

“No Fear: A Spirit for the Gospel”

March 21 & 22, 2015

Open: Who has influenced your spiritual growth and development?

Read: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Discuss:

1. From verses 3-7, how would you describe Paul's relationship with Timothy? From Paul's example in these verses, what can we learn about discipling someone?
2. Both verses 6 and 7 begin with the word "for." How would you explain the connection between Paul's thoughts in verses 5-7?
3. What does it mean for Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" in him (v. 6)? Why is doing this important for us today? For your specific spiritual gifts, what might this look like?
4. In verse 8, what does Paul call Timothy to do? Why might Timothy have needed this encouragement? Why might we be tempted to be timid about sharing the Gospel?
5. From verses 8-10, what reasons does Paul give Timothy for being bold in his proclamation of the Gospel? How does this encourage boldness in you?
6. Paul's own boldness brought on suffering. According to verse 12, what enabled Paul to enduring this suffering with joy? What attributes of God's character help sustain you in your mission to inspire among all peoples an overflowing joy in God through Jesus Christ?
7. In verses 13-14, what two supports is Timothy called to turn to as he seeks to live out his faith? What difference does our dependence on these two things make in our own lives?
8. Do you perceive yourself as more like Timothy or Paul as seen in this passage? Why is it critical that we all take on the role of discipling others?

Apply: Who are you spiritually influencing now? How can you do this better?

Pray: Pray that God will greatly grow His church. Ask God for clarity in your role in this process. Pray for the gifts and opportunities of others in your group, as Paul prayed for Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:3-14

^[3] 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. ^[4] As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ^[5] 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. ^[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, ^[7] for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

^[8] 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, ^[9] 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, ^[10] 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, ^[11] for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ^[12] which is why I suffer as I do. 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. ^[13] Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ^[14] By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (ESV)