

**Study Notes: 2 Timothy 1:6-14**  
**May 19, 2024: Pentecost Sunday: “Rekindle the Flame”**  
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***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,***

- The statement, “[f]or this reason,” refers to the previous verses which spoke of Timothy being a man of faith, who had been given gifts to use for the Kingdom of God. His gifts were recognized at a service of commissioning, which included the laying on of hands. This service did not produce these gifts, but recognized the gifts that God had given to Timothy through the Holy Spirit.
- Timothy must now “fan into flame” or develop and use these gifts. Some scholars suggest that Timothy’s zeal had cooled, but this may not be the case. Just as a fire must be stoked, so, too, must Timothy’s heart be stirred to use the gifts that had been given to him. The New American Commentary explains how this process would have taken place, “Rekindling his gifts would involve fervent prayer, obedience to God’s Word, and demonstration of an active faith by Timothy.”
- Paul’s instructions were a call for Timothy to not simply remember the gifts he was given, but to put them into practice. Timothy did not need to lack confidence anymore, but must now do the work of the Kingdom.
  - There could be several reasons why Timothy would have lacked confidence, including his relatively young age, detractors to his ministry, and false teachers.

***for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.***

- Paul reiterated his point to Timothy by speaking of the power of what the Holy Spirit produces in us. The Holy Spirit does not give us a spirit of fear. The word translated as *fear* means “cowardice that results from a lack of moral strength.”
  - The Faithlife Study Bible explains, “The Greek word used here, *deilia*, refers to cowardice that results from a lack of moral strength. Timothy may have been fearful to fulfill his duties because of a timid personality and the intense opposition he faced from false teachers. Paul reminds Timothy that such fear does not come from God’s Spirit (compare Rom 8:15–16).”
- Far from being weak, the Spirit gives us a spirit which is powerful, loving, and self-controlled or disciplined. The three descriptions that are given also describe the Spirit who empowers us to do the work of the Kingdom of God.
  - Power (Greek: *dynamis*): This is the same word that Jesus used in Acts 1:8 to describe the power that would come to the disciples at the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is the power that allows followers of Jesus to be His witnesses and do the work of the Kingdom.
  - Love (Greek: *agape*): This is the love which is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, and embodied perfectly in Jesus Christ. The Spirit empowers us to love not just in word, but by serving one another.
  - Self-Control (Greek: *sōphronismos*): The Spirit allows us to be self-controlled and disciplined in our minds, providing us with the ability to follow God and make wise choices.

***Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God...***

- Because of the Holy Spirit, Timothy should not be ashamed, but willing to suffer for his faith; his relationship with Paul (who was currently imprisoned in Rome because of the Gospel); or his calling to ministry.
  - The New American Commentary explains, “Fee points out that ‘the two imperatives of this verse entreat Timothy to the three basic loyalties: to Christ (and his gospel), to Paul, and to his own ministry.’ These loyalties involve our God, our friends (especially believers), and our God-given opportunities for service.”
- “Gospel” is the Greek word *euangelion*, which means “good news.” This good news is that we can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Paul would expand on the Gospel in later verses.

***...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do.***

- After the exhortation was given to Timothy to not be ashamed of the Gospel, Paul described the process, purpose, and basis of salvation. Paul first reminded Timothy that we are saved and called not because of our works, but because of God’s grace. Grace has been given to us in Christ Jesus, and He is the source of all life. He has given us this life through the Gospel message, so we may share that message with others.
- It is this Gospel message that Paul had been appointed or ordained to share with the world. Paul described how he shared that message in three specific callings: preacher, apostle, and teacher. While these callings are similar, they are slightly different:
  - A preacher is similar to a herald, who would proclaim the good news of the Gospel for all to hear. This speaks of Paul’s boldness and openness in sharing the Gospel.
  - An apostle is literally a “sent one.” This is a special designation given by God to speak and act with God’s own authority.
  - A teacher is someone who instructs and helps others better understand the Gospel.
- Paul’s work for the Kingdom had not been easy, and it caused him to suffer. This suffering was directly connected to his work for the Kingdom of God.

***But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.***

- Though Paul suffered, he was not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17), for Paul held fast to his trust in Jesus Christ. He was convinced that Jesus was able to protect and guard that which would bring him eternal life.

***Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.***

- Paul instructed Timothy to follow his example, by holding fast to his faith and love that comes from Christ Jesus. He was to be on guard and keep the good deposit, which was the Gospel that had been given to him. The idea of guarding, means protecting the Gospel from loss or harm and was a reference to the false teachers Timothy needed to stand against. By describing the Gospel as the good deposit, Paul spoke of its beautiful and awesome nature.
- Timothy could not do this alone, but needed to rely on the Holy Spirit to empower him for this work. The New American Commentary reminds us, “The task of preserving the truth of the gospel is so demanding and difficult that human strength alone cannot assure it. Maintaining the purity of the gospel demands the might and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells within all believers and provides strength for them.”