

Sermon Notes 8/28/22

“Fan the Flame”

How do we fan into flame our gifts from God?

1. Remember the _____ we have in Christ.

2 Timothy 1:1

John 3:16

John 10:10

2. Remember those who _____ in our lives.

2 Timothy 1:5

Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 13:7

3. Remember the _____ of God’s Spirit in us.

2 Timothy 1:7

Romans 8:5-6

Romans 8:10-11



“For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” –2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 1: August 28 – September 4

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Second Timothy is the last letter we have from the Apostle Paul. He was in his second Roman imprisonment, and he would soon be executed. As Timothy's mentor and spiritual father, Paul knew that he may not get another chance to teach and encourage his favorite student. He also knew that Timothy would face severe persecution and added responsibilities of leadership. The purpose of this letter was to encourage Timothy to continue to preach the gospel and be faithful in his ministry. In the first chapter of this book, Paul urged Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" (2 Tim. 1:6). And this is an important lesson for us. As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living in us. So, when we feel like giving up, we must tap into the Spirit's power and reignite our passion for serving in God's Kingdom.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

1. How did Paul describe himself in verse 1?
2. What promise did Paul mention in verse 1? Why?

Through Jesus we have the promise of eternal life in heaven and abundant life in this world. Even in times of severe persecution, Paul recognized that life in Christ was a blessing. Robert Yarbrough notes,

"The promise of life that is in Christ Jesus" may have been vivid as Paul faced death (4:6). It may be related to the "promise" Paul sees in Christ "for both the present life and the life to come" (1 Tim 4:8), not just one or the other. What Paul writes to Timothy will equip him for temporal duties before him no less than for heavenly existence beyond.¹

3. What did Paul pray for Timothy to receive from God in verse 2?

¹ Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018), 349.

4. What did Paul do night and day? (1:3)

5. What was Paul thanking God for? (1:3-5)

While Paul does not specifically identify what he is thanking God for, it is reasonable to recognize all the blessings he mentions in verses 3-5 as things for which he is grateful. Paul is thankful for the opportunity to serve God, the faith of his forefathers, his friendship with Timothy, the sincere faith of Timothy, as well as the faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother.

6. Why did Paul long to see Timothy? (1:4)

George Knight comments on verse 4. He writes,

Although vv. 3-5 form one long sentence, v. 4 is somewhat of an aside triggered by Paul's reference to remembering Timothy. Now Paul remembers the sorrowful parting they had and wishes that they could be together again, a wish that will be returned to in 4:9ff... The clause is a further description of what Paul remembers about Timothy, in prayer before God, and the entirety of v. 4 may be one of the things he asks for Timothy and himself.²

7. Who were Lois and Eunice, and what did Paul say about them? (1:5)

Yarbrough observes,

The word translated "lived" (from Gk. *enoikeo*) is found only in Paul in the New Testament. Paul uses it to speak of the Spirit indwelling believers (Rom 8:11; 2 Tim 1:14), God living in the midst of his people (2 Cor 6:16), and "the message of Christ" dwelling lavishly among the Colossians (Col 3:16). In Paul, *enoikeo* describes divine, dynamic, and transforming presence. The faith of Timothy's maternal forebears was not passive, merely external, or pro forma but deep and alive.³

8. What was Timothy reminded to do? Why? (1:6)

² George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999), 368.

³ Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*, 353.

C. Michael Moss writes,

Paul's conviction that Timothy has a living, "sincere faith" leads him to remind Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God." The infinitive "to fan into flame" is a present infinitive in Greek, indicating Paul's desire for Timothy "to keep fanning something into flame."⁴

9. According to verse 7, what has God not given to Christians?

10 How did Paul describe the Spirit God has given to Christians? (1:7)

Moss notes,

With the gift of the Holy Spirit, a "spirit of timidity" is inappropriate... Timothy is rather to live out his God-given "spirit of power" (cf. Rom 15:13, 19; 1 Cor 2:4; Eph 3:16), "of love" (cf. Rom 5:5; 15:10; Gal 5:22; Col 1:8), and "of self-discipline." This "spirit of power" is obviously connected to the indwelling Spirit in Timothy's life.⁵

11. For whom do you pray on a regular basis?

12. How have your parents or grandparents shaped your faith?

13. Who has had the biggest role in your spiritual growth?

14. What gifts has God given you?

15. How can we tap into the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

16. What can you do to grow in your love for others and God?

17. What can you do to grow in the character trait of self-discipline?

18. What person who has had a substantial impact on your spiritual life will you take the time to personally thank this week?

⁴ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 193.

⁵ Moss, 194.