

The Apprentice:

First Century Leadership in a Twenty-First Century World

2 Timothy Series

Sermon 1: Fan your gift into flame (2 Timothy 1:1-14)

Context

- Paul
- Timothy
- Us

1. Fan into flame the gift God has given you

6 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.

- Discover your gift
- Use Your gift
- Invest in your Gift

2. Challenges that may hinder us from fanning our gift into flame.

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner.

Doc: "To have a brain is not a sin, but to have a brain and not use it, that is a sin."

3. How to overcome these challenges

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Four things to remember...

1. Remember the *Spirit* strengthens you!
2. Remember the *substance* of what you believe!
3. Remember *who* you believe in!
4. Remember to *guard* the good deposit!

Spiritual Gifts Passages, for further reflection:

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11, 27-31; Romans 12:3-8

Personal Bible Study: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

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

3I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

8So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

13What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

What have been the major influences in Timothy's life? Are you aware of similar factors at work in your own life?

What Spiritual gifts have you received? How do you know? In what ways might what Paul says apply to you? (If you aren't aware of your gifts, what steps can you take to discover them?)

What opportunities are there for you to fan into flame your spiritual gifts?

Are there things in your life that are hindering you from using your gifts?

Why does sharing the gospel involve suffering? In what ways have you found this to be true in your experience?

In what ways does the truth of the gospel come under attack in your situation? How can you *guard* it?

Prayer:

Ponder verses 7 and 14. Ask God's Spirit to empower you, help you use your gifts and guard the gospel.