

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Washington's Farewell Address

- A. Famous Farewell letter to the people of America from the "father of our nation"
- B. Warned of disunity; political parties; separation of powers; follow the Constitution; importance of religion and morality - prescient warnings for the US!
- C. He carefully thought through what he wanted to say as his final public address
- D. 2 Timothy - A Father's Farewell

II. A Father's Fond Greeting

- A. A formal beginning
 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 Timothy 1:1
 - 1. This is a normal opening for Paul's letters
 - 2. He always stresses his apostleship and often includes the will of God
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1
 - b. Pretty similar to 1 Timothy 1:1
 - 3. Some feel this is too formal if Paul really wrote it
 - a. This is a personal letter!
 - b. Timothy knows Paul is an apostle by God's will!
 - c. Why would Paul include this?

- 4. But there are good reasons for Paul to do this
 - a. It is how Paul always starts letters - a sign it is from him!
 - b. Paul is writing to Timothy - but also the church
 - c. It gets very personal quickly!
 - d. This gives NO credence to the idea Paul did not write this letter!

B. Fond words to a spiritual son

To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Tim 1:2

- 1. The address to Timothy shows Paul's affection
- 2. My dear son
 - a. Timothy is Paul's spiritual son, not his physical son
 - b. Rabbi's and philosophers used this term for their close disciples sometimes
 - c. Paul also called Timothy his fellow worker (Romans 16:21) and brother (2 Corinth 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col 1:1)
 - d. But he often called Timothy his son
 - For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 4:17
 - To Timothy my true son in the faith: 1 Timothy 1:2
 - Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction... 1 Timothy 1:18
 - e. Paul also referred to Titus (Titus 1:4) and Onesimus (Philemon 10) as his sons
 - f. But it is clear that Paul felt a special deep affection for Timothy as his spiritual son that he felt for few if any others.

3. Paul is very close to Timothy, his spiritual son, and this whole letter is his final words for Timothy.

4. After Hours on Timothy - see on Tuesday

III. A Father's Fond Memories and Prayers

A. Paul continually remembers Timothy

1. Paul stresses his fond memories of Timothy
I thank God... as night and day I constantly **remember** you in my prayers. ⁴ **Recalling** your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been **reminded** of your sincere faith... ² Timothy 1:3-5

- a. Paul uses 3 words related to remembering
- b. All are built on the word $\mu\epsilon\tau\epsilon\iota\alpha$, remember or mention
- c. Paul clearly thinks of Timothy often
- d. As he nears death, Paul thinks often of his spiritual son Timothy, and he longs to see him again, which would be a source of overflowing joy.

2. Timothy clearly felt affection for Paul as well!
Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ² Timothy 1:4

- a. Probably referring to the last time they parted
- b. Timothy apparently wept - possibly because he sensed Paul might be heading to his death?
- c. This left a mark on Paul and he remembers it often

B. Paul continually prays for Timothy

I **thank** God... as **night and day** I constantly remember you in my **prayers**. ² Timothy 1:3

1. Paul thanks God - we must thank someone!

2. Paul specifically remembers Timothy in prayer

3. Paul did not just pray occasionally - he prayed night and day

4. We too should give thanks to God and pray for our family and close friends!

5. One of the greatest needs today is for God's people to give themselves to prayer

IV. A Father's Fond Encouragement

A. Paul reminds Timothy of the deep roots of their faith

1. The faith stretches back to the forefathers of Israel
I thank God, whom I serve, **as my forefathers did**, with a clear conscience... ² Timothy 1:3

- a. Paul serves God with a clear conscience
- b. This did not begin with Paul or his generation
- c. The forefathers also served God, even before Jesus had come to fulfill God's Promises
- d. It is a source of deep encouragement to know the faith is not something new - it has been around since the dawn of time!
- e. This is especially important for us in our day when people falsely believe that the new is always better - when it is usually a passing fad!

2. Timothy's own family is a heritage of faith

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ² Timothy 1:5

- a. Paul reminds Timothy that his own family has a heritage of faith - grandmother and mother
- b. Timothy has appropriated this faith for himself
- c. It is a great heritage when the faith stretches across generations - we should strive for this in our families!
- d. But the faith must be personally embraced by each generation - we can't live on the faith of previous generations!

3. The deep roots of the faith are an encouragement and source of strength for Timothy - and us!

B. Paul reminds Timothy to fan into flame the Spirit's Presence and gifts

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

- 1. I remind you - Paul has told him this before
- 2. Fan into flame
 - a. ἀναζωπυρεῖν - cause to blaze again (BDAG)
 - b. Like coals in a campfire - stir them up!
 - c. Present active infinitive - a constant need to stir it up

3. The gift of God which is in you

- a. This could refer to a specific gift of the Spirit
 - 1. χάρισμα is often used of gifts (Romans 1:11; 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4,9,28-31) - important NT experience
 - 2. Through laying on of Paul's hands - (perhaps at the time Timothy joined Paul's apostolic team

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 1 Timothy 4:14

(A) Probably the same occasion even though Paul highlights his personal involvement here

(B) Probably when elders commissioned Timothy to join Paul, accompanied by a prophecy apparently

(C) Timothy may well have been given specific gifts by the Spirit on this occasion.

b. I think it is primarily the Spirit Himself, only then gifts

- 1. In the NT χάρισμα are associated with the Holy Spirit
- 2. Paul mentions 'spirit' in verse 7 - probably Holy Spirit
For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7
- 3. Paul returns to the Holy Spirit in verse 14
Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14

4. Timothy (and we!) must fan into flame the Holy Spirit's Presence and work

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:6–7

- a. We have all been given the Spirit, but we must be careful to not quench His Presence and work in our lives
Do not put out the Spirit's fire 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- b. We must not only avoid quenching the Spirit's fire; we must stir it up, consciously walking in, with, and by the Spirit each day, asking Him to lead and guide us in paths of righteousness and to empower us to stand for the Gospel.

C. The Spirit's work in believers

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

1. The Spirit overcomes timidity and fear in us

- a. δειλίας - often cowardice in face of battle
- b. The Spirit does not give fear but confidence from knowing we are God's children!

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:14–15

- c. In the face of enemies of the Gospel and persecution, Timothy may be tempted to timidity, fear, and cowardice, but the Spirit will help him overcome!

2. The Spirit lets us experience the power of God so we can stand in the face of difficulty

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

- a. We are not left to accomplish the mission in our own power - the Spirit is God's empowering Presence!

3. The Spirit lets us experience the love of God so we can stand in the face of difficulty

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:5

- a. The love of God is not an abstract concept - through the Spirit, we can experience God's love deep in our souls.

- b. The Spirit makes the truth of God's Word and the ancient faith a present experience for believers

4. The Spirit gives us a sound mind so we can keep our head in trying times and circumstances

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

- a. σωφρονισμός - only time in NT; but related words
- b. Range of meanings - prudence; moderation; self-discipline
- c. Refers to the prudence and self-control to meet the circumstances and do what is right.

D. Believers face trying circumstances in this life which can tempt us to compromise or shrink back, but as we fan into flame the Spirit's Presence and work He gives us everything we need to live faithfully and fulfill our call.

V. Applying the Word

A. Growing a strong, well-balanced faith

1. It is rooted in the historic faith

- a. Some mistakenly think only of "what God is doing today" - this is a deadly error
- b. A faith that does not have deep roots in the soil of the historic faith will wither in the hot days of adversity.

2. It is strengthened through close relationships

- a. Some mistakenly try to live their Christian life apart from vibrant, close, personal relationships with other believers.
- b. This is why CONNECT is part of discipleship. Get in a connect group - it is ESSENTIAL.

- c. A faith that is not strengthened through vibrant, close, personal relationships with other believers will lack the strength to stand in winds of adversity.

3. It is empowered by the Spirit of God

- a. Some mistakenly focus only on intellectual apprehension of biblical doctrine and past experience of God, but neglect fanning into flame the Spirit's current Presence and work.
- b. We must fan into flame the Spirit's Presence and work DAILY through the Word, prayer, and songs of worship, specifically asking Him to speak to us, feed us, lead and guide us.
- c. A faith that is not receiving daily nourishment through a present experience of the Spirit will only have a form of godliness, lacking the power to produce godly fruit in the midst of an immoral and corrupt culture.

B. Which area is God calling me to grow in this season?

C. The Table

1. Here we are rooted in the historic faith - Creed
2. Here we experience communion with one another
3. Here we commune with God through the Spirit

A Father, A Son, and the Spirit

2 Timothy 1:1-7
February 13, 2022
Communion
2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching keywords: Holy Spirit; multi-generational perspective and ministry; spiritual gifts; Christian life

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:1-7