

A Father's Farewell

2nd Timothy

A Father, A Son, and the Spirit

Key idea:

Paul writes to his spiritual son Timothy, fondly remembering his participation in the ancient faith and encouraging him to stir up the Spirit's Presence and gifts.

Key text:

2 Timothy 1:1–7

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

Key points:

1. Paul's opening words clearly display fondness and a close relationship with Timothy.
2. Paul's affection for Timothy is reinforced through his continual recalling of memories and his constant prayers for Timothy.
3. Paul encourages Timothy by reminding him of the deep roots of the faith, both in redemptive history and in Timothy's own family.
4. Paul reminds Timothy of the need to fan into flame the Spirit's Presence and gifts.
5. The Spirit works in believers to overcome fear and timidity, and to enable us to experience the power, love, and self-discipline needed to live faithfully in the midst of a hostile culture.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?

2. Am I surprised that Paul begins a personal letter to his spiritual son with such a formal greeting? Why do I think he did this?
3. Why do I think Paul and Timothy developed such a strong bond with one another?
4. It has been said that every believer needs a Barnabas to walk beside them, a Paul to be a spiritual father, and a Timothy to help grow in the faith and carry it into the future. Can I name my 'Barnabas team'? A Paul? A Timothy?
5. What role does 'memory' or 'remembering' play in my spiritual life? What people and events can I bring to mind that encourage me and spur me on in my Christian life?
6. Why are the ancient roots of our faith so important? What is lost if I become unmoored from the history of God's people? How does the long history of the faith help me to stand firm in the face of opposition?
7. Why is it necessary for me to "fan into flame" the Spirit's Presence, gifts, and work in my life?
8. How do I "fan into flame" the Spirit's Presence, gifts, and work in my life? What practices do I personally find particularly helpful?
9. What is one thing I need to do this week to apply 2 Timothy 1:1-7 in my own life?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

For Further Study:

[Empowered By the Spirit](#) (May 31, 2020)

["The Holy Spirit"](#) teaching series (August 2008-April 2009)

["Spiritual Gifts" teaching series](#) (December 2012-January 2013)

[Ancient Present Future Faith](#) (September 12, 2021)

[Enduring In A Transient World](#) (September 29, 2013)

Preview of Next Week: The Strength To Stand (Habakuk 3:17-19)