



Remember the purpose of studying scripture together in community is much more than simply the gaining or sharing of knowledge about God. We read, study and discuss not just for information, but for formation. Our goal is to meet with Him and become more like him as we engage with His Word.

As you unpack scripture together we encourage you to:

1. Pray for God to be at work as you open the Word.
2. Read the passage aloud together.
3. Discuss:
  - a. Ask if anyone would like to bring up a theme or has a question that immediately comes to mind... see where the conversation goes.
  - b. You may like to explore some of the prepared commentaries/discussion questions too.
4. Is there something that the Holy Spirit is prompting me in? Share this with the group.
5. Pray for God to transform your heart and mind in his ways.

### **2 Timothy 1:1-18 (NIV)**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

**2** To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**3** I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am 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.

**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 the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. **8** So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. **9** He 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, <sup>10</sup> but 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. <sup>11</sup> And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

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

<sup>15</sup> You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

<sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

**As this is the start of a new series you may wish to watch the Bible Project's Summary Video to help set some context:**

**The Bible Project 2 Timothy Overview:** [Video](#)

### **From Brian's Message:**

Brian focussed on verses 6 & 7, suggesting that Paul was encouraging Timothy to embrace his calling by continuing to fan into flame the gift he has been given and allow the Holy Spirit to empower him for the ministry which he has been entrusted with.

**Key Idea:** Stir up the gift, walk in and with the Holy Spirit allowing yourself to be empowered for the work that God has for you to do.

**Secondary Idea:** Be prepared to Testify, Suffer, and Guard the Deposit you have been given.

### **Some Additional Comments from Henry Blackaby:<sup>1</sup>**

*First, Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God that had come to him through the laying on of Paul's hands, a gift generally identified as the anointing power of the Holy Spirit to preach and teach the gospel effectively. It was the Holy Spirit, Paul said, who would impart to Timothy power, love, and a sound mind, and remove from Timothy any spirit of fear.*

*How does one stir up the presence of God in his or her life? Perhaps the foremost way is to remain in constant daily communication with the Lord, inviting the Holy Spirit to do His work in us and through us, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal new insights into God's plans and purposes*

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Blackaby et al., 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus (Harper Christian Resources, 2008).

*as we read the Bible, and to consult the Holy Spirit as we face every major choice and decision. Ongoing communication with the Holy Spirit keeps the Holy Spirit's working in us alive and active!*

*Second, Paul admonished Timothy to refrain from having any shame or embarrassment associated with either the gospel message or with Paul's sufferings. Paul did not want Timothy to regard any of his trials and tribulations as negating the power of the gospel, but to regard suffering as a badge of honor Paul wore gladly as Christ's preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles.*

*If a fellow believer is hit with a difficult set of circumstances, we must never allow ourselves to conclude that the difficulties are a result of weak faith. Nor should we conclude that their example for Christ has been tarnished irreversibly or that the gospel is ineffective. To the contrary! The way a person faces difficulties may very well provide a clear indication that the person's faith is strong, their trust in Christ is genuine, and the gospel enables them to endure and overcome life's struggles.*

## **Discussion**

1. Paul's encouragement to 'fan the flame' is active-continuing language. What are some of the ways that you can fan the flame of the gifts that you have been given? Consider also what 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says about not quenching the Spirit.... Are the two related or different?
2. Galatians 5 speaks of the conflict between the Spirit and the flesh. The exhortation is to 'walk by the Spirit'. What are some habits, practices and/or mindset's that have helped you to choose the Spirit over the flesh?
3. The Greek word for 'timid' used in verse 7 is an antonym for courage and could be translated as 'fear' or even 'cowardice'. Have you ever experienced the Power, Love and Self-discipline (or wisdom) that the Holy Spirit can provide? Is there something going on in your life that you would like the group to pray for?

*Jim Cymbala writes:<sup>2</sup>*

*"Can you guess the quality God looks for most? It's not intellect or academic prowess. It's not eloquence. It's not a captivating personality. No, the quality God looks for most is availability to him. If we're submissive as bondservants he can use us. But if we have our own agendas, none of our talents or abilities will do much good to change the world around us. The Holy Spirit is searching for people who love God and are available to be used by him."*

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<sup>2</sup> Jim Cymbala and John Blattner, *Fan the Flame* (Zondervan, 2022).

4. Do you agree with this paragraph? You may like to read and reflect on the story of the boy who offered the fish and bread (John 6:1-14). Is there a talent or ability that God is prompting you to offer to him? Is there an obstacle stopping you from surrendering/releasing to God?
5. Paul invites Timothy to join him in suffering for the Gospel. From this verse and others (Philippians 3, Romans 8) it is clear that the truth of the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation and the lens through which he views everything that has happened to him. What would it look like for every aspect of your life and every decision (small or large) to be informed by the truth of the resurrection?

Eugene Peterson:<sup>3</sup>

*"The resurrection of Jesus is the action at the core of all Christian spiritual formation."*

**We can therefore boldly say:**

*Jesus is alive, the Holy Spirit is in me, now father what do you want me to do?*

Remember to pray for each other:

***May the gift of God within you be fanned into flame, displaying His glory.***

***May the Holy Spirit fill you with power, love, and self-discipline—so that you walk boldly, love deeply, and live faithfully.***

***Amen.***

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<sup>3</sup> Eugene Peterson, *Living the Resurrection* (NavPress, 2014).