



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

FAN THE FLAME! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7 COLORADO FEBRUARY 4, 2014

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Paul was imprisoned in Rome under the reign of Emperor Nero when a wave of persecution broke out against Christians who were blamed for burning the city of Rome. Paul, knowing his life was nearly at an end and he was waiting execution as a common criminal for being a Christian, was concerned about the welfare of the churches and Timothy during this time of great suffering. He admonishes Timothy to guard the gospel and if necessary be willing to suffer for it.

I. FAN THE FLAME! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7

2 Timothy 1:6-7, “For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (7) For God has not given us the spirit of timidity but of power and love and discipline.”

Paul passes the baton of the gospel ministry to Timothy in the midst of the most difficult times when the penalty for that faithfulness was death. Timothy had proven himself over and over. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:22 that Timothy had proven character. His faith had been tested time and time again and found genuine, real and true.

A. “FOR THIS REASON I REMIND YOU...” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:6A

Paul writes to Timothy affirming his sincere, genuine and rich faith. Clearly he is concerned that Timothy had cooled somewhat. Now, he will remind Timothy that the product of a sincere faith is a faithful service, so kindle afresh the gift of God and use those gifts to preach the Word and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul isn't reminding Timothy of anything new. Rather he is reminding him of truth that he already knows.

B. “TO KINDLE AFRESH THE GIFT OF GOD” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:6B

Fires were very important in Paul's day as the only source for heat and therefore Paul uses this picture to exhort Timothy to keep the fire of faith alive and burning.

“**kindle afresh**” Greek *anazpureo* means stir up, fan the flame, keep the fire alive continually, refers to a fire capable of going out by neglect.

Paul uses a Greek word that carries the idea of constantly and continually keeping the fire alive and don't let it die out. This present infinitive emphasizes that the continual stirring up of the flame is necessary. Just as we need to constantly stir up a fire to keep it from dying out, so Timothy and all believers must fan the flame, stir up the fire of the gift of God within us and constantly exercising those gifts God has bestowed on us. God gifts His people to accomplish His work and purpose. As believers we are called to obey and serve Christ through the gifts He gives us to proclaim the gospel. And Paul wants to remind this young pastor to renew his God given commitment to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, defend the truth

of the faith and faithfully shepherd the believers that God had entrusted him with. Paul exhorted Timothy to constantly and continually put into use the gift of God even if it's hard, even when you might have to suffer for using this gift, even if you are imprisoned, keep it on full flame and kindle afresh.

C. “THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN YOU” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:6C

Paul reminds Timothy of God's gifting. What is this gift of God?

“**gift**” Greek *charisma* refers to unearned, undeserved, unmerited expression from one to another.

So the “*gift of God*” refers to God's gracious gifting to every believer for carrying out the ministry He has purposed each of us to do. These gifts are clearly given by God. We couldn't earn these gifts and we don't decide which ones we will have. We don't pick them out. There are no qualifications; just God's choosing, equipping, enabling and blessing every believer with the ability to serve Him.

Of course Paul is referring to the spiritual gifts given by God at salvation and not a talent or ability. 1 Corinthians 12:11 refers to the gifts God gives, “*distributing to each one individually just as He wills*”.

Peter urges every believer in 1 Peter 4:10, “*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*” And Romans 12:6 talks about how every believer is given different gifts according to the grace of God to be used and exercised in the work of ministry. So God gives all believers gifts at the time of salvation for the purpose of equipping the saints for ministry, building up of the body of Christ and nurturing maturity in Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13) Paul is reminding Timothy and all believers to use these gifts in glorifying God and serving one another. We need to be good stewards of our gifts by using them.

So Paul exhorts Timothy to do the work God has called Timothy to do and essentially reviews his job description in 2 Timothy 4:1-5 with, “*preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction...*” And Paul reminds Timothy that God has gifted him to do that work “*the gift of God which is in you*” (2 Timothy 1:6). When Timothy received Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior, at that moment he was also gifted by God. Paul reminds Timothy of the presence of God's gifting and the need to use it.

When Paul writes, “*through the laying on of my hands*” in 2 Timothy 1:6, he isn't saying that Timothy's gifts had anything to do with Paul, rather that the act of laying on of his hands were a symbolic representation of Timothy's gifting and this was probably done in association with the elders in Timothy's ordination when he was set apart for special ministry in the church.

D. “GOD HAS NOT GIVEN A SPIRIT OF FEAR” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

FAN THE FLAME! – 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-5

2 Timothy 1:6-7, “For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (7) For God has not given us the spirit of timidity but of power and love and discipline.”

So Paul first reminds Timothy of what **God has given** him in 2 Timothy 1:1-6 and then in the next verse he reaffirms what **God has not given** Timothy. Paul encourages Timothy that God has given him grace, mercy and peace (1:2). Then he reminds Timothy that God has given him rich faith to believe and faith to live each day. (1:5) And now Timothy is reminded of the gift of grace given by God to serve. (1:6) Then Paul reminds Timothy of what God has not given him...*fear*. So by way of reminder...**Where does our gift come from? God! Where does fear come from? Not God!** But there was something that might have been keeping Timothy from fully using his gift and 2 Timothy 1:7 suggests the reason...*fear!* Remember, Timothy was also living under the persecution of believers from Nero as he served as pastor in Ephesus. His spiritual father, Paul was in prison for his faith with execution eminent. So Paul, from his cold dungeon, cell reminds Timothy *“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity...”*

“timidity” Greek **%deilia** noun, used only here in N.T., means cowardice, timid, reticence, fearful, opposite of daring and boldness,

Fear never comes from God. Fear is paralyzing and keeps us from being bold for Christ. We can shrink back from fulfilling our calling because we are afraid. But, fear has no place in God’s service because we are saying we don’t trust God. When we are fearful and vacillating, we must know that our trust, our focus is not on God but rather ourselves, our abilities, our circumstances rather than on the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has given us to carry out ministry in spite of hardships. So Paul reminds Timothy of three resources God has given him. What are they?

1. “BUT OF POWER” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:7B

Paul reminds Timothy of God’s divine resource of *“power”*.

“power” Greek **%dunamis** refers to great force or energy, term from which we derive dynamite or dynamic, effective productive energy, not raw and unbridled energy, to be able, ability, might, strength..

God provides His power to accomplish His purpose through us and we must never forget that. 2 Peter 1:3 reminds us that God, *“seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”* And Ephesians 1:18-23 reminds us of the power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that works within every believer! God empowers us to do the task He has called us to do, to be effective in His service. Fear never comes from God, but what does come from God? His divine power which overcomes fear.

2. “AND LOVE” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:7C

The second resource Paul reminds Timothy of is love. When we came to know Jesus Christ, Paul tells us in Romans 5:5 that, *“the love of God has been poured out within our hearts...”* This is the *“agape”* love which is volitional, selfless, gives someone what they need, works for the best interest of others, is unconditional and sacrificial. This is the love that God gives to us! It is constant and unconditional. It is the love of One Who has laid down His life for us. (John 15:13) The more I come to understand His love and saving power, I can know that there is nothing that comes my way but what will be filtered through God’s love for me. And John 4:18 says that it is this perfect divine love from God that *“casts out fear”*. Remember, Paul writes from a dungeon and he reminds Timothy that God loves us unconditionally and sacrificially. How in the world could he say that from a Roman prison? The truth he shared with Timothy was tested and true. Don’t be afraid. Remember that God loves you and you have the love of God within you that centers on pleasing Him and seeking the welfare of others. And as you remember He loves you, no matter what comes your way, then that perfect love *“casts out fear”*. Fear never comes from God, but what does come from God? His volitional, unconditional love which *“casts out fear”*.

3. “AND DISCIPLINE” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:7D

Lastly Paul reminds Timothy of another God given resource which is discipline or a sound mind.

“discipline” Greek **%sophronismos** literal meaning of a secure and sound mind, prudent, sensible, self-control, disciplined, properly prioritized mind.

This is what can enable every believer to control every element of their lives whether good or bad. The battle is for the mind. Having a sound mind, a disciplined mind means that we have a Spirit controlled life. It is the mind which is brought under God’s control. It is having a sound mind, sound judgment, sensible, sober judgment, and prudent. Titus 2:6, 1 Peter 4:7, Romans 12:3, 1 Timothy 3:2 all talk about a disciplined life that allows us to focus and apply our lives according to His will and to be Spirit controlled rather than controlled and gripped with fear. When all three resources are present, the reality is that we are productive and effective for our Lord and Savior Jesus.

God wants us to remember Ephesians 3:14-21, *“...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”*