

Thick Skinned

Pastor O'Dorisio – October 13, 2024

Bible Text: [II Timothy 2:1-3](#) ...

<https://livingwaterstabernacle.com/sermons/10-13-24-thick-skinned/>

Jesus' name, yes Lord God let us cast it all upon You. all our care to cast upon You because You care for us. Lord, thank You that you love us like You do, and you treasure us God, and You've given us all grace; all grace, and You've given it always, You did it for all things, all things, everything never short in supply, never limited, never held back always to walk in this life in that exceeding fashion that the love of God is for me. Now Jesus, help us to take that to heart this morning, help us to wade out deep into this marvelous grace. God, help us to swim out God, and never return. Lord, let us just go on, let us choose to be the happy ones continuing in the joy of the Lord as my strength, continuing on a life of joy unspeakable and full of glory. Help us to be as those that rejoice evermore right now. That's who You called us to be, that's what we are chosen for, and Lord thank You, You brought here to just fellowship with one another with You in this. What a privilege; what a privilege. We give it all to You and thank You Jesus in Your precious name, amen. 01:33

If you'd open your bibles today to Second Timothy Chapter Two; that's Second Timothy Chapter Two, and I mentioned today, thick skinned. We must be thick skinned reading from verse one. Paul's speaking to Timothy, thou therefore, my son. I love this, here we are, the Apostle Paul speaking through the Holy Ghost speaking to us. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, amen? Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Where are you? You're in Christ. Where's all that grace? in Christ Jesus. It's all right there, praise be to God, no wonder He's blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ Jesus. You got all grace, and it's right there in Christ where you are, and forever will be. Think of that, you're forever in all grace. Whew, I think you're sitting pretty; that's good. And the things Paul says here, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou, therefore, here we go, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. When you go after all grace. Yep, when the wonderful gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ in His bride has been committed unto you let me tell you something, you're going to need to endure hardness as a good soldier. 03:29

It's coming, isn't it? Because the Lord has divinely given you a life that you're going to suffer together with Him because by the grace of God you're going to reign together with Him. And I thank the Lord it's all to be glorified together with Him; thank You Jesus to Romans Eight. But what we have here it says endure hardness, that means the evils, the affliction, the stresses, the troubles that we again are appointed to. Those are appointments, they're divine, and they're of God. And it says to endure hardness as a good soldier. Now, Brother Paul knew this didn't he? He knew these deep, deep hurts whether it was the enduring hardness of being afflicted in the body, being afflicted as he was afflicted in Romans Chapter Seven; the good that I would, I do not, but the evil that I would not, that I do. He had to endure

through that didn't he? Oh yes, praise the Lord he had to endure through Paul, I'm not taking out the thorn, it's going to remain that the power may be of Me, and not of you Paul that you wouldn't be puffed up son because I gave you a heart that wants one thing, the out-resurrection. It ain't going to come any other way. 04:46

Paul also knew in that afflictions and distresses the deepest hurts sometimes were from his own brethren. But I thank the Lord, the Lord and His grace has caused us brothers and sisters to choose the good soldier, and that good soldier you know what it defines? It means beautiful; it means handsome, it's a champion. I put it this way, thick skinned. I traveled this past week again, and it was wonderful to see different ones loved the Lord so much have opportunity to fellowship, and had opportunity to go to a vineyard, and it was beautiful because I met the keeper of this vineyard, and it was the husband of the vines, truly the one that actually would tend the vines and do with the fruit that needed to happen, and this person would be the head wine maker, and all of these things, and I asked him as the Lord put this on my heart, I asked him what's the most important determining factor for a grape to produce the best wine? He didn't even hesitate, he said wind. I said I never heard that before, oh he said yes. And see, he had to know his fruit where he was at, and he had to know exactly what his fruit needed to have the best results. And then he said they must have wind, and I said really? He said yes, what that wind does is it brings out a tan, and it brings out an aroma, a flavor in them that only intense wind can do in a grape. And he says that kind of wind is only found in the high place. And I loved that, he actually said the high place. 06:34

Didn't say a hill, a mountain; I mean we have mountains out here where they're growing grapes, they ain't mountains, but they call it the high place for the best fruit. Praise You Jesus. I asked him again, I said OKAY, now you got to tell me why. He said Well, I'm going to tell you something, that wind what it does is it brings us suffering and a stress to that fruit, and it brings forth this smell, the aroma and a taste that it could never get, because what the wind does is it thickens the skin; the wind thickens the skin, and that wind as it hits those grapes, if those are the grapes that are going to be the best, either those grapes will transform, and their skin will get thicker, and thicker, and thicker so to endure and to be able to stay on the vine, or those grapes are blown off and they never see the harvest of the best wine. That brother that was with me, we just kind of stared at each other for a while, and just shook our heads; only God. 07:43

Thick skinned. Brothers and sisters, we need, and we could never be thick-skinned enough, and that's the truth. And isn't it amazing what God gives in our lives? We're all shaking our heads saying He's working it. Don't you look at the person sitting next to you; don't you do it. But He uses all these things. I think Brother Hill used to call it diamonds cutting diamonds, just another beautiful fact of that diamond about being thick skinned. Thick skinned, what it means is you're not easily upset. You're not easily upset by criticism or insults. That's tough, we don't like to be criticized, we don't like insults, do we? It's imperative as a bridal saint. And often times these insults, or criticism they're really not deserved. I heard about it today, Brother Scott was bringing that out, and Brother David.

Sometimes we're can you imagine enduring these things because the Lord has placed us in a place where we're going to suffer together with them? 08:53

Now, brothers and sisters, thick-skinned it means enduring hardness, and I believe this is the crowning of long suffering. Yes., long suffering. Do you know long suffering is found seventeen times in the bible? Perfect, seventeen is the number of victory. You want true victory in your life, you need long suffering, you need to be thick- skinned. Thick skinned means slowness in avenging wrongs. Let's turn on over to James Chapter One. Slowness in avenging wrongs. Isn't it amazing how quick our minds work sometimes? I know sometimes we say let me go back; I wish I had thought of that. I'm so thankful for the things that I thought of God stopped me from; praise You Jesus. 09:46

Now, James One Verse Nineteen. Wherefore, my beloved brethren. Isn't that a beautiful statement? Don't get to the next words until you hear that one. Beloved, dearly beloved; the lover's brethren; the lover brethren. This is speaking on a level that's very high here. This isn't speaking to children; this is speaking to mature sons of God. This is serious, somebody says something about beloved there's an intense love that's come forth. So, this intense love says not my beloved brother, there's a joining here isn't there? And see, that's what we have, and God's given that to us; you're mine, I'm yours beloved brother. And as matter of fact as Paul says, dearly beloved brethren. Every time we come together let me tell you something it's marriage, and it's marvelous because that's our gospel, that's our Lord, that's the body we have been enjoined in, the bride for the Lamb of God. Let this be real to you honey. It will make you happy; I promise it will, it'll give you joy like you can't ever imagine. It'll give you a thanksgiving in your heart, it'll cause things in your life that you think are so meaningful, and so big, or so I got to do they're meaningless. 11:06

As Sister Austin used to say, honey they just don't matter much. When you realize you got it all what could matter anything? Amen, come on that we would see with the eyes of the dove. To see praise God with the eyes of the faith of the Son of God. Come on now, we have this. So, it says, wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God. Alright, that's pretty straight forward. We're all going to have and face hurts, we're going to face correction, we're going to face wrongdoing to prove that we are His chosen; oh yes. It's required, if you suffer with Me, you will reign with me. If you deny those sufferings, you'll be denied the right to reign. This is imperative, this is a given, this is the gifts of due benevolence between Jesus and His bride, and He gives us these gifts of suffering together with Him. 12:21

When Peter was asked by Jesus. Peter, do you love Me, and He asked it three times? I think in many respects this had to hurt Peter more than anything in his life, ever. I think it hurt more than even the experiences that Peter had with self-righteousness and remember, this happened after Peter even denied the Lord the three times and all those things. It hurt, but Peter had thick skin because you know why? He stayed around. Yeah, he stuck in there didn't he James? And we all have had our bags packed how many times? We all, we're all living in a distant country how many times. I'm thankful God said no, you're getting addicted, you're

coming home. Thank You Jesus. Brothers and sisters, he stayed around. Ones that stay around are like Paul, David, Moses, the thick skin. And that thick skin comes from the same place, the one place, the only lovely thick skin there is, that's Jesus Christ and that's the truth: that's the truth. I'm talking the thick skin of on the cross, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do; how thick is that? What do you think? What do you think, He stood there, and they beat Him, they tore His beard, His visage marred more than any man, and there were those beautiful eyes piercing through all of it. 14:31

Oh, Father the joy that that's set before me. That's the thick skin I'm talking about. That's love, isn't it? It's a love and it's agape, it's divine, it's a love that loves through, loves beyond. Loves through hurt, loves through your failure, and your brother's failure. It loves through your guilt; I thank the Lord you know what love can love through? Your pride. It's one of the most incredible things that could ever be is your pride. Like the prodigal, shame, but God and but God's love. When you see that it's always about that, that you know we've been called into this love that's so great, so immense, and here we always have a Father that is thinking of one thing, you. And just the return Brother Joe Demont was talking about, aren't you thankful that He just stop at the ninety-nine; He went and got the one. He went and got the one. Oh Jesus, just come in. 16:06

Now, brothers and sisters, we know this, we appreciate God for it, but all these men we just read about they were all criticized, they were insulted, and they were insulted by brethren, and by family members, but see, what their victory was, and what your victory will always be is tenderness, it'll always be tenderness. And when we have a tender heart toward the things of God there's a victory in it. See, anger loses, anger loses, tenderness always wins. And I thank Jesus for this because I'm going to tell you something. Many times, in my life I want to be angry; I want to be angry, but God brought a tenderness. Many times, even when I stepped into being angry God brought the tenderness. I've said this before, I thanked the Lord many times when I was angry that I wasn't angry. The Lord said you must be thankful for that tenderness. I don't know if you know what I'm talking about. Paul was broken hearted, Paul was hurt when he was rebuked, refused, stood up face to face with brethren that he loved in giving him the truth. It broke his heart, he always prayed for them. There were things that he wanted to be encouraged of, and to go on in that love. 18:02

Honey those children need to go downstairs, why don't you take them, okay? Yeah, I think they need to go. So, as we and let's stay on this honey, okay? Let's stay on it. The tenderness again that's in the Lord, and this is a tender time, and I know our precious sister will deal with that. And pray for families, honeys, I mean let me tell you something. Brother Hill had to get after me, and it wasn't that gentle. Mine was even accompanied with hair pulls; it's okay. Is this not family, do we not all know these things. huh? Just thank the Lord these kids are here. Thank the Lord that they're in the house of God, thank the Lord that they know they're loved in the Lord, and they'll be sweet instruction. I know these things, and I want them here, you know that, and I pray we believe this. And I thank God, God gave me two rascals. He gave my mom this rascal. Okay? Let's get back at it. 19:19

So, getting back to these men were criticized, these men were insulted, and a lot of times it came from brethren, even came from family. Think about Jesus Himself. His own family didn't really didn't even receive Him as the Lord. It took time, didn't it? But see, you talk about thick skinned, He knew that the testimony was going to be in the love of Christ. The testimony praise God was going to be in the long suffering. He could have went there and shaken them, He could have went there and did a miracle, He could have went there and said this; I'm the Christ, watch this, boom, but He didn't do that. Uh-un. He wants love, he wants us to come after Him not because of the great acts, not because of the wonders of God, not because He could speak and He did all these things that He spoke, and the sky, and all this earth, this water, this air and everything that He made perfectly, He wants us to draw unto Him because He loves us. He wants us to come after Him because it's all about us. And I thank the Lord He focuses in on these thing's brothers and sisters, but as I was getting back to see, the victory that Paul had, and Moses had as he was challenged with his family members, as David was challenged with his own son with his brethren. Come on, they responded in tenderness. Anger loses, tenderness wins, and you do, you thank the Lord, thank the Lord that He's made you tender. 20:57

David, I just mentioned him. You think about that incident there with Shemaiah, David walking there, and here comes Shemaiah, he was a relative of Saul, and this is after Saul and all of his family had been taken out, but here came Shemaiah throwing rocks at David, cursing him, calling him a bloody man, telling David, David you killed all of my family, and then laughing at David because David's son Absalom was literally taking the kingdom from David right there. One of David's mighty men said let me take his head. David said don't touch him, God will bring me good through this. You don't want to badger people. I heard about forgiveness today. I've made plenty of mistakes. I don't ever encourage you to say you're sorry for something that you didn't do to own something to say you're sorry about that you didn't do just to be somebody. I hope that mad sense, I think it kind of does. I want you to always be quick to apologize, and truly be sorry when you have wronged somebody. But oftentimes when people don't receive it whether they thought you should apologize or not, or whether you did apologize, and they still don't take it. 22:55

I think you should go back to that person in love as the Lord gives you direction to try to restore that fellowship and continue to be there in love never badgering somebody, but you will be turned off by people. I'm thankful to God I try to be a person like that. I can't be, Jesus in us is not that. Keep loving one another saints. That love wins, it always does. You're a tender people; you are, you're here, I know the likes of you, you're the likes of me. You struggle, you have the greatest struggle with your own self. Oh, I want to feel this way, I want to say this, I want to . . . oh Lord, why are You being tender in my life? I should walk away, I should go away; I should shut that person off, I'll never talk to them again. I know those things you never said; I so thankful God never let me go down that road, or at least not let me stay there very long. Well, so I ask you brethren, do you want to stand in tenderness and stay there? I think we want to don't we? And I appreciate God's faithfulness to keep us in that place because I never would have known the love that I share with you. 24:49

I never would have known this, and it's something like it's a wonder each week, each day it grows more indescribable, it really does. It's something we're just going to step into, then finally having a body like His own glorious body, and then you see face to face where it all comes from. How's that because you have it all, you experience it all. It's been with you always, then we're going to be face to face with the source. Hallelujah. Well, I'll tell you what, you stand in tenderness, you stand as that good soldier. Don't depart in anger, in bitterness. The Lord, He gives us encouragement throughout the scriptures, and we know these things, and it's not again to disparage any of our brethren in any way, shape, or form, but I do perceive that Barnabas reacted much like Joab. When he was criticized and challenged, he got enraged, and he got angry; that's thin skinned. You don't want thin skins; you don't want thin skin in your household, you don't want it in your marriage, you don't want it with your kids, you don't want it with your boss, you don't want it with anybody, but let me tell you something where you really don't want thin skin; the one place you don't want thin skin is with the Lord, and His people, and His truth, and His love. 26:37

And you love one another, and you just keep loving, it doesn't matter how many times you get kicked. I mean it hurts. It hurts when people cut you off, it does. As I go back, I heard a man say a long time ago, and I appreciate this because I've been there. I am sorry, and I've used the words. It was not that I was trying to repeat it but it came out of my heart. I'm sorry if I offended anybody, and I mean that. Sometimes you know you did, sometimes you know you didn't, but I still am sorry for the effect that it had on somebody, aren't you? You like to cause strife to someone even when you do good, that's kind of sick, you don't do that. The Lord will take care of it. If you do good unto people because of the love of God in your heart. Yes coals, it heaps the fire on it, but you don't look for that; that's not what we're trying to do here. 27:46

It's important saints, this is love, and this love at we're talking about today it wins. Thin skin gets knocked out. As that winemaker said, thin skin it never makes it to the best wine; it doesn't. It can't, it will never have the aroma, it'll never be that sweet smelling incense that comes into the Holy of Holies, It'll never be that wonderful, beautiful taste that the Lord is waiting for. But as I said earlier, I think I know who you guys are; you're thick skinned, you are. You have to be, there's no other reason you'd be here, it's the truth. There's a love that's caused you and draws you that God's going to have us compacted and tightly fit. God's going to place us in situations that I guess we could say are fair, or unfair, or whatever it is, but you've got thick skin and thank the Lord as He proves that in your life as you get kicked, as you get knocked, or whatever it is You take it from the Lord. I mentioned many, many years ago so thankful to be with those young people in teaching them and having such a wonderful fellowship with those kids. I had a couple that went in there that was trying to cause discord. That's what that kind of stuff is, I'm just telling you. Brother Hill called me in his office, and he didn't even ask me if this thing even occurred, and he says you're not going to do that class anymore. Well, I knew where it came from. You would think well Jesse why didn't you try to defend yourself? Because the Lord kept me, He put His hand right there. 29:41

Did it hurt? It hurt, it hurt, but I stayed on the vine, and my skin got a little bit thicker, and then I watched God do it, and He worked a marvelous work so intricate in the weaving of what He did in this meeting you owe God why you're here today. What you owe God what's coming forth today. You fight you fight in, and you fight in love, and you fight in tenderness, not in compromise; no, no. no. no, no. Oh no, uh-un, you're a tree planted deep by the water, and grace is what's held you in. Grace, and you praise Him today, and you thank Him today for that aroma, and that sweet taste that truly is the flavor of the readied wife so pleasing to her Husband.

31:12

So, now as you go back to think about the Shulamite in the Song Of Solomon, maybe you'll see a little bit more when she says blow north wind, blow on me north wind, I'm in the high place. There's nothing protecting me. Oh, but there is, I'm on the vine. Blow north wind and let the spices, let the tannins flow out of my life, the best wine's coming. The best wine's coming, and you got that kiss, you really do, this isn't flattery. This isn't flattery, you've got that kiss for the husband, and it's coming. A little while longer. He that shall come, oh He's going to be skipping over the hills; behold, the Bridegroom cometh, oh yes, so you endure that wind, amen? You pray for me too. You pray for me, I pray for you, we pray for one another. We pray for Brother Ty; we pray for these one's going through lots of different things right now. Blow north wind. God, let my skin get thicker, and thicker, and thicker, and thicker till Jesus come, and you what's coming for that, huh? So, we don't think it strange, saints listen, don't think it strange because it ain't. Because by the grace of God the best wine's coming right out of you. Okay?

32:54

Let's pray. Father, we thank You, we appreciate this day, and Lord thank You that you ordered this time. And thank You Lord that it is perfect, and Lord we just appreciate how You love us, and You care for us, and You draw us, and truly Lord God, You've given us this one Spirit, and one faith: Lord. The mind of Christ, and Lord what a beautiful mind it is that it meditates on You, it meditates on the good report, and the lovely, and the true. I'm so thankful that we love one another. And Lord, increase our love for one another. Help us to love unlovely ones. I don't like to say that, but some want to be unlovely; help us to be lovely. Help us to love ones that are hard to love. Lord, it's got to be You because it's not something I can work up, I thank God it's just something You do because You love us. Help us to abide in it. Lord thank You for this precious day, thank You God again for every life that is here today. Thank You for my brethren, thank You how we lift up one another's hands, and thank You Lord Jesus that You are the head, You're the captain of our salvation; You are mighty God, You are faithful and true, and You are our Husband. And thank You Lord You're coming to take Your wife soon. Help us to abide in Jesus' name. Amen.

34:26