

The Assembly

21 Days Of Prayer And Fasting

DAY 3

The First Word

Welcome to 2024! Are you the type of person who makes resolutions and promises at the beginning of each new year? If you are, hopefully, you are also the type of person who is able to follow through and complete those resolutions and promises. Statistics show us that 38% of people make New Year's resolutions but only 9% of people stick to them all year long. 80% are forgotten by February. Improving fitness and diet make up about 40% of those resolutions. I can totally relate to this after eating all the holiday goodies!

Empowerment is one of our themes for January and for 2024 here at The Assembly. I suppose you could also categorize this as a resolution or a goal and not just a theme. One of the first verses that came to mind for me was 2 Timothy 1:7- *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

The words that immediately jump out are fear, power, love, and sound mind. I think the first word prevents us from experiencing the last three. If we want to attain the last three, love, power, and a sound mind, we must overcome or at least find a way to handle our fear. What did the verse say? "...God has not given us a spirit of fear..." If He didn't give it, then who did? The devil is a thief and a liar and is the culprit of many of our fears, but these fears also come from our life experiences. We deal with our experiences from the past, our present and current stress, and we worry about the future and what it will hold.

But how do we shift our focus from worry and fear to boldness and courage? In this letter to Timothy, Paul tells him not to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of him who became a prisoner. He asks him to hold fast the Holy Scripture which is the true substance of truth and power. It is not enough to enjoy hearing the Word or simply agreeing with the words of Christ, we must love them, cling to them, desire them, and devote ourselves to them. This kind of fear is only conquered with the Word of God and only becomes living and active when we become consistent in our study of it and dwelling upon it.

In vs. 6, Paul reminds Timothy to 'stir up' the gift of God which is in him. Collectively, we do this every time we meet together at church. We pray for each other, encourage each other, uplift, comfort, applaud, embolden, and empower each other. Individually, we are responsible to stir up the gift within ourselves. Take a bold first step this new year and rekindle and revive your love for the Word of God. Hold so fast and tight to it that no one or no thing can take it away from you!

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