

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sermon Points

Week 10 - 6.25.23 | Ryan Huggins

Title: Tending the Fire

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Main Point: In the mysterious workings of God's providence, faith plays a vital role in our experience of spiritual power, necessitating the tending of our faith in God before fanning into flame the gifts of God.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-6 ESV - I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 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,

1) God chooses to bless faith with spiritual power 2) You don't have as much faith as you think you do. 3) We must repent of this 4) The Lord loves to restore repentant servants.

Before we immediately take on Paul's encouragement to fan into flame the gift of God in us, we should first consider if Paul would be convinced of the faith in us.

We should always examine whether we are in the faith:

- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- Psalm 139:23-24
- Matthew 7:21

Faith is a trusting confidence for things unseen. And in accordance with Romans 12, this sincere faith is the measure by which we should soberly judge ourselves and has a profound effect, whether positive or negative, on the spiritual power we experience.

Before we go about fanning our spiritual gifts into flame, we should first tend to the fire of our faith. Paul first addressed Timothy's faith. Only after having done an honest assessment of it, and being encouraged by the assessment did he go on to encourage him to stoke the fire of his gifts.

While an honest reading of scripture can't deny that God chooses to bless faith, it also can't ignore even faith itself comes from him.

Faith will never twist God's arm to get a blessing we desire, but our lack of faith closes our hands to miss blessings he wants to give. Both to us and through us.

There is so much more of God for us that he is eager to give us, that he longs to lavish on us, if we would have faith. There is so much more glory due God, and more ways to glorify God, that were prepared long ago by God that we should walk in them if we would have faith.