

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 1:6-12

QUESTION 1

Begin this time by reading the scripture out loud in your group. **2 Timothy 1:6-13 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 the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² 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.** Each member of the group, please share one thing that stands out to you from the scripture.

QUESTION 2

Paul begins this section by saying: **2 Timothy 1:6 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.** Paul is most likely referring to the moment of Timothy's ordination. In the first-century church, when a young person dedicated their life to ministry, the leaders of their church would lay their hands upon them and pray for them. Paul is indicating that when he laid his hands on Timothy, ordaining him for ministry, Timothy received a gift. Most likely, this gift was associated with the ministry to which Timothy was called. Perhaps the gift of teaching, preaching, or serving. When Paul instructed Timothy to fan this gift into flame, he was indicating that Timothy may be neglecting his gift. Everyone who has received Christ has a spiritual gift. But like Timothy, we can neglect the gifts that God has given us. In **Romans 12**, Paul provides a list of spiritual gifts and commands us to use the gift we have been given. **Romans 12:6-8 ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.** Discuss what gift you feel another group member has and why. Process together what it might mean to neglect a gift that God has given you.

QUESTION 3

Verse seven reveals that Paul's instruction to **fan into flame the gift of God should be done with the help of the Holy Spirit. 2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.** Discuss briefly how this verse impacts you, and what comes to mind as you focus on it.

Tell the story of a time when you felt the Holy Spirit gave you power, love, or self-discipline.

QUESTION 4

Verse eight contains an important command: **⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.** It seems that Timothy was neglecting his gift because he was afraid of suffering, as Paul was suffering in prison. What do you make of this invitation: **join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.**

It is unlikely that you would personally face jail time for your faith in Christ. But the invitation to suffer is universally given to all those who would follow Christ. Do you agree? The word Paul uses for suffering encompasses any form of suffering, hardship, or adversity. This can even refer to the struggle of growing spiritually. What are some ways you have already suffered for Christ? Are you willing to continue suffering for the sake of Christ?

QUESTION 5

Process as a group, the remainder of this section of scripture: **⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² 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.** What from this section applies to you in your current season of life? You might discuss the use of the word grace in this passage. You might discuss the use of the word gospel in this passage. You may want to examine the relationship between suffering and shame.