

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 2 – Remember the Gifts that are in You

Last week we were introduced to our brother Timothy. As we discussed, this is the last letter Paul wrote in his life and it was to his beloved son Timothy.

- We took a journey of Timothy's life and travels so we can understand the circumstances surrounding this letter
 - As we learned last week, there was severe persecution against Christians during this time.
 - It was John Foxe that records in his book of Martyrs saying:

It is said that Nero was the first which Rome did raise up persecution against the Christians, and not only in Rome, but also throughout all the providences thereof; thinking to abolish and destroy the whole name of Christians in all places.

-John Foxe, Foxe Book of Martyrs, 1576-

- And not only is Timothy faced with persecution from Rome, but also the hostility from the Jews and the infiltration of the Gnostics into the church, 1 Tim 6:3-5, 20-21; 2 Tim 1:15, 4:9, 14
- Paul is writing this letter to Timothy, his son in the faith, to encourage him to stay strong, endure, and not fear these persecutions, but rather to stand fast in Christ for the Gospel.
 - Today we will be covering the first seven verses of chapter 1

Let's read these verses together and then we will start drawing out the meaning:

2 Timothy 1:1-7

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I 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, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵ when 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.

⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, he had just become the Bishop of Ephesus two years prior

- It is Timothy's responsibility as the shepherd of Ephesus to tend to his flock, protect them and guide them in Godly ways
 - And as you can see in these opening verses, Timothy is struggling to do this because of the persecutions surrounding him.

Let's dig into these verses and see what Paul is telling Timothy:

2 Timothy 1:1- †Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ †by the will of God, †according to the promise of life which is †in Christ Jesus,

† Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ ...

- Some people have questioned why Paul would start his letter with such a formal salutation
 - They say, if this was truly Paul, then he would have had more compassion in his writing.
 - Clearly, they haven't read the book or understood what Paul is telling Timothy

- He states his apostleship as a reminder to pursue the calling of God. Paul was called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles
 - He is suffering for the gospel because he was sent by Jesus Christ Himself to proclaim salvation in Christ Jesus.
- He is reminding Timothy that we are called into the ministry according to His purpose to proclaim the life and immortality wrought thru and by Christ Jesus

2 Timothy 1:8, 11-⁸ *...share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ... " to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

- In this first verse, I want you to pay attention to these prepositions listed
 - Sometimes we can just read over these, but I have found that these prepositions have a critical meaning. For instance, Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith...*
 - It is **by** God's grace and mercy that He has made salvation available and we access and apprehend salvation **through** faith

2 Timothy 1:1- †Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ †by the will of God, †according to the promise of life which is †in Christ Jesus,

† *by ... according to ... in Christ ...*

- It was **by** God's will that Paul become the Apostle, or one who is sent, to the Gentiles,
- This sending the gospel to the Gentiles is in **accordance to** the promise of life that He promised Abraham when He said, in your Seed all nations will be blessed, Gen 22:18, Gal 3:8
- And this promise of life was placed only **in Christ Jesus**. So the only way to access eternal life is in Christ Jesus
 - Paul uses this statement in Christ, ἐν Χριστῷ, seven times in 2nd Timothy and 75 times in all of his epistles.
 - It is only used 3 other times by Peter in the NT
 - The Father placed all His mercy, grace, salvation, eternal life **in Christ Jesus** for the purpose that is might be by grace, through faith and not by our works

2 Timothy 1:2- To Timothy, a †beloved son: †Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

† *beloved son ...*

- Paul calls Timothy his beloved son in the faith, 1 Tim 1:2
 - Last week we discussed that Timothy was born again through the witness of Paul on his first missionary journey through Lystra around 45AD

† *Grace, mercy and peace ...*

- Paul uses this opening salutation in all three of his pastoral epistles, 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2, Titus 1:4
 - It is only if these pastoral epistles that Paul begins by saying, "Grace, Mercy and Peace"
 - His other epistles only mention Grace and Peace.
 - He is bestowing to pastors a blessing of mercy- *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*, Ps 23:6
- *Grace* is the free gift of salvation not based on our meritorious works, but only by the work of Jesus on the cross, Rom 4:4-6, 16
- *Mercy* is the compassion the Father has on us not to leave us as sinners condemned to eternal hell
 - It was because of mercy that Jesus became a man and because of mercy that He died for us
 - Mercy is the Father's compassion. It is God's willingness to be involved with our life
 - Hebrews tells us that we can come boldly to the throne of Grace that we may obtain

mercy, Heb 4:16 - We obtain mercy because of His grace

- *Peace* is wholeness and complete reconciliation with the Father through Jesus, 2 Cor 5:18-19
 - Romans 5:1- *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- God gives us the free gift of Grace, by which we can obtain Mercy and by which Mercy we have peace with God- because *He is a merciful and faithful High Priest,* Heb 2:17

2 Timothy 1:3- †I 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,

† *I thank God ...*

- This statement doesn't seem particularly significant but consider where Paul is when he is writing this letter. He is in a dungeon awaiting his death and he can still thank God

† *whom I serve with a pure conscience ...*

- Paul serves or worships, with a pure conscience, *kathara suneidesei, καθαρά συνειδήσει,*
 - The conscience is the inward capacity or faculty of moral judgement (Bagster Greek Lexicon).
 - Inwardly, this is what tells you right from wrong.
 - A pure, clean conscience is a conscience not contaminated by evil thinking.
 - Our conscience governs our thoughts between right and wrong,

Romans 9:1- *I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,*

Acts 23:1- *Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

2 Corinthians 7:2- *Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.*

Paul knew he was cleansed by the blood of Jesus and his conscience was cleansed because of it

Hebrews 9:14- *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God*

† *... without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day ...*

- Paul continually prayed for his fellow-workers and the churches because of his, "*deep concern for the churches*", 2 Cor 11:28, and his love for all the brethren

Philippians 1:3-4-³ *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine...*

Colossians 1:3- *We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3-² *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing...*

2 Thessalonians 1:3- *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren...*

2 Timothy 1:4- †greatly desiring to see you, †being mindful of your tears, †that I may be filled with joy,

† *greatly desiring to see you ...*

- Paul, being chained in prison, awaiting his death, is writing this letter to encourage Timothy and

build him in the faith, but he himself is desiring the company of his friend and his beloved son.

- At the end of this epistle, Paul expresses this yearning desire to see Timothy again, 2 Timothy 4:9–11⁹ *Be diligent to come to me quickly;*¹⁰ *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.* ¹¹ *Only Luke is with me...*
- This is the purpose of our brethren. We help each other and love each other, especially in the hard times.
 - Timothy is suffering persecution from all angles and doesn't know how to handle this.
 - And Paul is suffering in prison awaiting his death and feeling abandoned for only Luke is with him
 - Together they comfort each other

† *being mindful of your tears ...*

- Being reminded of your tears (passive voice)
 - It is because of Paul's great desire and love for Timothy as a son in Christ that Timothy's tears are brought to his mind
 - Why is Timothy crying?
 - Scripture doesn't say, but could it be Paul's arrest and persecution?
 - The tears at their last parting?
 - Or could it be the assault on the Ephesian church from Rome, the hostility of the Jews and the deceptive acts of the Gnostics infiltrating the church, 1 Tim 6:20-21; 2 Tim 1:15
 - My guess is the latter. Paul is writing this letter to encourage Timothy, to strengthen him and remind him to stand firm in the faith as a leader of the church.

† *that I may be filled with joy ...*

- It was the prospect of seeing Timothy one last time that would fill Paul with joy
 - No where is it recorded that Timothy actually made it back to Rome to see Paul before his execution,
 - but the deep love and yearning from Paul surely would have filled Timothy with joy as well

2 Timothy 1:5, †when 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.

† *when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you ...*

- this is Paul's third call to remembrance in as many verses.
 - This remembering shows Paul's love for his son
- The word "genuine"- *anupokritos*, ἀνυπόκριτος is a compound word of the negative prefix, *α* + *hupokrites*, ὑποκριτής meaning- a genuine faith without hypocrisy
- Paul is encouraging Timothy by saying, "you have genuine, sincere faith. Your grandmother had it, your mother had it and I know you have it also"
 - Timothy grew up in a Godly house being taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood which prepared him for Christianity, 2 Tim 3:15

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore †I remind you to †stir up the gift of God which is in you †through the laying on of my hands.

† *I remind you...*

- It is evident that Timothy is struggling. Paul is reminding him to stir up the gift of God that is already

inside him.

- Reminding someone of their previous accomplishments and victories is a great motivator. This is the 4th time he has spoken of remembering
 - 3 times Paul speaks of his own remembrance, and now tells Timothy to remember

2 Timothy 1:3-6- ³ *...as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,* ⁴ *... being mindful of your tears...* ⁵ *when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you...* ⁶ *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God...*

- Paul reminded the Hebrew Christians to motivate them to endure for Jesus

Hebrews 10:32-*But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:*

- Peter stirred their faith by reminding them of the Truth of the gospel...

2 Peter 1:12-13-¹² *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.* ¹³ *Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

- Even Jesus did this in His letters to the churches in Revelation

Revelation 2:4-5-⁴ *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.* ⁵ *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...*

Revelation 3:3- *Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.*

- This is how we can keep each other strong, by reminding each other of the goodness and faithfulness of God in our lives
 - That means to do this, we need to know each other well. We need to love the brethren and know what each of us have gone through and how we overcame.

† *stir up the gift of God which is in you ...*

- Stir up- , anazopureo, ἀναζωπυρέω, - to kindle a dormant fire, relight the fire
 - Paul is reminding Timothy of the fire he had, therefore, ignite the flame, and rekindle the passion of the gift God gave him
- Every believer has a unique gift of God given to them to equip them to serve God
 - The word gift is charisma, χάρισμα, which derives from a grace gift. These are divine spiritual gifts given by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor 12:4-11; Rom 12:4-8; 1 Pet 4:10-11

† *through the laying on of my hands ...*

- When Paul laid his hands on Timothy, he was ordaining him as the Bishop of Ephesus and confirming, by prophecy, the spiritual gifts given to him

1 Timothy 4:14- *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

1 Timothy 1:18- *This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you,...*

Acts 8:17- *Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 19:6- *And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

- These spiritual gifts must be practiced and exercise, “do not neglect the gift that is in you”.
 - Paul is reminding him not to let the fire burn out, but rather rekindle the flame

2 Timothy 1:7 †For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of †power and of †love and of a †sound mind.

† *For God has not given us a spirit of fear ...*

- Paul is reminding Timothy to stir up the gifts that were given him.
 - Along with specific spiritual gifts as Timothy received by the laying of of hands, we as believers all receive the gifts of power, love and a sound mind
 - Notice Paul says, “given **US**”, this is you and me as well as Paul and Timothy
 - These are fundamental gifts that all Christians receive through the Holy Spirit
- Not been given the spirit of Fear- deilias, δειλίας, a better translation would be timidity or cowardice
 - This is not, phobos , φόβος, as in fear in terror
 - Paul is encouraging Timothy saying, “to stand up with courage, ignite the flame and remember the gifts that are in you”
 - This statement leads into verse 8, “Be courageous and ... *do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord*”
 - Don’t shrink back in cowardice or timidity, but stand strong and be bold

† The gift of ... *power ...*

- Power- dunamis, δύναμις, efficacious ability, productive energy
 - This is the supernatural ability of God rendered in us to make us righteous

2 Timothy 1:8- *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power dunamis, δύναμις, of God,*

Romans 1:16- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power dunamis, δύναμις, of God to salvation for everyone who believes...*

Romans 15:13- *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power dunamis, δύναμις, of the Holy Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 1:18- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power dunamis, δύναμις, of God.*

1 Corinthians 6:14- *And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power dunamis, δύναμις,*

Ephesians 1:19- *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power dunamis, δύναμις, toward us who believe,...*

† The gift of ... *love ...*

- Love- agape, ἀγάπη, God’s divine love- a giving, un-selfish love, non-emotional, and un-conditional love that is love is constant and unfailing, 1 Cor 13:8
 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”, Jn 3:16
 - In turn, we love God and give our life to Him because He first loved us, 1 Jn 4:19

1 John 3:23- *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

Romans 5:5- ... *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

1 Timothy 4:12- *...be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

- It is through agape, ἀγάπη, love that we build each other up, strengthen and encourage each other.
 - If our love is for self, then our decisions will always be of self-preservation.
 - In a fallen world enduring major persecution, Paul is telling Timothy he must have a selfless love and a love for God and a love for the brethren.
 - The Apostle John was in Ephesus with Timothy for 15 years, so these words of love would have been a prominent part of his church.

† The gift of ... *a sound mind* ...

- Sound mind- sophronismos, σωφρονισμός, a controlled and disciplined mind making wise decisions
 - This word is used only here, but we see the verb form used in Rom 12:3 as Paul speaks concerning the gifts of the Spirit

Romans 12:3- *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly*, sophroneo, σωφρονέω

- Timothy has been given the gift of a disciplined, controlled mind, able to make decisions for his congregation and to lead the body of Christ in this time of persecution.
 - And I believe all Christians have this gift available if we do not neglect it, 1 Tim 4:14

In these first 7 verses, you can see the love and fellowship that Paul and Timothy have with one another and the encouragement Paul is giving Timothy to stand strong and endure for the sake of the Gospel.

- I want to wrap up the lesson by reading these 7 verses again with some of the things we have learned

2 Timothy 1:1-7

¹ Paul, an apostle [sent to proclaim the gospel] of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life [that was first promised to Abraham] which is in Christ Jesus [because all righteousness, grace, mercy, peace, and eternal life has been placed in Christ before the foundation of the world],

² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace [the free gift of salvation led by His compassion to willingly be involved with our life that we may obtain Mercy through His Grace; which then leads us to have peace with God being reconciled to the Father through our merciful and faithful High Priest Jesus Christ]

³ I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience [because I am washed and made clean by the blood of Jesus, for I worship God], as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you [for all have left me in this dungeon, only Luke is with me], being mindful [and having been reminded] of your tears [from the earnest desire to see you], that I may be filled with joy, ⁵ when I call to remembrance the genuine faith [that is faith without hypocrisy] that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also [for you were raised in the Holy Scriptures since childhood and you became my son in the faith].

⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up [relight the fire and rekindle the passion of] the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands [that we as elders did prophecy over you when we laid our hands on you and ordained you to the Bishopric of Ephesus].

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear [of cowardice or timidity], but of [God's Divine] power [to be raised up with Him unto everlasting life] and of [His divinely given, unselfish, unconditional] love and of a sound mind [controlled and disciplined, able to make wise decisions].

Therefore, do not be ashamed to proclaim the Truth of the Gospel and stand strong in His Word and faith in Jesus Christ