

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

September 2014

PAUL'S LAST WORDS: REMINDER OF GOD'S CALL

INTRODUCTION

Who do you turn to when you are feeling low?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Note: After Paul's release from prison in Rome in A.D. 62/63 and after his fourth missionary journey, during which he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul was again imprisoned under Emperor Nero (c. 66-67). It was during this time that he wrote 2 Timothy. In contrast to his first imprisonment, when he lived in a rented house, he now languished in a cold dungeon, chained like a common criminal. His friends even had a hard time finding out where he was being kept. Paul knew that his work was done and his life was nearly at an end. "Dr. Sidlow Baxter, in Explore the Book, points out that the "some" of 1 Timothy has become "all" in 2 Timothy. "Some have turned aside" (1:6); "some have made shipwreck" (1:19); "some have turned aside after Satan" (5:15); "some have been led astray" (6:10); "some have erred" (6:21)—this is the theme of his first letter. But in 2 Timothy we read: "all have turned away from me" (1:15); "all forsook me"! (4:16) The churches were turning from the faith, and Paul urged young Timothy to be true to his calling and fulfill his ministry. Woven into the exhortations in this letter are the personal sentiments and concerns of the great apostle. This letter is not a "swan song" of defeat; it is an anthem of victory!"¹

1. How does Paul feel about Timothy based on the salutations in 1 Timothy 1:2 and 2 Timothy 1:2?
2. How would you react if someone said they were praying for you, even though they were facing death? v. 3 Who knows you are praying for them? 1 Sam 12:23
3. What was the spiritual impact of Timothy's mother and grandmother? v. 5
4. How have you benefited (or not) from your family's spiritual heritage?
5. What principle regarding spiritual gifts can we derive from verse 6?
6. What has helped you 'fan into flame the gift of God'? v. 6
7. What type of spirit does God give believers? v. 7 Rom 8:15 Why is this important to remember?
8. Why are some believers timid in their faith? What can be done to overcome this timidity?
9. How can we have strength and confidence in God and at the same time "fear" Him? Prov 6:13

EVALUATION/APPLICATION

How's your spiritual flame? What can help you stoke it?

*When we trusted Jesus as Savior the Holy Spirit of God took up residence in our life and provides the continuous comfort that we need to eliminate our fears. With God in control we can face our fears. He gives us the ability to do what life demands, to love when others hate, and to be under control when others throw restraint to the winds. [L T T L]
[S E P I S E P] Max Lucado says, "Fear doesn't want you to make the journey to the mountain. If he can rattle you enough, fear will persuade you to take your eyes off the peaks and settle for a dull existence in the flatlands."*

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¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (pp. 640–641). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.