

Running the Race of Faith
2 Timothy 1:1-7 (Week 01) 04/12/2026
Paul's Relationship with Timothy

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

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

³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 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, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:1-7)

Introduction to 2 Timothy

- Today we begin our study through **Paul's second letter to Timothy.**
- **This is the final letter he wrote.**
- Or at least his **last letter** that became part of **the New Testament.**
- It was written between **A.D. 66 & 67**, during **Paul's second and final imprisonment in Rome.**
- **Paul's first Roman imprisonment took place** five years earlier, from **A.D. 60-62.**
- **The book of Acts** concludes with a brief summary of **Paul's life during this time.**

³⁰ He (Paul) lived there (in Rome) two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. (Acts 28:30-31)

- This **first imprisonment** was really more **like house arrest.**
- Paul had the freedom to receive visitors and continue to proclaim the gospel.
- Also, from his writings during this time, it's clear that he expected to be released.
- And his expectations were justified.
- Because, according to church history, after two years he was freed.
- **Clement of Rome**, writing around **A.D. 95** records that after his 1st imprisonment...
- Paul traveled to **"the farthest bounds of the West"**, most likely going to Spain.
- And it was during this time **of freedom and ministry** that Paul wrote **1 Timothy.**
- But sometime after that, **around 66 A.D., he was again arrested and taken to Rome.**
- And **this second imprisonment was much different than the first.**
- This time he wasn't under **house arrest**, he was in **chains.**
- In **2 Timothy 2:9** he describes his situation...

⁹ ...I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. (2 Timothy 2:9)

- And this time he didn't expect to be released. **Near the end of this letter Paul writes...**

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day... (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

- So, knowing that his **departure (his death)** was very near.
- Knowing his time of **fighting and running** was at an end.
- Knowing and **rejoicing that he would soon be with his Lord.**
- Paul takes pen in hand to write these final words to his most trusted disciple,
- **his beloved child in the faith.**
- In this letter Paul is, in a very real sense, passing **the baton to Timothy.**
- Calling him **and by extension** all believers to **"Run the Race of Faith."**
- And it's my prayer that throughout **the study of this, Paul's final letter...**
- We at Bridges will be inspired, encouraged and instructed to continue Running the Race of Faith.
- That we will **grow** in our **trust in and obedience to the LORD!**
- And that **God** will **empower** us to **minister** to others, both in the church and the world.
- And that brings us to our text for today, **the first 7 verses of 2 Timothy.**
- Like much of this letter **these verses are very personal,**
- They speak to **Paul's Relationship with Timothy.**
- And as he does with all his letters, **Paul begins with a Greeting...**

1. Paul Greets Timothy

- This greeting is **very similar** to that of 1 Timothy, **with a few notable differences.**
- Paul, as was his custom, begins by identifying himself as the writer,
- specifically focusing on the fact that what he writes is...

A. From an Apostle

- **Verse 1...**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God... (2 Timothy 1:1)

- That word **apostle means** messenger or **ambassador.**
- Paul wants **his readers** to know that he is a **representative of Jesus Christ.**
- **That he writes with the authority of Christ.**
- And even though his authority would have been **accepted by Timothy...**
- This letter was also meant for the whole church in Ephesus & beyond.
- And there were still some **who questioned Paul's authority.**
- So, Paul wants to be clear that **his authority comes directly from Jesus Christ.**

- And to give this even **more weight**, Paul asserts that he is an apostle **“by the will of God.”**
- **In 1 Timothy he said “by the command of God”**
- And in both cases, he wants everyone to know that he is **not self-appointed**,
- or **even a church appointed apostle**, as others were.
- Instead, at his conversion, **on the Road to Damascus...**
- Paul was chosen by God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- In **Acts 9:15** we read Jesus words **about Paul, to Ananias...**

15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (Acts 9:15)

- So, writing as an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, means what Paul’s words...
- The words in this letter are not just **his words**,
- but he’s speaking a representative of Christ, **these are Christ’s words.**
- These words are, as he will write in **Chapter 3**, are **“breathed out by God”**
- Now after, identifying himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ, **which is his standard practice.**
- Paul then adds something unique **to 2 Timothy; he is an apostle...**

according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus

- Now what does this mean and why is it included **in this particular greeting?**
- Well, remember as Paul writes **he’s certain that his death is near.**
- He’s facing an **unjust execution** at the **hands of Rome.**
- And death is a terrible, tragic inevitable problem, **it was coming for Paul** as it comes for us all.
- But Paul knows the **“promise of the life in Christ Jesus”** resolves **the problem of death.**
- **In fact**, later in **verses 10 & 11** of this same Chapter, Paul makes this clear...

10 ...our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, (2 Timothy 1:10-11)

- At the heart of **the gospel**, the good news of our savior Christ Jesus.
- We find that through his **sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection,**
- Jesus **abolished death** and brought **life and immortality to light through the gospel.**
- For the gospel message proclaims...

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

- This is the gospel, **“the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus”.**
- **And God appointed Paul...**

as a preacher and apostle and teacher of the gospel.

- Paul is going to be executed by Rome, **but he understands the truth of the gospel,**
- He knows **that his death will not be his end.**
- He knows that **even though he will die physically,** he **will not die spiritually.**
- He knows that when **he gave his life to Christ,** when he **joined himself to Christ,**
- He received **salvation and immortality.**
- And so, in the face of his imminent death,
- Paul wants Timothy (his beloved child) to know that he has great hope,
- For **He has received the promise of the life in Christ Jesus.**
- And we can have this same hope!
- **Do you believe the gospel of Jesus Christ?**
- Do you believe **John 3:16?** Do you believe you have received...

the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus

- That through Christ **own sacrificial death and resurrection,**
- He abolished death (as we saw last week on Resurrection Sunday, **he defeated death**)
- and He gives **life and immortality to those who trust in him?**
- If you truly believe what Scripture promises, then you need not fear death.
- Yes, death will always bring **sadness and grief,**
- whether it be **the death of a loved one,** or **our own approaching death.**
- However, unlike the world that sees death as the end of all things,
- The Christian can face death with HOPE.
- Not wishful thinking but a **sure hope in the promises of God.**
- Promises like **John 5:24,** where Jesus said...

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24)

- This too is the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.
- And so, like Paul, as we face **the surety of our own physical death.**
- We need not be overcome with fear, **because as the hymn says...**
- **OUR hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.**
- **So,** Paul has identified himself as **an apostle of Jesus Christ,**
- He's established his authority, and thus the authority of this letter.
- And as he faces death, **he proclaims his hope in the promise of life in Christ Jesus.**

- Then he addresses his audience, and in this case, Paul is writing...

B. To His Beloved Child

- Even though, like all of his letters, **2 Timothy** will be shared with the entire church.
- Paul has a specific person in mind as he writes...

² To Timothy, my beloved child... (2 Timothy 1:2)

- If you remember from **1 Timothy**, he wrote...

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith: (1 Timothy 1:2)

- The emphasis in **1st Timothy** is on **Paul's** role in **Timothy's** faith.
- But in **2 Timothy**, the emphasis is on **Paul's** love for **Timothy**.
- Even though Timothy is probably in his **early forties at this point**, he is still Paul's **beloved child**.
- **He is Paul's beloved and True Child in the Faith.**
- And this means that Timothy would be Paul's "**beloved heir**", his main successor in ministry.
- Timothy had been Paul's co-worker during **his second and third missionary journeys**.
- And **they had developed a relationship of trust**.
- We see this clearly in **Paul's letters** (5 of which **name Timothy as coauthor**)
- Also, Paul sent Timothy to be his representative in **4 cities**,
- Macedonia, Corinth, Philippi, and Ephesus. And to the **Corinthians** Paul wrote...

¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:16-17)

- Timothy's teaching and lifestyle was patterned after his father in the Faith, the Apostle Paul.
- And to the **Philippians** Paul wrote...

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon... ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:19-21)

- Paul had no one like Timothy,
- a man of selfless compassion, **desiring the will of Christ for the church**.
- No wonder, **near the end of this letter** Paul calls Timothy to...

⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. (2 Timothy 4:9)

- As Paul faced imminent death, he was **certainly comforted** by **the promise of life in Christ**.
- But in this life, he wanted to experience **the presence of his beloved Child in the faith**.

- And as he begins this letter, he blesses Timothy with...

2 ...Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (2 Timothy 1:2)

- This is the same blessing Paul gives in **1 Timothy 1:2**.
- And since you all remember exactly what I said back then, I don't need to repeat myself.
- But in case you forgot a few things **let me summarize** this part of the greeting.
- It begins with

Grace

- For Paul and all believers, **grace is the source of both salvation and sanctification**.
- We are saved by grace through faith, and we grow in faith by the grace of God at work in our lives.
- **And Paul desires that Timothy to experience the Grace of God in his life.**
- **He also wants Timothy to experience**

Mercy

- **Mercy** includes the ideas of compassion and kindness.
- Paul wants Timothy to experience the great compassion and kindness of LORD.
- Like all believers, Timothy has struggles in ministry, he sometimes fails and even sins.
- And He, like you and I, will again and again need **the grace and mercy of God** to continue on.
- **Paul then concludes with the traditional Hebrew blessing of**

Peace

- This means **rest or tranquility**.
- As Timothy experiences conflict in ministry,
- as he faces persecution from inside and outside the church.
- Paul wants him to experience **the peace that passes all understanding**.
- The tranquil state of a soul assured of ***the promise of life in Jesus Christ***.
- **Now Paul can bless Timothy with grace, mercy and peace** because all of these are gifts...

from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord

- Paul has **again and again** experienced grace, mercy and peace from God.
- He knows the importance of this **Triple Blessing in his own life**.
- And so, he **wants Timothy** to experience these blessings as well.
- And we should follow Paul's example.
- As we experience the grace, mercy, and peace of God in our lives.
- We should then seek to bless others with these same gifts.
- We should pray that God would give our fellow believers **his grace, mercy and peace**.
- And we should let them know, **in a text, and email, a letter, face to face**,
- that you **desire and are praying** that they will experience **these blessings** in their lives.

- So that's **the apostle Paul's Greeting** to Timothy, **his beloved Child**.
- And what follows is an expression of...

2. Paul's Love for Timothy

- Paul wants Timothy to know just how beloved he is.
- And the first way he makes that clear is by saying HE...

A. Paul Thanks God and Prays for Timothy

- Verse 3...

³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. (2 Timothy 1:3)

- Paul's constant prayers for Timothy include **thanking God who he serves**.
- "God thank you that I have a man like Timothy, **who serves alongside me**."
- Thank you for his heart, **his compassion, his obedience**, his love for you Father.
- Thank you, that he is in my life, and I can trust him to continue the ministry I've begun."
- **What a relief it must have been for Paul to have a man like Timothy to continue his work.**
- Now when Paul says **I thank God whom I serve**, He adds,

as did my ancestors

- Now what's that all about?
- Well, **as you know** Paul was a Jew, a child of Abraham.
- And it seems he wants to establish **a connection between His ministry (his service)**
- and the service **of faithful Jewish people** who've gone before him.
- If you read through the Old Testament,
- You'll certainly see that Israel could be extremely **rebellious and sinful**.
- But that's not all you'll see, **there are**, at times flashes of **godly men and women**.
- and Paul knows that like him, these **godly Israelites** served the Lord.
- And I think the reason Paul mentions these ancestors is to encourage Timothy that even though Paul will not be around for long, there have been and always will those who faithfully serve the Lord.
- **"Timothy you will not be alone in ministry. God always has remnant who will serve Him.**
- Paul also adds that he serves God...

with a clear conscience

- He probably includes this because he's in prison and he wants Timothy...
- and all who read this letter to know that he has **a clear conscience, he is NOT GUILTY**.

- He was imprisoned, not for some heinous crime, but as he says in **chapter 2 verse 8-9...**

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal... (2 Timothy 2:8-9)

- Paul's conscience is clear.
- He's suffering in prison, being treated as a criminal, for preaching the gospel.
- For serving the Lord, just as he was called to do.
- And what does he do with his time in chains?
- **He prays**, and notice just how much Paul prays for Timothy...

as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day

- Can you imagine the confidence, the assurance these words gave to Timothy.
- Knowing that even though Paul was facing death.
- That he was constantly on the **Apostle's heart**.
- Paul continually brought Timothy's **ministry and needs before the Lord**.
- Wow, if only **we would pray for each other like that**.
- Or what if we just prayed for one other person like that.
- Maybe your Pastor, an elder, a missionary.
- Constantly bringing their ministry and needs before the Lord.
- And this doesn't mean you do nothing else but pray for that person.
- It means when you pray, **throughout your day**, you continually bring this man or woman before the LORD!
- It means they are on your heart. **It means you love and care for them**.
- And you express that love in the best way possible...
- **by thanking God and praying for them on a regular basis**
- **That's what Paul did for Timothy**, his beloved child in the faith.
- And along with his Thanksgiving and Prayers for Timothy.

B. Paul Longs for Timothy

- **Verse 4...**

⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. (2 Timothy 1:4)

- What a clear picture of the **loving relationship** shared between these two men.
- Timothy's tears were probably shed when they last parted.
- And now Paul longs to see him again.
- That phrase "I long" translates the Greek word *epi-po-theō*,
- This is a term for **strong positive feelings**.

- We see this word also in Paul's letter to the **Philippians**.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:8)

- Deep in his soul Paul yearns, he craves, he longs to see his beloved child Timothy.
- **I know that feeling** when it comes to my **Grandchildren** who live in **St. Louis**.
- We **face time** with them every week, but as I see them on the screen,
- I yearn to reach out and touch them, to have physical contact with the ones I love.
- And with this kind of longing **Paul anticipates** a joyful reunion with Timothy.
- These men share **an intense emotional brotherly love**,
- Something that I'm afraid we in the church (**at least us men**) are not so familiar with.
- Today, strong displays of feelings (tears especially) lead people to say, "**Don't be so emotional.**"
- But God's word teaches us **the need to experience certain positive emotions**.
- In fact, **God commands believers to...**

¹⁶ Rejoice always, (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

- And to...

³⁴ ...love one another... (John 13:34)

- And just to be clear **these are emotional heartfelt words**.
- **Christians are to be emotional people**.
- I know we're often warned that we shouldn't be **led by our emotions**.
- And I would agree that when it comes to wrong unbiblical or sinful emotions like **pride or anger or lust**, that we should **not follow them anywhere**.
- **However**, I would argue that **being led by love for God or other people**,
- or **joy in being together as Christians** is a **good path to follow**.
- In fact, in **1 Corinthians 13** Paul describes **the great things love can lead to do...**

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- And my point is that Paul and Timothy show us that experiencing, and even acting on,
- The strong emotions of **love for and joy in** one another is a right and good thing.
- And if we don't seek to develop these kinds of loving relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, **then we are missing out on experiencing what God has intended for his children**.

- OKAY, we've seen Paul's love for Timothy in his **Thanks to God for Timothy**,
- In his continual **prayers for Timothy**
- And in his **longing to experience Timothy's presence**.
- And **finally, we his love as...**

C. **Paul Remembers Timothy's Faith**

- **Verse 5...**

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (2 Timothy 1:5)

- As Paul prays for Timothy, as he longs to see **him that he might be filled with joy**.
- He is **reminded of Timothy's sincere faith**.
- Timothy is **Paul's child in the faith**,
- and he's reminded (or he is mindful of) that faith and its sincerity.
- That word **sincere** means undismissible and without hypocrisy,
- **You can't ignore it and it is genuine**.
- **Timothy's sincere faith may have been the greatest contributor to Paul's love for Him**.
- And this same **sincere faith** dwelt first in Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.
- These faithful Jewish women were responsible for **providing the foundation** for Timothy's faith.
- They certainly taught him the **Old Testament Law, the Stories of** their ancestors,
- the history of their people and the promises regarding the Messiah.
- So, they laid the foundation.
- **Then according to Acts 14**, on his first missionary journey,
- Paul arrived in their hometown of Lystra proclaiming the gospel, that Jesus Christ is the Messiah.
- And even though their names are not mentioned in Acts 14,
- most Bible Scholars believe that **all three became believers** in Jesus at or around this time.
- Because later in **Acts 16** we read of Paul's **second trip to Lystra** where he encountered...

¹ ...A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. (Acts 16:1-2)

- So, even though Timothy's father was a Gentile (and apparently did not come to Christ),
- He along with **His mother and grandmother all had proven sincere faith in Jesus Christ**.
- And as he writes this final letter **Paul remembers the faith of all three**.
- **What an encouragement this must have been for Timothy**,
- Knowing that Paul thought of his family's sincere faith.
- I'm sure this reminded Timothy of the great blessing to **have beloved family members** who know Jesus.
- And this should be a reminder and an encouragement to all Christian parents and grandparents to provide a foundation and set an example of sincere faith for our children and grandchildren.

- So, Paul has expressed his love for Timothy through Thanksgiving, Prayer, Longing and Remembering his sincere Faith.
- And after calling attention to his faith...

3. Paul Exhorts Timothy

- To live it out... (verse 6)

6 For this reason (because you have a sincere true faith dwelling in you) 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)

- Timothy, don't forget the faith that dwells in you.
- Faith that resulted in you receiving "the gift of God",

which is in you through the laying on of my hands

- This probably took place in **Lystra**, before Timothy joined Paul...

14 ...when the council of elders (including Paul) laid their hands on [Timothy]. (1 Timothy 4:14)

- The fact that Timothy received this gift from God when other church leaders laid their hands on him is meant to show not **only that the gift originated with God,**
- **but it is confirmed by church leaders.**
- And as we talked about in **1 Timothy...**
- The call and gift Timothy had been given was in the area of **teaching and preaching.**
- Leading the church. **You could say he was gifted as a Pastor.**
- And Paul is saying, **by God's grace (by God's gift) Timothy,**
- you have what it takes to do the work God has called you too.
- But you must "**fan into flame**" the gift of God. Now what does that mean?
- Well, that phrase is one word in the Greek – **ana-zo-py-re-o.**
- And it means to **rekindle, to inflame, to stir up.**
- So, Paul is telling Timothy that he needs to **stir up** or **set fire to his gift.**
- This doesn't necessarily mean that Timothy wasn't using his gift at all, **he probably was,**
- but apparently not with great passion and power (there was no fire in his preaching).
- Timothy's (and our) problem is that we can view Spiritual Gifts as constant and unfading.
- And that once received, we will naturally use them without effort.
- **But that is not the case.**
- God's gifts are gracious, **yet we must continue to develop and exercise them.**
- God called Timothy and gave him the gifts he needed to lead in the church.
- But Timothy needed proper zeal (FIRE, DESIRE) so that he could fully exercise "the gift of God".

- And the same is true for us, **we too must fan into flame the gift of God.**
- **We must passionately develop and exercise our Spiritual Gifts.**
- And the first step to doing that is **to know what our gifts are.**
- How many of us know how God has gifted you in ministry.
- Well, for the rest, let me give you a few words of advice.
- **First**, pay attention to **your desires and interests** for service in the body of Christ.
- **Know that Spiritual Gifts are for the building up of the body.**
- Ask yourself, what do I want to do **to care for my brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- What do I want to do to **help the church grow numerically and spiritually?**
- **And then...**
- **Second**, volunteer to **serve in these areas of interest**, seek to use your potential gift.
- **And at the same time, third**, seek training, mentors, and experience, to develop your gift.
- Just because you have **an interest or even a gift**, does not mean you can't grow in learning how to use your gift to its fullest.
- **And finally**, as you use your possible gifts, **look for signs that your work is fruitful.**
- Is what you are **doing helping the body of Christ to grow**, are people coming to Christ,
- Are people being cared for, **are people growing in their faith.**
- **Now** much of this advice for figuring out your **gifts involves engaging in actual ministry.**
- Getting involved, **not being spectator but a participant in God's work in this world.**
- And when **we hear such challenges**,
- When we start thinking about stepping out of our comfort zones,
- **and engaging in the work of the LORD,**
- Often times our pulse quickens and we're struck with FEAR,
- which often keeps people from even finding what their gifts are.
- And how can we overcome this fear?
- Well, luckily for us we're not alone.
- Based on what follows, Timothy, too, was experiencing fear...
- And this fear was quenching his fire for ministry. So, **in verse 7 Paul writes...**

7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7)

- The word **spirit** here **probably refers to the Holy Spirit.**
- And the word **fear** could also be translated as **timidity or cowardice.**
- Therefore, the **NIV** translates this verse...

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7 NIV)

- Timothy was experiencing **fear or timidity**, regarding his ministry.
- And based on what we saw in **our study of 1 Timothy** this is **understandable.**

- Because he was facing some difficult challenges, **including False Teachers in the church.**
- And as we will see, **those difficulties** have not fully resolved themselves.
- So, you can see how he might **let fear divert him from his passion for ministry.**
- And he is certainly not alone.
- As we seek to use our gifts to do the ministry God has called us to,
- **fear can strike Pastors, missionaries, elders, and all believers.**
- Fear of **failure**, fear of **ridicule**, fear of **not following the will of God.**
- Even Paul admits to the church in **Corinth...**

3 ...I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, (1 Corinthians 2:3)

- But he pressed on nonetheless, and Timothy and all believers should do the same.
- And how do we do that?
- **Well Paul says that instead of giving us the spirit of fear,**
- The spirit of God gives **three alternatives.**
- **First**, instead of fear, we have been given...

The spirit of power (or given power by the Spirit)

- Power is the Greek word **dynamis**,
- and it includes the ideas of **might and strength and ability.**
- Along with spiritual gifts, God has given Timothy and each of us the power to accomplish the ministry he has called us to.
- **God will never call you to do anything He will not empower and equip you to do.**
- Therefore, we can face difficult, hard, tasks from the LORD.
- As He calls us to minister to those in need,
- As He calls us to share our faith with the lost.
- As He calls us to confront someone who is enslaved to sin.
- We need not fear, for we have been **given power by the spirit of God.**
- **Unfortunately**, some choose to **live in fear** instead of the power they've been given. **Why?**
- Well, because **living in fear means** never having to get off the couch.
- Living in **fear means not taking risks**, not **facing challenges**, not experiencing discomfort.
- If you're living in fear, **then you just don't have to do much at all.**
- But Paul says this fear is not of the LORD.
- Disciples of Christ have God-given power.
- Therefore, we must reject fear and embrace that power.
- **But power alone will not get the job done.**
- Paul says that the Spirit has also given Timothy and us.

love and self-control.

- These are **the first and last** in Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit...

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control... (Galatians 5:22-23)

- The Spirit of God is at work in our lives to produce this fruit, **which is essential for ministry.**
- No matter how gifted you are, or how much power you have,
- You will not be able to minister to others other unless you are filled with the **Spirit's love for them.**
- And the more we love the less we fear, **for as the Apostle John wrote...**

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4:18)

- And along with power and love the Spirit also provides us with...

Self-control

- This word includes the ideas of **discipline and having a sound mind.**
- And it's this God Given self-control more than any other quality that enables us to overcome sin and live in obedience to God.
- God empowers us with self-control,
- Not only that, we might overcome our sins and live in obedience to him.
- But also, that we **might minister to others.**
- If we have no self-control, if we continue to fall into sin, **how can we be effective in ministry.**
- So, Paul has exhorted Timothy to **fan into flames the gift he has received,**
- And how should he do this...
- By not giving into the spirit of fear.
- But instead of embracing the power, love and self-control he has received from the LORD.
- And we must do the same.
- If you find yourself giving into fear,
- if you find yourself not using or even knowing what your gifts are.
- Then I would exhort you as Paul exhorts Timothy.

fan into flame the gift God has given YOU! ⁷ for God gave YOU a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

- As a Christian, God has given you a gift for ministry. **A gift that you must develop and use.**
- And you need **not fear** using your gift because God has given you **power, love and self-control.**
- What you and I need to do is reject fear as not from the LORD!
- And **embrace what God has given us,** step out in faith and do the work of ministry!!!

Would you join me in Prayer as Sean comes to lead us in Communion...