

# 40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

## Day 5

*This Easter we have a wonderful opportunity to remind our friends, family and neighbors about the great love that Jesus has for them and what HE has done for them...offering salvation and new life to anyone who believes in Him.*

*As we continue to think about what it means to live outward and share the good news of the Gospel, let us turn to 2 Timothy 4, where Paul gives Timothy four commands as part of his final instructions for ministry...verse 5 reads: "As for you (Timothy), always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*

*As faithful followers of Jesus Christ, the first thing we see in this verse is a call to be "sober-minded," or some translations might have the word "self-restraint" here. This concept of living a "sober" life comes from the Greek word νήφω [Nee pho], which not only refers to abstaining from much alcohol, but also has a meaning of mental alertness: to be calm, focused and controlled and to live on mission for the Lord with meekness and intentionality. As you go throughout your day, are you intentional with the relationships the Lord has given to you...to walk as an ambassador and bring glory to His name?*

*The second instruction Paul gives Timothy is to "endure suffering." Endurance is a major theme in this letter, mentioned several times (2 Timothy 2:10, 12; 3:11; 4:3). The idea is not merely "surviving" situations but rather maintaining an eternal perspective during hard times. When we walk through seasons of change, or unknown or unexpected challenges, do we look at them through the lens of the Gospel, keeping an eternal perspective in mind as we endure the hardships of life? No matter the season you find yourself in, remember, God is your Heavenly Father and your Good Shepherd who walks with you in every season.*

*Next we see that Timothy is instructed to "do the work of an evangelist." An evangelist is literally a person who presents the good news of Christ. Whether Timothy thought this was his spiritual gift or not, Paul is commanding Timothy to communicate the Gospel as part of his ministry. As you go, are you making disciples? As you go throughout your day, how are you sharing the Gospel?*

*Lastly, Paul encourages Timothy to fulfill your ministry. As Pastor Sam often reminds our kids at church, each one of us has been created on purpose for a greater purpose. That means that a very intentional God created you in your mother's womb with a purpose already in mind. Not only did He have a purpose in mind, but in Psalms 139 we read that every one of your days was written down in His book before one of them came to be! God values your life, and your purpose in His plan is extremely necessary! How are you fulfilling the ministry God has given to you where you are at?*

*As we look forward to Easter, may I encourage you to take some time and pray about how you can remain faithful in these areas. As we live outward, may we be intentional and sober-minded in our relationships. As we live outward, may we endure challenges or obstacles through abiding in Christ and having eternal perspective through every season. As we live outward, may we bring the good news of Christ to others, and do the work of an evangelist. As we live outward, may it be with purpose, fulfilling the work that God has put before us; in our home, in our neighborhood, at our places of work, at school, wherever and everywhere. Remain faithful.*

– Pastor Dave MacLachlan

"As for you, always  
be sober-minded,  
endure suffering,  
do the work of an  
evangelist, fulfill  
your ministry."

– 2 Timothy 4:5

