

THE CHARGE

A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

Week 1 - 2 Timothy 1:1-7

TEXT –

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 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, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

INTRODUCTION –

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to one of his beloved disciples, Timothy. This is Paul's final letter. Paul was a prisoner in Rome, and he knew this was the end. Paul is giving "a charge"—meaning he is giving final thoughts, encouraging, and exhorting Timothy in attitude, thinking, and behavior, emphasizing the source of their calling and the power of God's grace in a gospel-centered life.

At the beginning of the letter Paul is thanking God for Timothy and the faith that was passed onto him at a very young age. His grandmother passed on the truth and knowledge of Jesus to his mother and now, that faith is within Timothy. It is why Paul charges Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God."

Paul wanted Timothy to use the spiritual gift he was given when he became leader of the Ephesian church (1 Timothy 4:14). Timothy was facing unfriendliness, resistance, and hostility from both believers and non-believers because he was young and because of the gospel message. Paul told him to "fan into flame the gift of God"—meaning, to remember that the gift of God is the Spirit and how the Spirit is power, love and self-control! Timothy didn't need to add anything new, all he had to do was "stir up" what was already there.

Like Timothy, we will also face unfriendliness, resistance, and hostility when we share the gospel message with others. Paul said, "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). Remember, the Holy Spirit lives in us when we become Christ followers. We can draw on the Holy Spirit's power to be bold. He comforts us when we get discouraged and helps us to not give up being a disciple who makes disciples.

QUESTIONS:

Q1 - Describe an enthusiastic Christ-follower—either one you have seen or how you imagine one would act.

Q2 - What are some situations or experiences that cause you to be fearful as you strive to follow God?

Q3 - Look up Acts 1:8, what does the Holy Spirit give us? To do what?

Q4- How often do we fan into flame the gift of God when suffering arises?

Q5 - What keeps us from believing that the gift of God is not one of fear, but of power, love, and self-control?

APPLICATION/ACTION -

Take a notecard and write down at least one area in your life that you don't fan into flame the gifts of God! Remember that power, love & self-control are in the Spirit that God gave us. Once written, take some time processing the 'Why' behind this area. What currently in life is making this the case?

PRAYER -

The book of 2 Timothy is a final charge towards Timothy to guard the gift deposited to him. That same gift has been deposited to us. Let's take some time to pray and ask God for strength and guidance. Also, confess where we have fallen short of trusting Him. Knowing that God isn't mad at us or looks at us any less but loves us and remains faithful even when we don't.

Worship

THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LISTENING TO:

Lord, I Need You by Matt Maher