



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC I Remind You to Fan into Flame
the Gift of God

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THEME 2 Timothy - Paul's Charges to Timothy

DATE 30 Apr & 01 May 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy was probably the last letter written by Apostle Paul to Timothy and is filled with reminders of the spiritual legacy he is leaving behind.

Today's sermon is the first of four reminders which Paul leaves for his spiritual son. DSP Edric unpacks Paul's first reminder on what secures the promise of life for us.

3 KEYS TO LIVING A LIFE OF PROMISE

1. The Gift of God (2 Tim 1: 3-6) – Passed down through the generations

Paul starts by reminding Timothy of the sincere faith that Paul has witnessed in Timothy's grandmother and mother, and which Paul is convinced now lives in Timothy as well. It is because of this rich spiritual heritage that Paul reminds Timothy of the need for him to make this faith personal by personally receiving and fanning into flame the gift of God, which is the Holy Spirit.

DSP Edric reminds us that this gift of God is passed down through the generations in three ways:

- a) Through Prayer – Just as Paul constantly remembers Timothy in his prayers (1:3), we are reminded to constantly pray for others and to ask for prayer for ourselves as we seek to fan into flame the gift we have been given.
- b) Through Relationships – As described in Paul's letter, through biological parents, spiritual parents or mentoring relationships such as that between Paul and Timothy. We are reminded to seek out these relationships with others as a means to grow our gift while encouraging others to grow theirs.
- c) Through the Laying of Hands – Just as the bible shows us how priests and leaders were commissioned through the laying of hands, and blessings and healings were passed down through the laying of hands, the laying of hands upon one another is another way in which we fan into flame the gift of God for us.

2. The Grace of God (2 Tim 1: 7-11) – Power for the purpose of sharing the Gospel

After expounding on the Gift of God passed down through generations, Paul reminds Timothy of the Grace of God that accompanies this gift that gives us power for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

DSP Edric reminds us that in BBTC, sharing the Gospel can take the following forms:

- a) Prayer Strategic Prayers against Spiritual Strongholds – DSP reminds us that prayer is powerful and necessary as our struggle is against the spiritual realm. As such, our prayers should be thorough and targeted to address and resolve the strongholds in our lives and the lives of those we are called to reach.
- b) Building Intentional Relationships – DSP reminds us that much of BBTC events are designed to support the building of relationships and the inviting of close friends and family to take part in celebrations and events that invite them to fellowship together.
- c) Sharing the Gospel – Finally, DSP reminds us that this fellowship should be purposeful and lead us to share the Gospel, under the prompting of the Spirit. Fellowship alone will not save our friends and family, only the Good News of God’s love and His Son’s sacrifice can do that.

Paul reminds Timothy that as we share the Gospel, we will face challenges, trials and even suffering. But we are reminded that the suffering that we endure for the Gospel, we endure with the help of the Holy Spirit, with the sure promise of eternal rewards, and with a clear purpose given to us by our Lord and saviour. When we struggle as we serve God, we are reminded to return to the “Fuel Tank”, to the Grace of God that has been promised to us, that we may abound in every good work (2 Cor 9:8), and that we may receive help in times of need (Heb 4:16).

3. Guarded by God (2 Tim 1: 12-18) – Protected by His Goodness

As Paul talks about his purpose of sharing the Gospel, and how he suffers for it, he also goes on to share with Timothy that he is not ashamed of his suffering, as it is God’s Goodness that protects Paul.

DSP Edric reminds us of how God’s goodness protects us:

- a) God guards our soul – As Paul himself confesses, we should have full confidence that God is able to guard our souls as we entrust it to Him until the day Christ returns. (1:12b)
- b) God guards our walk – Whatever little that we have in our walk of faith, trust that it will grow as we walk with Him, and that the Holy Spirit who lives in us will guard this walk of ours. (1:14)
- c) Though people may fail us, God never will! – Paul’s personal experience of being betrayed and deserted shows that no matter who we are, people may still fail us. In stark contrast is Paul’s continued trust in God and calling on God in prayer. His experience shows us that God never slumbers; He watches over us and cares for us (Ps 121).

CONCLUSION

At the end of his life, Paul earnestly shares with Timothy on the importance of fanning into flame the Gift of God that has been passed down through the generations.

Paul urges Timothy to always return to and rely on the Grace of God as he contends for the Power for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

And finally, Paul reminds Timothy that everything of eternal value, his soul, his walk, is Guarded by God. That even while people may fail us, this trustworthy and promise-keeping God will never fail us.

These parting words also apply to us, we are all called to a life of promise in Christ Jesus, and we can live this life of promise by the Gift of God, the Grace of God and knowing that we are Guarded by God.

QUESTIONS

1. Paul's parting reminder is that Timothy must personally receive and fan into flame the gift of God which is the Holy Spirit. Have you personally received the Holy Spirit? Share how the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life has made a difference eg. boldness in testifying of Jesus Christ or receiving divine help in an area of struggle in our daily lives.

2. The gift of God which is the Holy Spirit is passed on through relationships. Timothy grew up seeing the example of sincere faith in his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. He also had the example of his mentor and spiritual father Paul to spur him on. (a) Identify a Timothy in your life. How can you fan into flame the gift of God in this person? Or (b) Share briefly how a Paul in your life helped to fan into flame the gift of God in you.

3. The grace of God is the power of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to complete our God-given assignments far above anything that our natural abilities can accomplish. Is there a specific area of your life where you need the power of the Holy Spirit? Share and pray for one another through the laying on of hands.