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1 Timothy 1: 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

When you read the above passage you discover that:

1. He gives us strength (Are you discouraged by how weak you are?)
2. He considers us faithful (Do you need someone who sees potential in you?)
3. He appoints us to his service (Do you struggle with a sense of purpose?)
4. He shows us mercy (Does your heart yearn to be released from guilt?)
5. He pours grace upon us (Do you need God's power to do His will?)
6. He pours faith upon us (Could you use help in believing what you need to believe?)
7. He pours love upon us (Could you use a push in the love direction toward those who have hurt you?)

Now think about what His giving the above things to us says about His heart toward us:

1. He knows we are weak
2. He knows we need to be believed in
3. He knows we were created to serve
4. He knows we deserve judgment
5. He knows we struggle being gracious
6. He knows we struggle being trustworthy
7. He knows we struggle being loving

Do the above things that Jesus knows about you cause you to view him as a compassionate Savior who is for you and not against you? Do you tend to view Jesus as a taskmaster or a loving friend?

Paul's focus is on what Jesus did for him, not vice versa. In case you think Paul was suggesting he was not really that bad, so Jesus chose him, read the next two verses 15 and 16. He testifies that he was the chief of all sinners and that God saved him to show people that there is hope for anyone.

Other Title Ideas for this sermon:

What You Need that Jesus will Give You
What Does God See in You?
What A Struggling Man Needs!

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