



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 126

Stir Up The Gift

2 Timothy 1:6-9 (NKJV)

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

Let's jump right into the topic today and talk about the word of God. We will start in verse 6-7. Here we started off with a, therefore, so we need to find out what it's there for. As we're reading this you can also keep in your mind the idea of needing to encourage ourselves in the faith. So we go before a couple more passages and read that Paul is calling to remembrance the genuine faith that was in Timothy and dwelt first in his grandmother Lois and his mother, Eunice. Paul concludes by saying, and I am persuaded, is in you as well. Then Paul moves on to say,

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Then we go on to the next verse in verse 8 and it says,

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

So first we see the genealogy of the faith in Timothy's life, his grandmother,

Lois, and his mother, Eunice. So there's a history of faith and so Paul is persuaded that it is in Timothy as well. From this Paul reminds him to stir up that gift that was given to him through the laying on of Paul's hands. That is essentially the calling that was placed upon him and the Holy Spirit that filled him.

Paul goes on further to say, 'therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony.' When we read that, we understand that Paul was constantly persecuted and imprisoned and beaten and shipwrecked, and went through a lot of suffering for the sake of the gospel. He is encouraging Timothy that he will be going to approach times in his life when he will have the temptation to be ashamed of the Gospel.

What does it mean to be ashamed of the gospel? Well, it means to turn away to another gospel (that is no real gospel at all) because it is easier or more appealing to oneself. So, being ashamed of the Gospel can mean that we simply deny Christ when the going gets tough or turn aside to believe false things about Him (i.e another gospel). In short, one way of looking at it would be not wanting to go through the difficult parts, but wanting to go through the easy parts, and so Paul is saying, Timothy, listen, God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. So don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me, his prisoner but share with me in sufferings.

Suffering is a hallmark of the Gospel brothers and sisters, and for that reason, we need to be reminded to stir up the gift of God, which is in us.

You know, we may be in similar situations in our life. Maybe not quite like the persecutions, they went through, but we may be going through a season of alienation where we feel like we just aren't being encouraged by those around us or maybe just flat out discouraged by those around us for our beliefs.

Whatever we may be going through, we are to be reminded to stir up the gift of God, which is in us because when we are perpetually stirring up the gift of God, we are allowing God to produce that power, love, and sound mind within us. In previous teachings, we spoke about peace and joy in our believing and abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ and how it produces within us an overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit hope. And we know that hope does not disappoint. And we also know that hope is a signal or a banner for those around us to look at and say, '*what is going on there? Everything in the world is going chaotic, but these people have hope.*' So the object of that is so that it can draw people to your testimony in the Lord Jesus Christ because you did not faint or grow weary while enduring great troubles or persecutions. From that, they can ask you, '*hey,*

why do you have so much hope?

And so we can return by knowing how to respond to that. We need to stir up the gift of God, which is in us, and understand what we are and who we are called to be so that we can be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks us for the reason for that hope. So, it's twofold. First, we need to stir up the gift of God which is in us so that we can maintain that hope. The second part is that when it draws people to us, we can be stirred up already so that we know how to respond to them. In other words, to always be stirred up and always ready in season and out of season.

I really believe that the most effective witness we have to the world about who Jesus is in our life is by the genuine faith that resides in us through the Holy Spirit and is then practically and energetically lived out with passion in us and through us. However, I also know that just because we are saved believers, that does not automatically make us filled with the Spirit. Don't get me wrong, we may have the Holy Spirit as believers, but that does not mean that we are living a Holy Spirit stirred life where we are filled to overflowing. I have lived both brothers and sisters and I must say that this world can knock the Spirit out of you if you are not reminded to stir up the gift of God in you. There is no place in the church of Jesus Christ for complacency.

Brothers and sisters, I don't know about you, but I want to be so stirred up in the gift of God that people can see and come to know Jesus. I really don't need them to know me, they need to know Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, we should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of Paul his prisoner, but we should share in the sufferings of the gospel for the glory of God. Be encouraged, brothers and sisters, that no matter where you are, you have the gift of the Holy Spirit within you, and you can stir Him up within you. In another translation (ESV) it says, instead of stirring up the gift of God, which is in you, it says fan into flame, the gift of God which is in you. So, this is an encouragement for you and for me to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in us so that we can be ready in season and out of season.

We pray always that the Lord would just bless you and keep you, that He would make His face to shine upon you, that He would be gracious unto you and give you peace in Jesus name.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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