

THE SHIP IS SINKING AND THE OCEAN'S ON FIRE

Part One: Start Rowing Anyway

2 Timothy 1:5-7 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ May 2, 2021

Timothy's personal issues and feelings of inferiority were a great internal struggle as he served the Lord.

In 2 Timothy, the apostle Paul's last and very personal letter, we are given encouragement to step forward and serve faithfully in the peril we face from the world and from within.

Know your faith is genuine

2 Timothy 1:5 *I am 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.*

Genuineness and authenticity are determined by their source.

The source of your salvation is not the mechanism or people that God used to proclaim the Gospel to you; the source is the truth of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection.

Sincere faith means we have been endowed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit gives gifts to each person who has sincerely given control of their lives to Jesus.

1 Peter 4:10 *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Fan the flame of your gifts

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.*

It's OK if you are a "normal follower of Jesus;" it means you are useful to the Kingdom.

Your gift is needed in the church.

Romans 12:4-6 *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body,*

and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

It is the gift God designed you to have.

Fan into flame (use) what you have, we don't need anything new, we have it already.

Let the Holy Spirit overcome you fears

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

The Spirit who saved you and endowed you with this gift(s) is also giving you courage.

Romans 8:15 *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

The Bible is asking us to manage our fear by moving forward even though we are scared.

We cannot wait until we are unafraid because fear is a constant, but we can choose if it will guide us or we will overcome it.

The Spirit will guide you when and how to use it and will help you avoid over-using it and burning out.

Take this with you...

Be sure of your place in the Kingdom of God.

Spiritual gifts are a special ability given by God just for you.

Your gift will be used uniquely by you.

Fear can be overcome because the power of God resides in you through Jesus Christ.