

God Has Given Us

II Timothy 1:6-12

10/7-8/06

Intro

II Timothy is the last letter to have come from Paul's pen. He is under arrest in Rome. At this point in history, Nero is the emperor and is an enemy of the church which belongs to Jesus Christ.

You might remember that when Rome burned in 64 AD, Nero blamed the Christians saying, "They always talked about being the light of the world, but they're nothing but arsonist and cannibals" (a reference to communion.) However, many believe that it was Nero himself that had Rome burned because he wanted to rebuild it and be acclaimed as the "supreme architect." It was this same Nero who had Paul beheaded.

It was while waiting for his appearance before Nero that Paul wrote to Timothy this last letter.

The theme of the book is, "**guard the treasure that has been entrusted to you.**"

In these verses, Paul makes a solemn charge to Timothy which we can receive as well. "**Rekindle afresh the gift of God which is in you.**"

These are the applications of the gift of the Holy Spirit within us that we must rekindle.

I. Rekindle the Spirit of Power

- Paul tells Timothy to rekindle the gift of God. The word rekindle means to "stir up" like with a fire begins to lose its flame.

A. God has not given us a spirit of fear

- Paul begins with what we have not been given.
- The gift of God was not the spirit of fear. This is a powerful statement because many people do have fear, but here Paul makes it clear...
- Fear does not come from God. Where does fear come from? It comes from the weakness of the human condition, and it hinders what God wants to do in our lives.

Illus – Joshua was a young man with a great task upon his shoulders and a similar word was given to him.

Joshua 1:1-9 Do not fear, I will be with you.

Isaiah 41:10-14 Do not fear, you worm Jacob...

- The reason we are not to fear is because God is with us, He is for us, and He will never leave us.

Romans 8:15-16, For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

B. Rekindle the spirit that changed your life

- "Dynamis" in the Greek is the word for power.

Illus – When I was a young teen I used to work for a neighbor who wanted to remove tree stumps. It takes power to move the unmovable. He chose dynamite...

Acts 1:8, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- The power of God is the power to change lives. We have seen many people who came to the Lord broken and hurt and destroyed, but because of His power at work in them, they have been changed.
- And we need to continue to be changed. How?

App -- By letting Him be the fire of our lives.

Isaiah 50:11, Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow. (KJV)

- That is the power that changes lives. Does God give power, real power to change?

Illus – Hot dogs anyone? When you’re filled with food from the King’s table, there is no desire for hot dogs.

Nehemiah 8:10, “Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

II. Rekindle the Spirit of Love

- Paul is charging Timothy to stir up the love of God within him.
- The Holy Spirit is the source of a new kind of love, love that is for the benefit of others, but is first and foremost a love for God.

A. Return to your first love

- God has given us a spirit of love. The Holy Spirit draws us into a love relationship with the Lord.
- This is in distinct contrast to the relationship that many had with God in the Old Testament, which was based on performance.
- **Love transforms us.**

Illus –I have found that love breaks through to my children much better than harsh words.

Romans 5:5, 8, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I John 4:18-19, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

- The charge that God gives to us here is to return to our first love –

App - Stir up the embers that have not been moved in a long time.

Jeremiah 2:2, Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: “I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. (NIV)

B. Love builds up others

- When someone loves God, there is another result, perhaps unexpected, but is very much so.
- When there is a sincere and authentic love for God, the consequence is that a love for others also follows.

Matthew 22:36, 38-40, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” “This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

I Peter 1:22-23, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Illus – Alyosha from *The Brothers Karamazov*.

III. Rekindle the Spirit of Sound Judgment

- Many people may overlook that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the spirit of a sound mind, of sober judgment.

A. Good judgment is from God

- It is so often the desires of our flesh that gives us problems.
- But God knows the true motives for what we do.

Proverbs 16:2-3, All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives. Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.

James 4:2-3, You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are given a spirit of sound judgment.
- When our motives are selfish, we mess things up. When our motives are godly, we are the ones who are blessed.

I Timothy 6:17-19 Take hold of life indeed.

B. Desire wisdom above all things

- How valuable is wisdom?
- There are many things to seek after in this life, but there is great value in having the wisdom which only God can give.

II Chronicles 1:11-12, God said to Solomon, “Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you.”

Proverbs 3:13-15, How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her.

Conclusion

“Stir up” and “rekindle” are good words to describe what God is charging us to do. Return to your first love, stir up the embers of faith and you find that the spirit of power, and of love, and of sound mind will be yours.