

## LESSON 2: EXPOSING INTIMIDATION – WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR GIFT?

### Recap from Lesson 1

John Bevere wrote his book, *Breaking Intimidation*, as a response to this **prophecy from God**, “*There are so many called to my great End-Time army of believers who are bound by intimidation. They have pure hearts towards God and man; however, like Gideon of old, they are held captive by the fear of man. The gifts I placed in them are dormant.*”

- Our spiritual authority is what the enemy wants. If Satan can get us to yield our God-given authority, he will take it and use it against us.
- Paul says clearly, “*Do not give place to the devil*” (Eph 4:27). We must not forfeit our place in the spirit.
- Satan will blatantly try to steal your authority by bringing sin into your life.
- If you are determined to serve God with all your heart, then we will also try to knock you out of your position in Christ through intimidation.

### What is intimidation?

Our working definition of intimidation is: to render time; to inspire with fear, to use threats or violence to force or restrain from some action (Oxford English).

II Timothy 1:7, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear (timidity), but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.*”

**The objective of intimidation is to restrain you from action, and coerce or force you into submission. Intimidation wants to overwhelm you with a sense of inferiority and fear.**

### Stir up the gift

**I Tim 4:14**, “*Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*”

Neglecting the gift that is in you is a direct result of timidity / fear / intimidation. People in this state recognize the importance of pursuing God’s character, but buck stops there.

**Maybe it is time to** let go of some things, and add others. Time to truly look at our lives and ask the tough questions, “*Am I stirring up my gift? What is my gift?*”

**Jude writes in verse 3**, “*...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith...*” Have to have some fight in you. We are engaged in warfare.

### Gifted to Function

**II Tim 1:6**, “*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*”

Gift, *charisma* in the Greek refers to “a spiritual endowment” or “a gift of grace endowed upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit

Nothing in the realm of the spirit is accomplished without this *gift* or the supernatural ability of God.

**Rom 11:29**, “*For the gifts, and the calling of God are irrevocable / without repentance.*”

The church needs these gifts, as they are the power/equipment necessary to fulfill the call God places on each of us.

**Do you ever wonder, do I even have a gift?** The answer is yes.

**I Pet 4:10** says, “*As each one has received a gift, minister to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

1. Everyone receives a gift
2. The gift is not ours; we are merely stewards of it
3. The gift is a portion of God’s manifold grace (next time)

So, I ask you, ***what are you doing with your gift?***

***Everyone receives a gift.***

- There are no lame, useless parts in this body.
- **Eph 4:7**, “*But to **each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.*”
- **I Cor 7:7**, “*For I wish that all men were even as I myself. **But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.**”*
- If we are ignorant of the fact that we are gifted, then we remain unfit for service, thus our call goes unfulfilled.

***The gift is not ours; we are merely stewards of it.***

Since we do not own it, the gift is not to be neglected or used for personal gain. It is given that we might serve others, not do as we please.

The parable about the Talents(Matt 25).

***The gift is a portion of God’s manifold grace.***

Peter divides gifts into two major categories: 1) The oracle or speaking gift; and 2) The ministry or serving gift. **I Pet 4:11**, “*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies.*”

Paul divides these two categories further in **Romans 12:4-8**. Due to lack of understanding, people try to move in a gift they want rather than the one they have!

**I Cor 12:18, 20-23**. Remember the gift is the ability God gives us. We are not responsible for that which we were not entrusted with. The enemy wants to stop the joint operation of these gifts. He knows that he cannot stop God from giving these gifts, so he goes after our freedom to exercise them. Intimidation is the primary way he hinders this.

If you feel unproductive, unfruitful, dormant is it possible that Satan has been intimidating you?

What are you doing with your gift?