



ENTRUSTED: FOLLOW THE PATTERN
2 TIMOTHY 1:6-18

CONNECT

Have you ever been afraid to speak up? Do you sometimes find it easier to go along to get along?

WORD

2 Timothy 1:6-18 (ESV) - ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. ⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. ¹⁵You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶May the Lord grant mercy to the household

of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

In this passage, Paul encourages Timothy not to allow his youth to make him timid. He wants Timothy to be bold in his faith. Timothy was a gifted, valuable man for the kingdom of God; but he seems to have had a timid streak in him, which required Paul to often encourage him to be strong and bold. These passages suggest Timothy was a man who tended to be timid, and who didn't like to confront people or want to alienate others with a strong stand on the issues. If we were to meet Timothy, we would probably be impressed by his great warmth and love, but it would be a love that tended to be a little "squishy" - love that might accommodate what is wrong and harmful just so no one's feelings were hurt.

On the other hand, we get the feeling Paul was a man of deep love, but also a man who never shied away from confrontation - anyone who would publicly rebuke the Apostle Peter was a man who could confront! (Galatians 2:11-21). Timothy already has a shepherd's tender heart for the sheep; Paul wants to develop within him the boldness necessary to really lead and protect the flock.

Going through 1 and 2 Timothy, you will find no less than 25 different places where Paul encourages Timothy to be bold, to not shy away from confrontation, to stand up where he needs to stand up and be strong. This was something that Timothy, being the kind of person he was, needed to hear!

In verses 9 and 10, Paul tells Timothy why he should be bold: God's plan of salvation. We come to God as a response to His call in our lives. We did not initiate the search; we do not "find" God, He finds us; so we must respond to His call when we sense it. God's sovereignty means that we can act boldly with the confidence that God will direct our steps.

After speaking of the importance of boldness, Paul now calls Timothy to "Hold fast the pattern of sound words" - Timothy, and all godly ministers, are called to be faithful to the truth. Hold fast suggests someone or something will try to take the truth from us; that unless we hold on in faithfulness, it will be snatched from us.

The last phrase of 2 Timothy 1:14 gives us the key to faithfulness: keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. God requires a faithfulness from us that is greater than we can fulfill by our own resources. Unless we are walking in the Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit, we cannot keep faithful to what we must keep faithful to.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- People are at all different places. For some, the last thing they need to hear is, "You've got to be more bold!" because they are already obnoxious. But many others come from the place where they need to hear, "Stir up the gift of God which is in you; be bold, get going, go for it!" Timothy was of this second type. Where are you? What advice do you think Paul would give to you?

- It takes a special man or woman to truly hold fast; it takes someone who is not *tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men* (Ephesians 4:14). What can we do to hold fast to God's truths? How can we encourage others when they are struggling?
- The pattern of sound words suggests that true teaching, according to God's truth, has a certain "pattern" to it - a pattern that can be detected by the discerning heart. The sound words Timothy was to hold fast came to him from a man - Paul the apostle. God uses human instruments to communicate His eternal truth. How can we discern those who are truly worth listening to?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about being bold in your faith? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does Paul's letter to Timothy change the way you feel about your relationship with God?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? What specific plan will you put in place to follow God's plan for you?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson? Who can you share it with?