the letter is an older mentor speaking into the life of a younger leader, speaking into their life to impart wisdom and encouragement
1. **Keep going: Take a grateful look back** (2 Tim 1:3-5)
	* Paul is retrospective of his own life
	* Remembers 4 things about his relationship with Timothy:
		+ How he regularly prayed for Timothy
		+ The special bond they have
		+ Timothy’s genuine faith
		+ Timothy’s faith heritage
	* Paul is helping Timothy obtain a wider perspective than merely focusing on the trials before him. When we are in the middle of difficulties we can get a tunnel vision focus on them, forgetting much. Paul doesn’t want Timothy to ignore or minimize the difficulties, but he wants to make sure Timothy has a healthy, wide and grounded perspective within them.
	* What do you see when you look back at your life? When do you trust Jesus? Who has poured into you?
2. **Keep going: Take responsibility for the fire.** (2 Tim 1:6)
	* Think about making a bonfire. Once it gets going, you have to keep feeding it or it will go out. If you don’t add more fuel, the fire fades. This is the image Paul is giving to Timothy regarding his relationship with God.
	* Realize what Paul is saying – the poker for the fire is in your hand, not mine, and not God’s
	* “For the Christian, the motivation and power to do this comes from the Holy Spirit, but we must respond by making the right decisions and taking the right actions.” – Walter Liefeld
	* IL: the marathon next week, there will be people along the way providing water, Gatorade, bananas and other stuff for the runners. It doesn’t matter how much they carbo-loaded the night before, doesn’t matter what they had for breakfast – they have to keep giving themselves fuel throughout the race or they are not going to finish it. What Paul is telling us is that it is no different with our faith.
	* Are you feeding the fire of your faith?
		+ Time in the Word of God
		+ Prayer
		+ Community
3. **Keep going: move forward with confidence** (2 Tim 1:7)
	* Timothy was experiencing confrontations and problems with false teachers and trouble makers in the church. He probably was outnumbered and outmaneuvered, probably was doubting himself and what he was doing. We get into those situations where we ask, “Who I am? There’s no way I can do this!”
	* The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15
	* The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is by definition, “not fear” – this does not mean we wont’ get into situations in life that cause fear, dread, worry, or anything like that – but what it means is that we have the Holy Spirit with us during those things. And while we are amid those realities, the Holy Spirit will equip us with:
		+ Power – not our strength, but His. Not our wisdom, but His. The supernatural working of the Spirit in our lives.
		+ Love – not merely the knowledge we are loved, but the ability to extend love to others.
		+ Self-Control – in our weakest moments we become careless. The Spirit will help us be wise and faithful.
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| **GOSPEL** | Matthew 7:24-27 – the foundation we move on from John 1:4, 10:10, 14:6 – Paul mentions in 1:1 the “promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.” The letter is all about Timothy living within that life, but in order to live it you must be born again into it.  |
| **NEXT**STEPS | **Begin**- give your life to Christ, celebrate it in baptism | **Connect**- need people to speak into you the way Paul spoke into Timothy | **Engage**- serve God’s people to encourage them in their walk | **Disciple**- entrust into others to give away to others. |