


- ▶ How can we be “strong in the grace”?
- How would Timothy be able to:
  - “Fulfill your ministry”?
  - “Strong in the grace”?
- 2 Timothy chapter 2 – Paul exhorts Timothy by way of three comparisons.



**As a good soldier ... (verses 3-4)**

- First, we better realize we’re in a war.
  - 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12;
  - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10ff
- “Suffer hardship with me ...”

**As a good soldier ...**

Three keys:

1. **“Suffer hardship with me ...”**  
2 Timothy 1:7-12; 4:5; Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 4:12-16; Hebrews 10:32-39

**As a good soldier ...**

Three keys:

2. **“Undistracted devotion”** and whole-hearted service.  
*“No soldier in active service entangles himself ...”* Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 13:22; 2 Peter 2:20; 1 Corinthians 7:35; 1 Chronicles 28:9

**As a good soldier ...**

Three keys:

3. **Submission** – *“please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”* Lose sight of our own will.  
“Enlist” – literally to gather a (volunteer) army. Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Psalms 40:8

**Competing as an athlete ...**

What does it mean to *“compete”* Greek; *athleo*? To strive or contend.

1. Must strive. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

## Competing as an athlete ...

What does it mean to “*compete*”?

2. Focused on the prize – the victor’s crown. 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12

## Competing as an athlete ...

What does it mean to “*compete*”?

3. Compete according to the rules. 2 Timothy 1:13; 1 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Corinthians 9:26-27

## Working hard as a farmer ...

“*The hard-working farmer*”

- “To grow weary, tired or exhausted” (Thayer). “To feel fatigue” (Strong). Matthew 11:28

## Working hard as a farmer ...

“*The hard-working farmer*”

- To be spent. 2 Corinthians 12:15
- Continual effort. 2 Timothy 4:2
- The reward comes later. 1 Corinthians 3:8; Galatians 6:6-10; Romans 2:7

▾ To be “***strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus,***” we’re to be as the ...

- Soldier who is willing to suffer and offer undistracted devotion in order to please He who enlisted us.
- Athlete who competes according to the rules in search of the crown.
- Farmer who diligently labors in the hope of reaping what he has sown.

▾ But what if we have never ...

- Enlisted in the Lord’s army?
- Begun to run the race?
- Put our hand to the plow?