

**Intro:** In 2008 Randy Pausch wrote a New York Times bestseller entitled: “**The Last Lecture.**” ABC’s person of the year in 2009 & “100 most influential People in the world.” 10 Year professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Tim Keller. Every time a new book comes out, best seller.

**Thesis:** “*Paul wants Timothy and all of us to know what most important.*”

### I. You’re His (1-2)

- A. **He’s Sovereign.** By His Will. His Call to eternal life. That means *He wanted you.*
- B. **He’s got Grace, Mercy and Peace for you.** All from God.
- C. **He’s your Father. Jesus is your Older Brother and Lord and Savior (Messiah).**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

### II. You’re Loved (3-5)

- A. **Loved by your Family.** Mother (Eunice) and Grandmother (Lois). Family Faith is yours.
- B. **Loved by the Church.** They really love/like each other (**Eph.20**). “*I’m so thankful for you. So proud of you. I pray for you. I care about you. I love you. I can’t wait to see you.*”

**ILLUSTRATION: Steve Brown: If you’re here and you’re unbeliever, you’re crazy.** Get out while you can, before you get hurt. B/c the church is full of self-righteous, judgmental, critical, proud, hypocrites. Just gonna make you mad, hurt you, annoy you and insult you. But if you can bear for a little while, and wait it out, you’ll find somebody who loves and might even like you - and the real you. They’ll pray for you, listen to you without trying to fix stuff, hug you, cry with you and laugh with you and help you, and who will tell you that they’re pretty messed up too.

- C. **Loved by God.** “I Thank God. His Will.” He wanted you.

**ILLUSTRATION: God likes me better than you.** He does. Think about it. I’m a Pastor. I study and preach His Word every week, and try to convince people to trust Him and follow Him, and I try to get more people to know about Him and worship Him. It’s my job to be religious. And this week, I had a pretty good week. I was really holy. I went on a retreat with other pastors. And we worshiped, and prayed, and shared, and cried some and laughed some, and talked about Jesus and the Gospel, and our desire to see more churches planted and the lost saved. So God’s gotta like me more than you people. And better than He liked me a week ago when I was discouraged and battling sin and trying to believe He was good and loving and powerful.

“Man. This guy’s crazy and arrogant.” You’re right. But I believe that and you do too. Know how I know? Because when you really mess up and fail and sin or you’re not religious, or not feeling it, you think God must feel bad about you. Like He’s disappointed in you. Or upset. Or mad. Or doesn’t like you. And I do too. That’s crazy & arrogant. God loves you. And He even likes you.

### III. You’re Powerful (6-7)

- A. **You’ve got a gift.** I’ve seen it first hand. I was there. I laid my hands on you. I commissioned/ordained you. **It was given to you.** It’s not pride unless you think it makes you better than others, or God likes you better or that you worked it up on your own. So fan it into flame. Work on it. Practice it. And get the Spirit’s help. “**Wind.**”

**ILLUSTRATION: Grilling.** No wind. Coals not burning. Fan. “**Why didn’t I do that sooner?!**”

- B. **You’ve got power.** Not fear. You’ve got power, love and self-control.

**ILLUSTRATION: JackMiller/SteveBrown.** 1)You’re worse. 2)God’s Grace. 3)You’re powerful.

**CONCLUSION: Woodpecker. Lighting.** Cracked the whole tree right down the middle. He went and got all of his woodpecker friends. Look at that! I did that! So start peckin’. Don’t wait until you feel powerful. Or feel loving. For God’s sake (His glory), go love somebody. For God’s sake stop it. Self-Control. **Bob Newhart skit. Therapy: “Stop it!”** You can too. You’ve got help.