

Equipped
FOR THE FIGHT

Trusting God

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Lesson 16

In this lesson, we begin our study of the book of 2 Timothy. Paul's life is drawing to a close and he is giving his dear Timothy final words of instruction along with his loving farewell. We learn in this book that not only is Paul just days away from his death, but he is also stuck in prison. Needless to say, it is a bleak hour for Paul personally. Yet, his focus is not on himself! He is thinking about how he can encourage his young disciple, Timothy and how he can make sure the gospel message continues to spread long after he is gone.

Paul is trusting God to lead him through this trial and out to the other side where he is assured the hope of heaven! Instead of complaining or getting angry about his circumstances, Paul turns to prayer. He begins to pray for Timothy. Paul knew that Timothy had a godly heritage and it was time for him to step up and use his gifts for the body of Christ. Paul was confident that Timothy was well equipped to serve God and preserve the ministry he had begun. God had not given Timothy a spirit of fear. So, Paul responds by exhorting Timothy to stir up the gift of God within him and to step out in faith to do what God had prepared him to do!

What a message for Christians today – stir up your gifts for the Lord and move into action! Just like a fire needs to be stirred to get the flames burning bright again, so too do we need the Holy Spirit to stir us into action. We can then be used as a powerful witness for the Lord. There is no need to hold back in trepidation because, like Timothy, God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of power. You can stand on His promise to never leave or forsake any of His children. In the week ahead, think of ways you can trust God and practice them. May God help you to lean on Him, listen to Him and let Him work wonders in your life!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7

1. Here in his last letter, Paul speaks about the promise of life. We know from church history that Paul was executed shortly after he wrote this letter. Therefore, he could not have been speaking about life here on earth but life in heaven. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 and note how Paul looks at his approaching death. _____

a. Read 1 John 3:1-2 and note what awaited Paul in heaven. _____

b. Both Paul and John were persecuted for their faith and yet they looked forward to what awaited them in heaven. How about you? Are you able to look past the fear of dying and embrace the fact that Jesus is awaiting your arrival in heaven at your appointed time?

“Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal – a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.”

– D.L. Moody (1837-1899)

2. Paul was in prison while writing this letter and yet he never ceased to pray for his spiritual son, Timothy. What do the following verses say about prayer?

a. Philippians 4:6: _____

b. 1 Thessalonians 5:17: _____

c. Colossians 4:2: _____

d. James 4:3: _____

e. 1 John 5:14: _____

Group Discussion

Jesus said in John 15:7, *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”* With all of the above scriptures in mind, have you found this truth to be evident in your own life? _____

"In all states of dilemma or of difficulty, prayer is an available source. The ship of prayer may sail through all temptations, doubts and fears, straight up to the throne of God; and though she may be outward bound with only griefs, and groans, and sighs, she shall return freighted with a wealth of blessings."

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

3. What does Paul remind Timothy of in verse 6 of this week's passage? _____

- a. Why do you think Paul felt it was important to give this reminder? _____

4. In light of his imminent departure, Paul wanted to encourage Timothy further. In verse 7a, he shares an important truth about our identity in Christ. Read this verse and note what we have not received from God. _____
- a. How does 1 John 4:18 clarify this statement? _____

5. In contrast, what has been given to us by the Holy Spirit (v. 7b)? _____

- a. What does Matthew 19:26 tell us about God's power? _____

- b. What does Colossians 3:14 tell us about love? _____

- c. What does Romans 12:2 tell us about keeping a sound mind? _____

- d. Of these three verses, which do you need to be reminded of the most and why? _____

