

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 4

2 Timothy 1:1-12

April 18, 2021

Fan into Flame your Passion

Introduction

Fire, when left to itself, will eventually burn out. It needs to be stoked and prodded, encouraged and tended. Feed a fire and it will light up a night sky, warm your skin, blaze a trail, or roast a marshmallow. A fire needs to be fed.

This is true about our Christian faith as well. Our conviction toward God can start out burning brightly. We have excitement and vigor and will tell anyone who will listen about this beautiful and loving God. But after rejection, hardships, or lack of growth, it can be reduced to warm coals in a short time.

Timothy had many who surrounded and mentored him—those who fed and encouraged his faith. The Apostle Paul, his mother, and grandmother had great influence in his growth.

Timothy was given gifts by God, but without the prodding of others, would have been shy and timid, keeping to himself more than reaching others with the gospel.

God is waiting to use each and every one of us to advance His Kingdom and has given every person specific gifts and abilities to use for His glory. Let's read this week how Paul encouraged Timothy to put those gifts into practice.

Memory verse: "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day."—2 Timothy 1:12

Pray and read 2 Timothy 1:1-12. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What first lived in Timothy's mother and grandmother before it lived in him? (2 Timothy 1:5)
2. What is Paul reminding Timothy to do with the gift of God? (2 Timothy 1:6)
3. Through what act was the gift of God given to Timothy? (2 Timothy 1:6)
4. What did the Spirit give in place of timidity? (2 Timothy 1:7)
5. To what has God called us? (2 Timothy 1:9)
6. What has Jesus brought to light through the gospel? (2 Timothy 1:10)
7. What was the reason Paul gave for his suffering? (2 Timothy 1:11-12)

What does the passage mean?

1. Timothy was raised in his mother and grandmother's faith. When he was older, he was mentored and disciplined by Paul. What is discipleship and what role does it play in the Christian faith? (Matthew 28:18-20; John 8:31-32; 1 Corinthians 11:1)

2. Why do you think Paul added the word self-discipline when stating how to have boldness? (Proverbs 25:28; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Titus 2:11-14)

3. In 1 and 2 Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy 25 times to be bold and not to fear. God has promised His help (through the Spirit) in times of trouble. How can these promises assuage our fear? (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; Romans 8:26-27)

4. There were those that abandoned Paul when he was put in jail, they were ashamed to be connected to his ministry. Paul mentions that we should not be ashamed of the message of Christ, or of his chains. Why was Paul so assured of his faith and the truth of his testimony? (Acts 9:1-19; Romans 1:16-17)

Applying the passage

1. Jesus himself said that it is good for Him to go because otherwise we wouldn't gain the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be somewhat of an enigma to Christians, but He is our source of strength in hard times. What do you know about the Spirit and His role in the Christian's life? How can you rely on the Spirit more this week?

