

Developing a Sweet Habit. 003

February, 2019

Hello. I'm so glad you came back. I am Steven Baldrige, pastor of Rome Community Church in Richland County Ohio. This is episode 003 in our series *Developing a Sweet Habit*. So far we have seen that God's word is sweet and to be savored. We also learned that developing a habit takes time and persistence.

Many times I do not go back over the same material I have already covered unless it comes up again in another study. However, several times I have use the same verse as a springboard several days in a row. Today I'd like you to rewrite your base versus from lesson one and two. So head your page with today's day and date, then rewrite your Psalm 119 verses and your 2 Thessalonians 3 verses.

I'll see you when you have finished.

Today we will look at 2 Timothy 3. 2 Timothy 2, verses 1 and 2. As you know, chapter divisions, as well as verse divisions, were added much later than the original scripture was written, so our new habit of reading verses in broader context will have us backing up, or pressing on, by jumping over chapter divisions. The men who chose where to divide chapters and verses did not do so haphazardly. Most of the brakes are very logical. But get in the habit of investigating it for yourself.

Now, find a 2 Timothy 2, verses 1 and 2, read the neighboring verses, and hand write at least a verse 1 and 2. Then come back to me.

I am not a hunter but I have been told that rabbits tend to run in a big circle, not in a straight line. I have also been accused of getting off topic and chasing down rabbit trails myself. The reason I bring up these two points is that yes I do intend to chase rabbits. I get distracted when I study. But I have noticed that when I get to the bottom of my daily writing page it tends to make me finish up my thought so I can get back on topic the next day. If this side track is really interesting I can choose to spend another day on it. But more often than not, I go back to my main passage the next day. I trust you will find the same to be true.

This will hopefully put your mind at ease if you worry about jumping from topic to topic and never making any real progress through a particular passage.

Today I would like you to do another word and topic search. But where to search? Read with me second Timothy two verse one. “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

What topics did you see?

I see possibilities in “my child”. Looking at parental love, or parent like responsibility, for those under our authority or protection.

When I studied this passage I went to the word *strength*. Start by looking in your printed Bible. The down the middle of the page or in the photo you probably have a few cross references tagged it to this verse. Mine has 1 Timothy 1:2 and Ephesians 6:10.

Stop here and chase down those two rabbits. Follow whichever verses your Bible has, or the ones mine has. (1 Timothy 1:2 and Ephesians 6:10). If you find them helpful write...

Come back when you're done.

Now, go to the concordance in the back of your Bible. In mine I found it not only *strengthened*, but *strengthen*, *strength*, and a *strong*. Many of these would be worth looking up and writing as well. But before you do that I would like to give you one more tool. Then you can come back and finish up with what you have found here.

One of the electronic Bible apps I use is available wherever you find downloadable apps, like the Apple App Store. You can go directly to theholybibleapp.com

When you learn your way around this or similar Bible apps you will find not only cross references but also a concordance that gives you the original word in Hebrew or Greek. Not that you are planning to learn Hebrew or Greek, but when you think about it, knowing the original word (and especially the other places the original word was used) *may* be more helpful than knowing where the word translated into English was used.

How so? Look up any word in the dictionary. Chances are there is not a single word definition, right? Definitions are more complex than that. Translating a single word in Greek, for example, into a single word of English may be absolutely correct but still miss some of the subtle variations of the original. Maybe. Maybe not. But if you have this tool available, and use it from time to time, you may find you are missing some great references by always looking it up in English.

Strengths for example, could also be translated power or might, could it not? There could possibly be *no* cases of this for any particular original word, but there *could* be. And you will not know if you do not look. But enough for today.

Finish your page for strength, strengthen, and strong. Additional thoughts, realizations, prayers, and praises are all appropriate. Dig into this or similar Bible apps. And I'll see you next time as we enjoy *Developing a Sweet Habit*.