

# RIGHTLY DIVIDING<sup>©</sup>

## Title: Spirit of Power, Love, & Sound Mind

### II TIMOTHY 1:7

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

#### CONTEXT:

In the Apostle Paul’s second epistle to Timothy, we witness an occasion of pastoral remarks. The purpose of his writing was to maintain the faith and to insure the continuity of the Church of Jesus Christ. Paul has given a solemn charge to Timothy – “That good thing which was committed unto thee **keep** by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us” [II. Timothy 1:14] – which is the heart of this pastoral epistle.

The epistle is written as a solemn charge in two parts bound together by a doctrinal truth – “for if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him; if we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; he can not deny himself” (II Timothy 2:11-13). Paul begins with a salutation and thanksgiving and concludes with a personal note and prayer.

The chief point in Paul’s pastoral epistle is the presentation of the Gospel as a trust to be preserved, cherished, and committed to faithful men.

### II TIMOTHY 1:7

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*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders of the Christian faith!*

## HISTORICAL FACTS

II Timothy is one of the two epistles written to Timothy regarding the church at Ephesus and Crete. Scholars believe the Apostle Paul wrote the letter from prison in Rome to advise his son in the faith and others. The time of writing is believed to be AD 61 or AD 63. However, there are scholars that doubt Paul’s authorship and reference an anonymous author – “the pastor” – that would be a student of the Pauline doctrine. It is suggested that this discourse does not fit the Pauline style of writing as it were with his other epistles and was likely written between 90 and 140. Scholars also believe that II. Timothy was the last letter written before Paul’s death.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Paul has written a letter to Timothy that is considered an exhortation for endurance as a pastor and missionary. In the first few verses, Paul greets Timothy with grace, mercy and peace given by God the Father and Jesus Christ. He offers thanksgiving for Timothy as his beloved son making mention of daily prayers and his desire to see Timothy. Paul remembers the unwavering faith of Timothy that was also in his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.

Paul greets Timothy in this way as an expression of his love but also to prepare him for exhortation to endure as a pastor. Paul reminds Timothy to “stir up the gift of God” so that he remains faithful and strengthened for the work. He lets Timothy know how such can be achieved. We will take a closer look at what Paul has prescribed for Timothy and others – (1) know what spirit has been given to you as a believer and preacher of the gospel and (2) control your emotions while you do the work.

**MESSAGE:**

II Timothy 1:7 has been written to identify the spirit given to the believer. Even though Paul has written this statement to Timothy, pastors can be certain that it is relevant for every believer.

***“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”***

Let’s begin by exploring the spirit of fear. The spirit of fear is the opposite of a spirit of power, love, and sound mind. **Fear** can be described as “that which is caused by intimidation of the adversary.” Adversary is one’s opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute. The adversary means the devil. **Fear** in the Greek [*deilia - deilos*] is rendered fearfulness (from *deos*, fright) meaning a

spirit that is not given to us of God and denotes “cowardice and timidity.” It describes a person that loses their moral fortitude that is needed to follow Christ.

In examining the scripture, Paul declares to Timothy that God has not given (us – pastors, teachers, apostle, evangelist, etc.) a spirit of cowardice or timidity. God will not be responsible for your willingness to give up on following Christ (i.e. becoming timid and a coward as it relates to the Gospel). Also, Paul’s use of the word (us) makes his declaration inclusive to those that preach the gospel.

Paul is careful to remove the idea that a spirit of fear would be from God. God does not give (us) to become [Gk. *deilos*] that which may cause timidity. We understand from II Timothy 1:7 that the spirit of fear is given. However, there is a source behind this spirit of fear that comes to make one take on the nature of being a coward or timid. Therefore, if you are experiencing any form of fear as it relates to preaching the gospel, you must first acknowledge that the fear is not from God.

Paul sources for Timothy the avenue by which the adversary attempts to bring him fear – “where unto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause (reason) I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:11-12). The things which Paul refers are the afflictions of the gospel which God graces every believer to handle by His power (II Timothy 1:8). Paul knows that he suffers certain fears (levels of emotional stress) because of the appointed call. However, God is not responsible and His power overcomes each fear.

**MESSAGE CONTINUED...**

*“but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

It is important to study the spirit of power i.e. God’s power that has been given to the believer. Paul declares that God has not given Timothy and all other pastors a spirit of fear but rather a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

What is the spirit of power? According to the Greek, *power [dunamis]* is ability, abundance, deed, meaning, might, miracle, power, strength, efficacy, energy, violence, virtue, wonderful (work), and work. Therefore, the spirit of power that has been given by God will allow the pastor to have attributes relative to completing a wonderful work.

The source of this power is Holy Spirit. Act 1:8 identifies the source – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost (Spirit) is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” – and it defines the use of this spirit of power.

The spirit of power comes with attributes (ability, abundance, deed, energy, efficacy, and so forth) so that the believer can be a witness of Christ in the earth. According to what Paul has stated to Timothy, the spirit of power is given to the pastor to strengthen him to do the wonderful work. Also, it is important to note that the spirit of power includes who Jesus is (Wonderful) which was defined by Isaiah the prophet in Isaiah 6:9. Therefore, the spirit of power is inclusive of Christ. We cannot have power without the recognition of who Jesus is and will be when He returns. The scripture also states that the pastor is given the spirit of love.

*“but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Let’s explore the spirit of love! I Peter 1:22 gives us a clear meaning of having the spirit of love – “seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” – allowing believers to love the brethren by obeying truth through the Spirit. Therefore, a spirit of love is about obeying the truth, which can only be done through the Spirit. In yielding to the Spirit, believers find their way to love.

Jesus stated, “if ye love me, keep my commandments” (St. John 14:15). Therefore, the spirit of love that has been given of God is about keeping the commandments thus allowing one to be obedient to the word. What Paul has stated to Timothy in declaring the spirit of love is obedience! Paul declares one more spirit to Timothy and that is a spirit of a sound mind.

*“but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

A spirit of sound mind in the revised version is discipline! In the Greek, *sound mind [sophronismos]* is saving the mind, which is an admonishing, or calling to soundness of mind or to self-control. Paul has declared to Timothy that in ministry you have been given of God the spirit of a sound mind – self-control (discipline). Having self-control (discipline) as a pastor can mean many things, but in the case of Timothy it is being a partaker of the afflictions that come with the gospel. II Timothy 1:8 reads, “be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of

## MESSAGE CONTINUED...

the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God". Therefore, Paul's declaration of having a spirit of a sound mind suggest that believers (particularly pastors) should have discipline to handle the afflictions that comes with the gospel.

II Timothy 1:7 is an exhortation to endure for pastors! Paul has expressed that there are two spirit by which all believer encounter things in this world and should formulate our understanding: (1) spirit of fear which is of the adversary Satan and (2) a spirit of power which is of God by receiving Holy Spirit. The spirit of fear is responsible for our inability to embrace the afflictions that comes with righteousness and this same spirit is responsible for our ability to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. However, the spirit of power, love, and a sound mind helps us to overcome the spirit of fear. The spirit of power, love, and a sound mind give us the ability, discipline, and self-control to move forward in the power of God for the gospel sake in order to be witnesses as Christ promised.

**MESSAGE POINTS:**

1. Pray that the Lord remove the spirit of fear – cowardly and timid behavior.
2. It is important to know the source of your fear. Why would the adversary (Satan) bring this fear?
3. You should seek to understand your God given spiritual ability. We all have natural and spiritual abilities. It is your spiritual ability that helps you go in the directions of God.
4. Rely of the spirit of power to strengthen you for the work. This would be your ability to yield to the Holy Spirit and allow his strength to become perfected when you are feeling weak

(i.e. feeling challenged by the spirit of fear).

5. Keep the commandments of Christ. The spirit of love is there to help with obedience so rely on the spirit to remain in the truth of God's word.
6. Walk in self-control by allowing the spirit of a sound mind to keep you discipline for the work.

**PERSONAL MESSAGE NOTES:**

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**MESSAGE ILLUSTRATIONS:**

- 1.
- 2.
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## Concluding Thoughts...

God has not made us cowards or timid but has given us the power to control our emotions. II Timothy 1:7 is about controlling our emotions in such away to complete the work of God. Paul made it very clear that it takes a spirit of power (ability, strength, energy, etc.), and of love (obedience), and of a sound mind (discipline) to complete the work.

We must walk after the Spirit! The Spirit that has been given is essential to our survival with the gospel message. The Spirit allows us to continue in the commandment and promise of Christ to be His witness in the earth. We cannot let the spirit of fear keep us from our purpose. We are believers of Christ and not timid coward that are afraid. I pray that your congregation will be compelled by this message and become excited about keeping the commandment of Christ thus spreading the gospel. I pray that they are no longer ashamed like Timothy but rather walking in the spirit of power, love, and a sound mind to overcome.



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*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders  
of the Christian faith!*

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*The scripture and above material has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible and Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. The opinions of this sermon are from Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis and should be researched further by the recipient. Rightly Dividing sermon series is a copyright of Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis with permission for use but not distribution.*

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