

Passing the Baton

2 Timothy 3:14-17, 4:1-8



Passing the Baton
30th April 2017
Joseph Lam

Introduction: The Relay Run



- A team of 4 runners
- Running a pre-set distance carrying a baton and passing it onto the next runner.
- 4 x 100m/4 x 400m

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Coach Nigel Hetherington

The Scottish National Sprints & Hurdles Coach

9 Principles of the Relay Run:

1. The race is about the baton, not the runners
2. The relay brings out the best in everyone.
3. Every team member should be prepared to run in all positions.
4. It is a good idea to practice the baton pass.
5. Practice until the handover becomes instinctual.
6. Practice under pressure.
7. The last runner must be chosen carefully.
8. The baton exchange should occur at very close maximum speed.
9. A baton drop does not automatically disqualify a team.

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How does the Relay Run links to Discipleship?

The Relay Run = Discipleship

The Runners = Us, Christians

The Baton = The Word of God



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Introduction: The Relay Run

1. The race is about the baton, not the runners
 - Equipping believers (runners) to pass on the word (baton) of God.
2. Every team member should be prepared to run in all positions
 - Always ready to share the word of God no matter where we are
3. It is a good idea to practice the baton pass
 - Know how to share the word of God onto the next gen.

Introduction: The Relay Run

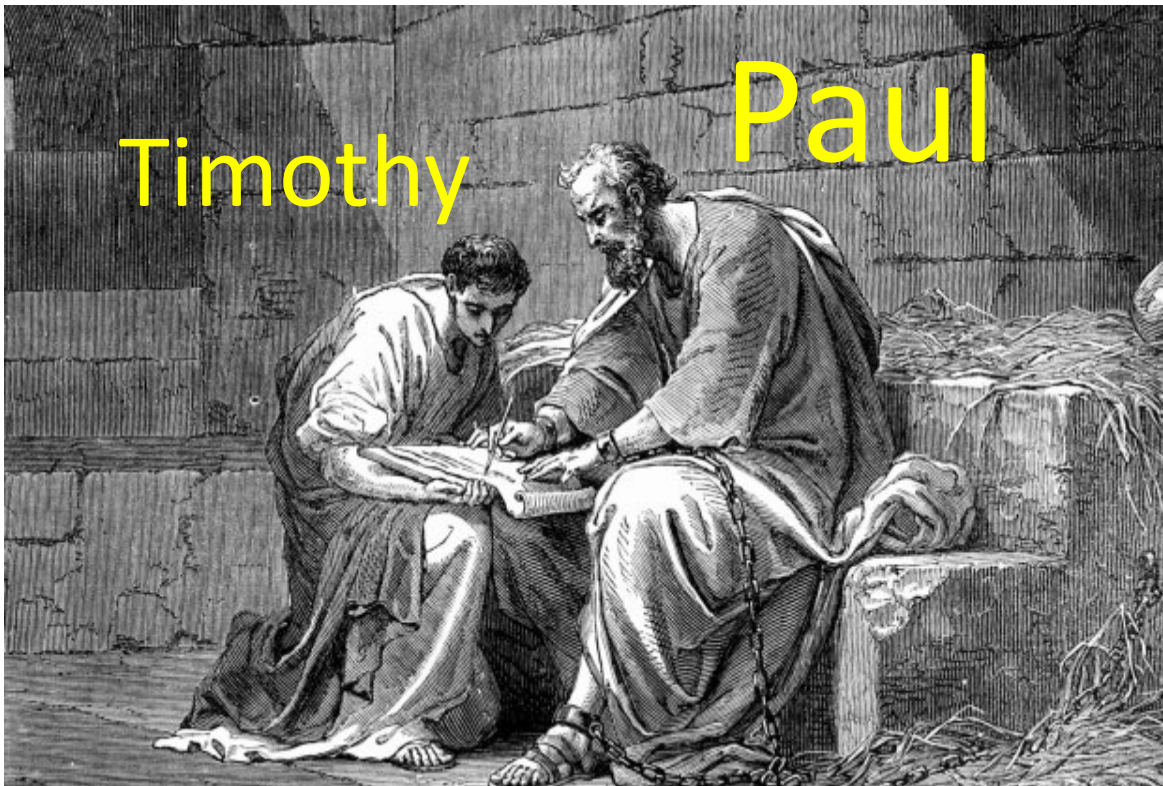
4. Practice until the handover becomes instinctual

- Practice till doing it becomes part of our instinct

5. Practice under pressure

- Passing on the good news even when pressure is being placed on you

The Model of Discipleship in the Bible



1. Their Relationship
2. The Core Foundation of Discipleship
3. The Charge from Paul

I. The Relationship of Paul & Timothy

The 3 Phases of their Relationship:

- A) Phase 1: Parenthood (Father & Son)
- B) Phase 2: Pacesetting (Teacher & Student)
- C) Phase 3: Partnering (Co-Workers)



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I. The Relationship of Paul & Timothy

The 3 Phases of their Relationship:

A) Phase 1: Parenthood (Father & Son)

- Paul constantly addresses Timothy as his son.
1 Timothy 1:2 - "To Timothy, my true son in the faith..."
2 Timothy 1:2 - "To Timothy, my dear son..."
- No evidence given that Timothy's father is a Christian
- Paul filled the shoes of a spiritual father



I. The Relationship of Paul & Timothy

The 3 Phases of their Relationship:

B) Phase 2: Pacesetting (Teacher & Student)

- Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy

“you know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance...” (2 Timothy 3:10-11)



I. The Relationship of Paul & Timothy

The 3 Phases of their Relationship:

C) Phase 3: Partnering (Co-Workers)

- Paul addresses Timothy as

“...my fellow worker...” (Romans 16:21)



Timothy has gone from being a Son - Student - Colleague

II. The Core Foundation of Discipleship between Paul & Timothy

A. Selecting The Right Candidate – 2 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- Timothy was well-equipped with the Word of God since young
- Paul was equipping and training Timothy at a very young age (Acts 17:14)

Paul chose Timothy because he is the right person for the job.

II. The Core Foundation of Discipleship between Paul & Timothy

B. Spreading (Passing) The Right Message – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul re-emphasize on the importance of the word of God

III. The Charge of Paul to Timothy

A. INSTRUCTIONS – 2 Timothy 4:1-2

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

- Paul called for the presence of God and call upon the Holy Spirit to be the judge/witness

²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

- Preach the word in any situation and under all circumstances

III. The Charge of Paul to Timothy

B. WARNING – 2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

- Paul warns Timothy of the challenges ahead
- Prophecies false teachings

Other References: 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:3, 2 Timothy 3

III. The Charge of Paul to Timothy

C. REMINDER – 2 Timothy 4:5

⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

- Stand firm in the Word of God
- Don't give in to hardship
- Preach the good news

III. The Charge of Paul to Timothy

D. REASSURANCE – 2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

- Paul passed the baton to Timothy
- Whoever keeps their faith in God will return to God

Timothy received his charge: *A Trainee – A Trainer*

CONCLUSION



The Word Of God

1. *Duty to ensure the baton is passed on till Jesus returns*
2. *Build a strong relationship*
3. *A strong foundation on the word of God*