

October 8, 2017

## “Fan into Flames the Gift of God in You”

### Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 1:1-7 (NASB)

Cross References: John 14:16-18; Acts 1:8; 16:1-5; 23:1; 24:14-16; Romans 1:8-12; 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:15-19; Philippians 1:3-11; 1 Timothy 1:2; 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 John 14:16-18

**Lesson Idea:** We need a sincere faith driven by a spirit of power and love and discipline.

### BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Oct 1 Malachi 1-4	Oct 2 Matthew 1-4
Oct 3 Matthew 5-6	Oct 4 Matthew 7-8
Oct 5 Matthew 9-10	Oct 6 Matthew 11-12
Oct 7 Matthew 13-14	Oct 8 Matthew 15-17

### Background:

**NOTE:** from David Guzik on 2 Timothy 1:1:

**Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God:** Paul’s introduction here is like his other letters, with an immediate recognition that he is an apostle according to the will of God, not according to the ambition or whim of man.

**According to the promise of life:** This statement is unique compared to greetings in Paul’s other letters. It was appropriate here because Paul was imprisoned again in Rome, facing execution (2 Timothy 4:6). Therefore, this promise was even more precious.

The Bible doesn’t tell us the details, but it seems that after Paul was released from the Roman imprisonment mentioned at the end of the book of Acts, he enjoyed a few more years of liberty until he was re-arrested, and imprisoned in Rome again.

Paul wrote this letter from his second Roman imprisonment, and he would be soon after the writing be condemned and executed in Rome at the command of Nero. Paul sensed this; therefore 2 Timothy is not only the last letter we have from Paul, there is a note of urgency and passion we might expect from a man who knew he would soon be executed.

### 2 Timothy 1:1-7

*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh 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 timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

### DISCUSSION:

- v 1. How does the author describe himself, and why are those descriptions important?
- V 2. Why does Paul call Timothy his “beloved son?” Why does he use the words “grace, mercy and peace” for his salutation? Where do these come from? (see Acts 16:1-5; 1 Timothy 1:2)
- V 3. How can Paul say that he served God “with a clear conscience the way his forefathers did?” (see Acts 23:1; 24:14-16) How often did Paul pray for Timothy? How often do you pray for others? (see Romans 1:8-12; Ephesians 1:15-19; Philippians 1:3-11)
- V 4. Why did Paul desire to see Timothy again?
- V 5. What do you think Paul meant by the term “sincere faith?” Who did Paul say had that kind of faith first? What impact should parents and grandparents have on the younger generations? How do they do that? (see 2 Timothy 3:15)

**NOTE:** from Guzik:

**Which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice:** Timothy’s genuine faith was due, in no small measure, to his godly upbringing and the influence of his grandmother and mother.

Timothy and his family came from the ancient city of Lystra, where Paul visited on his first missionary journey. When Paul and Barnabas were there, God used Paul to miraculously heal a crippled man – and the people of the city began to praise Paul and Barnabas as Greek gods from Olympus, and started to sacrifice a bull to them. Paul barely restrained them from doing so, and soon enemies of the gospel had turned the crowd against Paul, so they cast Paul out of the city and stoned him. Yet God miraculously preserved Paul’s life, and he carried on (Acts 14).

On Paul’s second missionary journey, he came again to Lystra – and there met a young man who had come to Jesus, and was devoted to serving the Lord. This young man was Timothy, and he is described as having a mother who believed, but his father was Greek (Acts 16:1).

So, Timothy’s mother and grandmother were believers, but his father was not (at least not at first). In the Roman world, fathers had absolute authority over the family, and since Timothy’s father was not a Christian, his home situation was less than ideal (though not necessarily terrible). But his mother and grandmother either led him to Jesus or grounded him in the faith. God wants to use parents and grandparents to pass on an eternal legacy to their children and grandchildren.

When Paul left Lystra, he took Timothy with him – and this began a mentor-learner relationship that touched the whole world.

***I am persuaded is in you also:*** It wasn’t enough that this genuine faith was in Timothy’s grandmother and mother; it had to be in Timothy also. Our children, once of age to be accountable before God, must have their own relationship with Jesus Christ. Mom and dad’s relationship with God will not then bring eternal life.

The phrase *genuine faith* could be literally translated, *unhypocritical faith* – that is, faith that is not an act. It was for real, not just in appearance. This is a significant theme of the Book of James.

- V 6. How does someone “kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you?” How does Paul say that the gift of God came to Timothy? (see 1 Timothy 4:14-16)

**NOTE:** from Guzik:

***Stir up the gift of God which is in you:*** Timothy could not be passive, and just let it all happen; he needed to be bold and to stir up the gift of God which is in you. God

may have gifted a person, but just because someone has certain gifts does not mean that they are being used for His glory and Kingdom. Many gifts need to be stirred up.

Some are waiting passively for God to use them; but God is waiting for them to stir up the gifts that are within them! Some are waiting for some dramatic new anointing from God, and God is waiting for them to stir up what He has already given!

***Stir up:*** This has the idea of stirring up a fire to keep it burning bright and strong; a fire left to itself will always burn out, but God wants us to keep our gifts burning strong for Him.

“The Greek *anazopureo* (stir up) means either ‘to kindle afresh’ or ‘to keep in full flame’. There is no necessary suggestion, therefore, that Timothy had lost his early fire, although undoubtedly, like every Christian, he needed an incentive to keep the fire burning at full flame.” (Guthrie)

***Which is in you through the laying on of my hands:*** God used the laying on of hands to communicate spiritual gifts to Timothy. This is not the only way God gives gifts, but it is a common way – and means we should never neglect. It is a good thing to have others pray for us and as that God would give us gifts that might be used to bless and build up the family of God.

- V 7. What does it mean that “God has not given us *a spirit of timidity*?” What does that mean for your life every day? (see John 14:27; Romans 8:14-17)
- How have we received a Spirit of power? Of love? Of discipline? (see Acts 1:8; 1 John 14:16-18)

**APPLICATION:**

- ✓ How sincere is your faith?
- ✓ How are you kindling the gift of God which is in you?
- ✓ Is your spirit one of timidity, or of power and love and discipline? Why?