

## II Timothy, Sermon #2

Turn in your Bible to the book of II Timothy

Paul was facing imminent death. This book was his last to write.

Yet, even during his last hours, he thanked God and held up before God in prayer a young pastor by the name of Timothy.

Look at the relationship between these two men.

He says – in II Timothy 1:3

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 1:3-6

I've entitled today's message "Fan the Flame"

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

## Fan the Flame

In this relationship between two believers

At the end of vs. 3, Paul was consistently praying for Timothy.

One of the greatest things we can do for someone is to pray for them.

Timothy was on the Apostle's Prayer List

- What an encouragement to know that the great apostle was praying for him!

Paul greatly missed Timothy's companionship. He wanted to see Timothy – **vs. 4a**

– **longing** – intense desire or yearning for.

Later in the letter, he reflects the same aching desire, imploring Timothy, (4:9, 21).

What was it that Paul appreciated in Timothy and thanked God for? (Vs. 5)

- Unfeigned faith
- Sincere faith

### Vs. 5

*Anoohupokrites*, from which we get the obviously related English word *hypocrite*

- Anoo – means without.

Timothy's **faith** was genuine, unhypocritical – it was sincere.

There are so many hucksters in the ministry. Timothy was not one of them.

Timothy's heritage was a great one: vs. 5b

- Both his grandmother and his mother were Christians.
- Timothy's mother and grandmother had seen to it that he was taught the Scriptures (II Timothy 3:15).
- I'm sure that had a lot to do with this young man turning to Christ – the influence of Godly parents and grandparents – delivering the sacred scriptures to the children.

First thing that Paul comes to, that Paul admonishes Timothy, was to “stir up the gift of God, which is in thee” (vs. 6).

The word “stir up” literally means to “fan the flame” – to rekindle the fire – marriage; church; Word of God; service to God.

This man had a spiritual gift that was to be used for God’s sake, and Paul urges him to stir it up.

What would that indicate to us? I wonder what Paul was concerned about in Timothy?

We have some indication of that in vs. 7. Maybe Timothy was afraid or intimidated.

- Backing off
- Shying away
- Keeping his mouth closed
- Lost boldness

We know that Ephesus housed the temple of Diana and was one of the great “sin cities” in the Roman world.

God and Paul call on Timothy to have an uncompromising, unflinching commitment to Jesus Christ, regardless of the danger or difficulty.

The apostle specifically mentions that theme three times in this passage (vs. 8, 12).

Vs. 12 – serving God, living for God causes hardship – Yet, I am not ashamed.

I know Him

I am persuaded

Come on, Timothy

Hold on, Timothy – The faithful Christian life is a wild ride.

Don’t back away, cowboy up

Holy Spirit – help us (vs. 14)

Look at vs. 15 – Suffering

Chapter 2 – Therefore be strong – be a good soldier of the Lord, vs. 3.

Chapter 4 – I charge thee Timothy, preach the Word.

It seems that Timothy's fervor and devotion had cooled to some degree.

Paul's first admonition was for this young pastor to restart the fire.

To fan the embers into a flame and not let them die out.

Timothy needed to be fired up as a believer – everything that is energetic in time – runs down, runs out, burns up its available fuel and it ends up lying still, used up, spent, and exhausted. This is actual and inevitable.

- It is a law of nature and it takes place spiritually and in the soul of a person.

Now the particular thing that needed to be stirred in Timothy was the gift of God.

What does the Bible mean when it speaks of these gifts of God?

- That they need to be fired up, recharged?
- What are they?

It is not the gift of salvation. The word here is "charisma" we get our word charismatic – the Charismatic Movement is the Gifts Movement.

This word here refers to a spiritual gift.

There are capacities that are given to us as believers: "A spiritual gift is given by the Spirit of God that enables the believer to perform ministry that builds up the saints to the glory of God."

The Bible tells us that every believer at the moment of salvation receives one or more of these spiritual gifts.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit determines what spiritual gift each individual receives (I Corinthians 12:11).

There is a variety and diversity of spiritual gifts, (I Corinthians 12:4).

Spiritual gifts are for God's employment in the world through the local church

There are several lists of spiritual gifts in the New Testament. Let's look at the last list:

**I Peter 4:10-11**

Verse 10 – this is the one thing that we have – that makes our lives of eternal consequence.

Whatever our gift is, it is the one thing that we can use for the Body of Christ that will last forever.

- Do we know what our spiritual gifts are? And
- Are we having a ministry to the Body of Christ?

Verse 10 – as good stewards

★Have we been faithful in our stewardship or do these gifts lie unused, undeveloped, and neglected?

Verse 11 – What are these gifts?

If verbal – speech gifts

- exhortation
- teaching
- pastor
- evangelist

But if any serve – helps

- mercy
- giving
- use of body (vs. 11)

Do it to the ability that God supplies us with.

That = look at verse 11

Two categories of gifts – now in reference to Timothy – which of these two categories is God telling Timothy to stir up?

- speaking gift – preaching

I Timothy 4:13-14: So we can be neglectful in the area of our gift.

★The gift needs to be flaming in order to be effective in the ministry.★

So many factors can dampen that flame:

1. **Physical Health** – 1 Timothy 5:23 – stomach trouble/often infirmities. Health can affect a believer.
2. **Temperamental Factors** – we are all different, it is part of our genetic make up (shy, extroverted, etc.).
3. **Financial**
4. **Family Problems**
5. **Those things that are connected to the work itself** – lack of results, temptation, demonic work/opposition, tearing down what we have tried to build, wearing down the believer and his gift.

There is the possibility and responsibility of reviving our spiritual gifts.

Fervent in the spirit – Romans 12:11

Run on empty

Scrape the side of the barrel

Cold/dead/hard – car battery that has lost its cranking amps

How do we stir up our gift?

Jeremiah beat his head against the door, he was put in stocks, and he comes to the point that he says to God:

Jeremiah 20:7-9:

*“O LORD, thou hast deceived me . . . every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not refrain.*

Psalm 39:3 – begins to sing – begins to praise

*“My heart was hot within me, while I was musing [meditating] the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue”*

God told Timothy to go back to the Word

I Timothy 4:15

God stirs us from within by the Word and by the Holy Spirit and it comes out –

- Feed on the Word
- Meditate on the Word
- Read the Word
- Pray over the Word
- Kindle the fire until the fire is roaring

Take in the Word

#### 1. Personal/Devotional/Private

- We need the Word more than our necessary food; without it we will dry up. Must touch our heart/spirit – our heart is engaged with God
- We have nothing to give out unless we take in – kindle the fire within
- Maintaining a regular/consistent/meaningful/devotional **life**. Oftentimes we are starved/undernourished/no nutrients – we need to be built up!

The first order of business for us everyday is to be in tune with God

2. Increasing in the knowledge of God

- Challenge ourselves – expand ourselves - Stay fresh
- Overflow of the soul – **advancement**
- Iron sharpeneth iron

3. Application of the Word – the Word of God effectually working in my soul.

God has placed spiritual gifts within us.

They will not become apparent or even functional until we choose to use them.

When we begin to function in the area in which God has gifted us, we are doing what  
God has appointed and equipped us to do!

Operating our spiritual gift in the power of the Holy Spirit

No matter how gifted a person may be or how well trained, the spiritual gift can wax  
cold.

He or she will not be effective for the Lord.

Apart from ministering our spiritual gift, our spiritual life will be ineffective at best.

Our sole purpose as believers is to obey and serve the Lord through our spiritual gifts,  
so that the body of believers may be built up.

### **Fan the Flame**

Let us stand for closing invitation

Believer:

Not ashamed, bold . . .

Attitude that refuses to equivocate, vacillate or compromise and does not hesitate to be confrontational when necessary

Feed on the Word of God:

Spiritual growth – with spiritual growth comes spiritual development

This brings about the . . .

Unbeliever, there is nothing spiritual to fan in a person unless he or she is saved.