



2 TIMOTHY

REMAIN FAITHFUL

Instructions for a Faithful Life

pt. 2

2 Timothy 1:8-11

2 Timothy 1:6–11

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

Outline of 2 Timothy

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 - A. Instructions for a faithful ministry (1:6-18)
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- III. **Remain Faithful** to Hold Fast God's Word Against False Teaching (2:14-3:9)
- IV. **Remain Faithful** to Proclaim the Word Even When Others Turn Away (3:10-4:8)
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1. Rekindle your zeal

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

Paul encouraged Timothy to remain zealous in ministry! Like stoking a fire, Timothy needed to rekindle his passion in service to the Lord.

⇒ Just like Timothy, we also need to continually revitalize our zeal in using our spiritual gifts to serve others.

2. Realize what you have received

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

The ability to use our spiritual gifts is provided from the Giver Himself!

- The spirit that God has given to us does not cower in fear but is full of power. It does not shrink back in shame but moves forward in love. It does not act haphazardly or recklessly, but with a disciplined mind and a disciplined life.
- ⇒ These gifts are ours in Christ! We must recognize that the Spirit of Christ within us has provided these gifts and empowers us to use them. The command to rekindle our zeal is based on these realities!

3. Ready yourself for suffering

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

do not be ashamed – this is not referring to moral shame that one rightly feels as a result of doing something that displeases God, but to social shame, that feeling of embarrassment or fear of what others think or may do to you

testimony of our Lord – in context this means “the testimony about our Lord,” and is therefore referring to the gospel message

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

Why would Timothy be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord?

1) From the world's perspective, the message of Jesus is foolish!

1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Consider the contrasts between the world's thinking and God's Word:

The world proclaims	Scripture teaches
• You are a law to yourself	• You are under the law of God
• You deserve a happy life	• You deserve God's judgment
• Fulfill any type of sexual pleasure you want	• One woman, one man for life
• Pursue the praise of men	• Pursue humility
• Earn your way to salvation	• Trust in Christ's work alone for salvation
• Seek prosperity in the life	• Seek treasure in the next life

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

Why would Timothy be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord?

2) Preaching Christ could get you killed!

Timothy knew the cost of being a faithful minister; it would almost certainly mean suffering.

Timothy was also commanded to be unashamed of Paul.

Paul asked Timothy to come visit (2 Tim. 4:9), but doing so would show Timothy's association with Paul and may result in Timothy's imprisonment as well.

His prisoner – with this one pronoun, Paul communicates that His incarceration is under the power and control of the Lord. Paul does not play the victim card, he reveals that his trust and confidence are in the Lord.

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

join with me in suffering – literally, “suffer together with;” Context makes it clear that Paul is asking Timothy to suffer together with Paul.

⇒ Suffering for the gospel is not unexpected or shameful; it is a privilege.

1 Peter 4:12–13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

Matthew 5:11–12a - “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.”

according to the power of God – God has given us a spirit of power (v.6); it is God’s power that will sustain us in our suffering.

4. Recall God's grace in your life

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

We must never “get past” our amazement at God's grace in our lives!

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling – God is the one who saved; He initiated the act of salvation!

holy calling – God loved us so much that He saved us while we were sinners, and He loves us so much that He does not leave us there.

not according to our works – Jonathan Edwards: “You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.”

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

but according to His own purpose and grace – God’s purpose and grace is emphatically contrasted with our works. It was God’s independent decision made without respect to what we have done.

which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity – God’s saving grace was placed upon us from eternity past (Eph. 1:4)!

We must repeatedly recall in our minds that . . .

- It was His purpose, not our own.
- It was His grace, not our works.
- It was granted to us in eternity past, not by our will.

5. Recapture amazement at the work of Christ

2 Timothy 1:10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

The amazing grace explained in verse 10 was realized through the work of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-21)!

who abolished death – “abolished” does not mean annihilated, but rather means to be rendered powerless; death has no sting (1 Corinthians 15:55; Philippians 1:21).

brought life and immortality to light through the gospel – the life that Christ brought is both abundant life now (John 10:10; John 14:6) and eternal life (2 Corinthians 5:1)

⇒ **Endurance in ministry is achieved by remaining continually amazed by what He has done to redeem us and give us life.**

6. Reflect on the examples of others

2 Timothy 1:11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

preacher – a herald or ambassador; one who relates a message of behalf of the King

apostle – emphasizes his authority and the mission that needs to be accomplished

teacher – points to his task of communicating a message

The point here is that Paul was “appointed” to these roles. God had given him these responsibilities. He lived a life that faithfully fulfilled what God set out for him to do.

- As Timothy labored to fulfill the responsibilities God gave to him, he could look to Paul as an example of faithfulness.

⇒ We also have many faithful examples to follow, both historic and personal (Hebrews 12:1).

Application

- 1) **Don't be ashamed of gospel (Rom. 8:31; 1 Jn 4:4; Ps. 46:1).**
- 2) **View yourself as God's prisoner, not the world's victim.**
- 3) **Dwell on the wonder of God's grace and the work of Christ.**
- 4) **Be a bold witness for Christ.**