

## Daily Bible Study

### *“Fear & Faith”*

#### *2 Timothy 1:3-7*

*May 4 – May 10, 2014*

**MONDAY** – We continue our study of **2 Timothy** and take for our text **2 Timothy 1:3-7**. I have entitled this lesson *Fear & Faith*. After looking at the text some may wonder why I chose this title instead of something concerning family upbringing and heritage or so forth but as we will see this portion is about genuine faith and power over fear given to us by God. As this Lord’s Day is also Mother’s Day you will see that there is a great call to Mother’s in this text and it is a very timely portion. In review, after his salutation of “*grace, mercy, and peace*” Paul now expresses thanks to the God history who is Paul’s God and Timothy’s God and the God of their *forefathers*. He speaks to Timothy concerning his *desire* to see him and the *joy* that their company brings him and he tells him that he *remembers* Timothy has *genuine* God given *faith*. Concerning Timothy’s faith, Paul says that it is the same faith he has seen in Timothy’s Grandmother and mother. He wants his son in the faith to stay steadfast and also to *stir up* the divine gift which he had received and Paul reminds him that he was called to the ministry by God and confirmed to it by the Apostle himself. Finally, he says just as his hands had been laid on him as a symbol of his call he had been given the gift of the Spirit and God has given us a spirit of *power and love* and a *sound mind* (moderation and self-control/discipline). Read our text: **2 Timothy 1:3-7**: <sup>3</sup>“*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,* <sup>4</sup>*greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,* <sup>5</sup>*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.* <sup>6</sup>*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.* <sup>7</sup>*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*”

*Suggestion for Prayer:* God, teach me this week from Sacred Scripture all that you have given me to live a life serving & pleasing You. Thank You for genuine faith and for power over fear.

**TUESDAY** – **2 Timothy 1:3-4**: <sup>3</sup>“*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,* <sup>4</sup>*greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy...*” This paragraph is now a very personal one which sets the tone of the personal nature of this entire letter. It is interesting to note that Paul begins this letter with *thankfulness*. This is a man sitting in a dungeon awaiting death but instead of complaining and whining about his current

circumstances as many of us would do, he uses words of thanks which express his heart and mind which are in tune to The Holy Spirit. He speaks of *servicing* God as he has heralded the gospel with a *conscience* guided and *purified* by The Holy Spirit. He also points to the continuity of the genuine faith that was also in the *forefathers* of the faith. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all the true believers past believed in forgiveness of sins through The Messiah and His life, death, and resurrection. He comments similarly in **Acts 24:14-15**: “*But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship (serve) the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.*” <sup>15</sup>*I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.*” Paul has stayed faithful to the gospel of God and therefore has peace in the assurance of it although he is a prisoner of Rome. He *remembers* Timothy in his prayers and whenever he thinks of Timothy he views him as a man who also in the same way serves the true God with a pure conscience. These prayers of The Apostle thinking of his younger protégé cause a great *desire* (homesick yearning) to see him. He thinks of and prays for his Christian brother and sees him as an equal child of the same God.

*Suggestion for Prayer:* God, thank You that the “*faith once for all delivered to the saints*” includes all of us through the ages who have believed You and Your promise to save Your people through The Messiah Jesus. Help me pray for and be thankful to You for my Christian brothers and sisters serve You alongside those who truly are Your children.

**WEDNESDAY** – **2 Timothy 1:5**: <sup>5</sup>“*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.*” Now Paul speaks of Timothy’s physical ancestry mentioning Timothy’s mother and grandmother. As Stott comments, “...every man is to a great extent the product of his inheritance”. We are so shaped and influenced by our parentage and our home. If you have ever read any biography you notice it usually starts with a record of the person’s parents, grandparents and so forth. This is not to say that because “mom and dad are Christians I therefore am” but it is to say that children can be led to and pointed to faith in Jesus by the diligent teaching, example and prayers of their parents and relatives. Luke tells us that timothy was the son of a Jewish mother and Greek father (**Acts 16:1**). The assumption is that his father was an unbeliever, but his mother *Eunice* and grandmother *Lois* where genuine converted Christian ladies and we see the generational progression of the faith in this family as he speaks of *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*. We read later that Paul says *...that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15)*. Mothers, please see the priority and importance of teaching your children and grandchildren the Scriptures over “other” information. Calvin comments on this that Timothy “was reared in his infancy in such a way that he could suck in godliness along with his mother’s milk”.

Mothers and grandmothers as well as fathers and grandfathers need to be diligent in this Godly Scriptural teaching. And furthermore any children born and raised in a Christ centered Christian home have received from God a blessing beyond price.

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to understand the importance of teaching the younger generation about Jesus and the Gospel from Scripture. Help me do a better job of this and may I also be thankful for the blessing You have given me if raised under Biblical teaching.*

**THURSDAY – 2 Timothy 1:6:** “<sup>6</sup>Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” We now come to a place where Paul commands this younger man to do something in light of all that God has done for him and given to him. Paul knew of the gift (*charisma* “favor received without any merit of one’s own to generously and graciously give and serve Jesus Christ and His church) in Timothy that God had deposited there and he also knew this flame was burning low if you will. Paul mentioned this in his first letter to Timothy as well; **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.” He repeats this instruction here and we see that God likes to remind us of the same truth over and over again because we neglect so often to heed it the first time. Remember Timothy had a lot of things going on in his life; He had frequent physical ailments which Paul addressed (**1 Timothy 5:23**). He apparently was naturally fearful and timid (**1 Corinthians 16:10**). He was younger than a lot of people he was leading (**1 Timothy 4:12**). He was opposing some very fierce opponents and people who would not submit and obey the Lord and His Word (**1 Timothy 1:3–7, 19–20, 4:6–7, 6:3–10, 2 Timothy 2:14–19, 23**). People were being influenced and shaped by myths and old wives tales rather than being nourished in the words of faith and good doctrine from Scripture (**1 Timothy 4:6–7**). Not that these are excuses for Timothy to waver and lose his zeal for service but they do play a part in attacking a man and his confidence in the Word of God and the God of the Word and his giftedness by God to minister. So Paul reminds him to stir up the gift of God which is in you.” Some translations have “fan the flame of the gift of God” which translates the verb *anazopureo* (which appears nowhere else in the NT) which means “to kindle up, rekindle, inflame one’s mind”. Notice the battle is about what we believe as the verb addresses the mind. The flame here had not gone which is indicated by the prefix *ana*, but it was burning low and had to be blown into a raging inferno because the times were serious. How does a man keep the fire alive? By exercising the gift faithfully and by waiting upon God in prayer for its constant and continued renewal.

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to not be afraid of all the opposition I may face in Your service and in the proclamation of Your truth. Keep my faithful and fanning the flame of the gift of God by reading Scripture, praying to You, and obeying and serving.*

**FRIDAY – 2 Timothy 1:7:** “<sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Ministry is the gift of the Holy Spirit, and this is the Spirit of

power (**Acts 1:8, 6:5,8**). So now Paul continues after giving this appeal with the reason; *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.* Timothy must not be fearful and cowardice. We do not need to be cowards because God has given us the Spirit God. Notice that, though a particular spiritual gift was given to Timothy “you” (**verse 6**), the gift of the Spirit himself has been given to “us” (**verse 8**). All of us who are in Christ and are genuine believers have been given The Holy Spirit. Since He brings power we may be confident of His enabling of us as we minister and serve. Since He brings love we must serve others and not ourselves. And since He brings a sound mind (*self-control*) we must use our gifts and show reverent control and disciplined restraint. Jamieson-Faussett Brown help in our understanding of this *self-control* in their commentary make a comment on **1 Corinthians 14:32** ~ *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets*”. They say, “...that is, restrain yourselves from speaking all together; “and the spirits of the prophets,” that is, their own spirits, acted on by the Holy Spirit, are not so hurried away by His influence, as to cease to be under their own control”. There is some discussion concerning who or what is referred to in our text when Paul says ...God has not given us a spirit. Some spell Spirit with a small letter (“spirit”), while others capitalize (“Spirit”). I will forego all the detailed discussion but it seems obvious that both our human spirit and The Holy Spirit, given to you and me and every believer are in view. The Holy Spirit has not given us a fearful timid spirit but one of power and love and a sound mind. We need as Timothy needed to avail ourselves of that limitless, never-failing power (*δύναμις* our “dynamite”). So far in our text, a very striking thing to note is the combination in both Paul and Timothy of divine sovereignty and human responsibility, those two facts which we so often find difficult to reconcile and impossible to as Stott says, “systematize into a tidy doctrine”. Paul could write and say that God’s grace had made him what he was but then he would immediately add: “...and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me” (**1 Corinthians 15:10**). He added his work to God’s grace, although as we see it was God’s grace which inspired and enabled his work. Timothy also in spite of his Godly wonderful upbringing and giftedness by God was encouraged by Paul to do his part, “stir up the gift of God” and add his self-control to the equation. Let us also not rest on our laurels but instead thank God for any advantageous graces He has given such as a Godly heritage and apply ourselves actively to keep the flame burning hot in service to God and others. If we fear Satan’s persecution and attacks more than we trust God’s power and Spirit we have begun to slip. Let us always avail ourselves to the limitless power of God by obedience and submission to The Holy Spirit.

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for such grace. Help me to not fear but instead remember Your limitless power through The Holy Spirit and be filled with Him and Your Word as I minister in the area You have placed me in the body of Christ.*