

STIR IT UP

2 TIMOTHY 1


THE WELL CHURCH

Stir It Up

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-7 (NKJV)

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Introduction

As we approach our 7th Church Year we should feel challenged to look at our past and our present. We take inventory of the journey. What God has done, have we've changed, how we've, grown, what we've learned, who we've become. The world around us has shifted into a time of quick transition and it feels very much like a spin cycle—shifting and moving us about in directions beyond our control and if we're not careful we can become spun but not stirred.

I believe that while the world is entering a faster spin cycle, we the Church must intensify the stir! It's time for us to stir it up!

The Stir vs the Spin

- There is a fundamental difference between being stirred versus being spun.
- Both involve motion
- Both involve a rotation
- But both have different outcomes.

Stir = move something around, usually **within or through something else**, often to mix or agitate it. Think *stirring coffee* or *stirring up emotions*. The movement doesn't necessarily make a complete rotation.

- **Spin** = **rotate around an axis or center point**, usually repeatedly. Think *a wheel spinning*, *a record spinning*, or *spinning around in a chair*.

So, **stir** = **agitate/mix through movement**, while **spin** = **rotate**.

The Spin:

- A rotation and motion of the external
- A repeated cycle again and again
- It can look like a lot is happening but in fact it's just the same thing happening again and again
 - The same pattern
 - The same expectations
 - The same outcomes
 - The same outlook
 - The same results
 - The same rotations

Results:

- Going through the motions

The Stir:

- The movement of something within!
- It's transitional
- It's transformational
- It allows things to mix together
- It allows things to blend together
- It allows latent things to awaken
- It awakens

Stillness and Separation

- there are some substances that don't naturally go together because they are different in nature.
- Their molecules don't naturally bond
- When left in stillness they begin to separate
 - Oil and water
 - Oil and vinegar
 - Oil and lemon juice
 - Fat and water

When left in stillness you will see these substances separate. But when some heat energy is applied and you begin to agitate them and stir them up they begin to integrate.

Now things start cooking! Stir it up!

Stirring doesn't necessarily change what the substances are; it changes how intimately they're distributed among one another. Without something that creates a lasting bond between them they can return to separation once the stirring stops.

Stir it Up Timothy!

(Tony Evans Bible Commentary) 1:6 Paul urges Timothy to rekindle the spiritual gift that he had received and that was recognized when Paul laid hands on him and validated his ministry. Timothy could not be passive about his spiritual gift and neither can we. God intends that we develop—keep fresh and vibrant—the gifts he provides for the benefit of others. We will be held accountable for failure to do so.

The Fear Paralysis

If faith produces the stirring, fear produces paralysis.

One can be stuck like a deer in headlights or spring into action!

1:7 Timothy struggled with a spirit of fear. His timidity probably resulted from a variety of factors, including his personality, persecution, false teachers, the burdens of ministry, and the lack of a strong male influence in his growing up years. But Paul assures him that fearfulness does not come from God. Rather, God's Holy Spirit provides power, love, and sound judgment—the necessary spiritual resources for fulfilling ministry and employing spiritual gifts. Such divine resources are available to all—that is, power for the use of our gifts, love for those who benefit from them, and good discernment in the application of our gifts.

Stir Up the Contents & the Consequences

1:8 Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of identifying with Christ or with Paul, who was a prisoner in Rome because of the gospel. This could have added to Timothy's timidity. Instead, Paul calls him to join him in suffering for the gospel, something one can only do through the power of God, rather than human strength.

1:9–10 Why should we be willing to suffer for the gospel? Because through it, God saved us—not according to our works—but in accordance with his own purpose and based on his grace, which he showed us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In his love, God planned this before time began, but it has been made evident through the appearing of the Son as our Savior. Through his sacrificial atoning death on the cross, Christ abolished death and brought us life and immortality . . . through the gospel. Even the possibility of death should not nullify an effective ministry since it is no longer an issue for the

believer.

- Don't be ashamed of what gets revealed in the Stir. Many times the stir reveals both "the contents and the consequences."
- Living in purpose and power can produce persecution.
- Revelation of one's true self can produce rejection.