

# THE REACH

*filtering everyday life through the word of God*

## **Filtering everyday life through the word of God.**

That is the mission of The Reach. It is a habit that both saved and greatly improved my marriage. But what does that look like and how do you do that? My prayer is that this month's lesson will offer a couple of tools to get us going! First, I've included quotes from the book "The Power of a Praying Wife." This book taught me to pray Scripture over my husband and drove me deeper into God's word. It challenged me to actually read the Bible, ask questions, and not just assume things.

We will practice that while taking a look at the New Testament book of 2nd Timothy. It's natural to assume Timothy is the author, but the Timothy books were written by Paul, as letters to Timothy. If you want to understand Scripture don't assume things, always ask questions. This is called the Inductive Bible Study Method: What do I see? (Observation). What does it mean? (Interpretation). What should I do? (Application). We can use this method to help us with human interaction as well as studying the Bible!

- **Speaking of human interaction, when entering a difficult conflict with my husband, I'm pretty good at seeing and understanding. But often, I don't always do what I should, I withhold, out of pride. How about you? Where do you get off track? Do you jump in without seeing what is going on? Do you overlook the meaning of the big picture? Or, do you give the silent treatment hoping to gain control?**

*"There is a gentle tool of restoration appropriated through the prayers of a wife who longs to do right more than be right, and to give life more than get even."*  
Stormie Omartian

Let's do some inductive thinking about Paul and Timothy. This second letter to Timothy was Paul's last recorded words, EVER! While writing, Paul was imprisoned, impending his death. He called Timothy his own in the faith. In other words, Paul, who had no immediate family mentioned in Scripture, loved Timothy as his own son. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-6. Imagine yourself as the writer...What final words would you say to the most important person in your life? Imagine yourself as the reader...What would it feel like to read the final words from the most important person in your life? This is the context with which we should study 2nd Timothy.

- **For practice, in this passage, what do you see, what does it mean, and what should we do?**

Consider the gravity as we apply this passage. 2 Tim. 1:6 says, *Fan into flame the gift of God, or, stir it up.* In other words, exercise your gifts. Basically, Paul is saying, (to the most important person in his life), be mindful of your calling and serve others with sincere intention. So, how do we do that?

First, who is the most important person in our life? Even if you aren't thinking it, the most important person is your husband; not your kids, not your mom, not your best friend, etc. And, in September, most coaches are kind of useless for fanning a flame with you. But like Timothy, you could exercise things for both of you! You are one team, not enemies, and you wouldn't exercise one side of your body and not the other. Think of Paul and Timothy, if one side falls, the whole body falls. Yet, one side can take action while the other is imprisoned.

- **What if you released your husband from the burden of exercising your marriage during his season? How can YOU stir into flame the gift of marriage? We all need help here, share some basic ideas.**



*"Dear Lord, make me the kind of woman he can be proud to say is his wife."*

*Stormie Omartian*

Read 2 Tim 1:7. Considering the context, Paul and Timothy battled fear! Often, FEAR is our greatest hindrance of usefulness. So, let's unpack the basic fears of a coach's wife... What if we lose? What if he gets fired? What if we move? What if we don't move? What if we aren't accepted? ...All this may potentially happen. And, actually, this short list has all happened to me (more than once). For an extent of my marriage, I remained imprisoned by a spirit of fear. I refused to see my husband's calling as anything worth moving for.

- **We know 2 Tim. 1:7 says, God does not give us fear, but do you still struggle with fear? Do you assume a fearful attitude before observation, interpretation, and application? Why is that?**

*"Our goal must not be to get our husband to do what we want, but rather release them to God so he can get them to do what He wants."*

*Stormie Omartian*

Read 2 Tim 1:8-9. Paul is saying, Timothy, you can count on suffering, so get ready, and DO NOT FEAR, stay strong in the faith! Like Paul and Timothy, those who are called by God will suffer. The absence of suffering can breed complacency. Without suffering, we may only turn to God out of convenience, rather than desperation. Read Psalm 34:19 and John 16:33.

- **What could happen if you laid your fears and expectations down to Jesus, releasing your husband from fulfilling you in areas where you just need to trust God?**

*"Lord, take my selfishness, impatience, and irritability and turn them into kindness, longsuffering, and the willingness to bear all things."* Stormie Omartian

Read 2 Tim 1:11-13. I am convinced He is able to guard what has been entrusted to me. It is as if Paul is saying, Timothy, you know why I am suffering, but, I am convinced God is guarding my problem! I am convinced God has entrusted me to serve the Gentiles who are worth suffering for... AND Timothy, you can be convinced too!

Paul's suffering was actually part of a much bigger story. The same is true of our marriage. You will suffer because of the unique calling on your coach. Granted you probably won't be beheaded for your faith like Paul, but some decisions your coach makes will bring about some suffering. DO NOT FEAR, God actually appointed your husband and trusts him with a big picture that will benefit young men and women who desperately need him in their lives! Your husband will change the next generation just as Paul and Timothy changed the Gentile nation!

In short, this letter calls out a hardy resilience from BOTH writer and reader! And, God calls that same resilience from both husband and wife.

- **Have you been through a past coaching decision that brought on some suffering? If you are on the other side, can you share (briefly) the bigger picture?**
- **CHALLENGE: Keep these questions near you during your coach's season.**
  - 1) **What do I see?**
  - 2) **What does it mean?**
  - 3) **What should I do?**

*"Give my husband a new wife, and let it be me."* Stormie Omartian

