

Courageous Spirit

Today I want to share with you some good news... exciting news ... words that will fill your heart with hope: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.* Paul is describing a Christian life that possesses strength of character, boldness, and courage. It is the spirit that stands strong ... no matter what comes. It is the ability to act with complete faith and trust in God. How do we get there? What does it look like? Today we'll examine 2 Timothy 1.6-7 and learn how.

I. Rekindle Your Gifts

- A. 1.6 - *I remind you to rekindle the **gift of God** that is in you.*
- B. 1 Peter 4.10-11 - *Just as each one has received a gift, **use it** to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.*
 - 1. What talents are you not using presently that God has given you?

II. Remember Your Resources

- A. 1.7 - *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.*
- B. The *spirit of **fear*** is the same thing as *timidity* or fear.
- C. Notice God **has given** you these things.

III. Three Spiritual Resources You Possess:

- A. 1.7 - Power (*dynamite*) might/energy; capability; ability; force; or vigor. *The energy that produces results.*
 - 1. Ephesians 1.18-20 - Paul prays that we come to a greater understanding of this power and how it is working inside of us.
 - 2. Ephesians 3.20-21 - When our trust is only in Him and our only desire is to serve Him, God is willing and *able to do **above and beyond** all that we ask or think.*
- B. 1.7 - Love
 - 1. Romans 5.5 - This hope will not disappoint us, because *God's love has been **poured** out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
 - 2. Ephesians 3.17-19 - so great it goes beyond understanding.
 - a) John 15.13 - *No one has greater love than this: to lay down his **life** for his friends.*
 - b) 1 Peter 4.8 - *love **covers** a multitude of sins...*
 - c) 1 John 4.18 - *There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love **drives** out fear,..*
 - 3. What you love, controls your action.
- C. 1.7 - Sound judgment
 - 1. This is self-control / discipline / the properly prioritized mind.
 - 2. Romans 12.3 - another form of the word is found here.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 9.26-27 - *I **discipline** my body and bring it under strict control...*

Conclusion

- A. You have the resources. You have the strength to carry on.

B. Ephesians 3.20-21 - when these things come together ... amazing things happen!