

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Convictions of A Faithful Servant of God

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Keywords: Paul, Timothy, discipleship, faithfulness, Faithful walk

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: Paul begins to set the stage for this final, powerful letter to Timothy. A treasure-trove of wisdom, exhortation, and concern from this old saint to his dear son in the faith. He has hard words for Timothy, but he starts it all with words of encouragement, but even in those words there is an edge about them.

Parenting Class
Bible Study Starting
New Members
Dismiss

I. Introduction.

A. Relay races.

1. Remind them of the imagery. Emphasize two points:
 - a. Hand off is key.
 - b. Once it is handed off your work is done. Make sure you hand it off to someone capable to continue the race.
2. Having encouraged Timothy regarding the sincerity of his faith in Jesus, Paul now begins to mark out certain key convictions of a faithful servant of God.
3. He is to die soon, the baton is being passed over to Timothy, and he will soon be relying only on God, for his dear father in the faith will be gone.

B. Read vss 6-18.

Propositional Statement

From vss 6 - 18 there are ten ways a Christian is live a gospel-exalting life before God and man. Ten convictions that show you to be a faithful servant of Jesus.

II. First, the conviction of the gift of the Spirit (6-7).

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- A. "For this reason . . ."
1. Points backward.
 2. It picks back up with the theme of 'remembering' as well.
 3. Paul gave a word of encouragement to Timothy, one with an edge and now he begins the process of exhorting Timothy to run his race of faith well too.
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:7—it was a race Paul had run and now saw the end in sight.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 9:24—it is a race that requires us to keep the end in view or we will go off course.
 - c. Hebrews 12:1-2—the author tells us that Jesus begins our race of faith and is the finisher. And in the midst of the race He is to be our goal.
 - d. Paul does a similar thing in our passage in what he is writing in vs 8-12. Emphasize "that day."
 4. Paul is telling Timothy here that the sincere faith that he sees present comes with certain responsibilities, certain actions and convictions.
- B. The issue of "spirit" in vs 7.
1. Must first be addressed to understand vs 6-7. Two views:
 - a. The spirit of Timothy. Speaking of his mental/emotional bearing.
 - (1) The position of many.
 - (2) NASB, ESV
 - (3) Passages like
 - b. The Holy Spirit. (NIV, NET) Which has two options as well:
 - (1) The indwelling presence.
 - (2) The unique "filling."
 2. My position is that it is the Holy Spirit.
 - a. We saw this back in Roman 8:15 as well for those who go back that far.
 - b. And, in fact, there is a format that Paul uses in these passages that is good to note.

*Intrinsically
Christocentric*

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- (1) "not . . . but"
 - (2) Also seen in 1 Corinthians 2:12.
 - (3) That is the same way in our passage only the word "Spirit" is implied in the second part.
- c. The word translated as "timidity" or "fear" is a very strong one that actually speaks of cowardliness.
- (1) Timothy might have tendencies toward being afraid or timid but there is no indication that he was a coward .
 - (2) He was really the man Paul would go to when there was a difficult situation.
 - (3) In addition, if cowardliness/timidity did refer to what Timothy was then Paul would also be saying that "power, love and discipline" as things he was not.
 - (4) Paul praises Timothy over and over in the various letters as a man who did display these qualities.
- d. So Paul is telling Timothy, and us, that the Spirit that God poured out upon us is not one of cowardliness but of this triad of power, love and discipline.
- e. Back to vs 6 now.
- C. "Fan the flames . . ."
1. ESV says "fan the flames." The idea is to stoke the coals of a fire to keep them hot (e.g. Cameroon roadside food)
 2. This is not saying that Timothy is close to letting the spiritual fire go out in him. Rather, it is saying to keep it hot.
 3. What? It is the "gift of God." To what is that referring?
 - a. Whatever it is it was conveyed by Paul by the laying on of hands (explain). This is helpful.
 - b. Second, note that it is "in" Timothy
 - c. It is tempting to see it as the gift of evangelism that he mentions in 4:5. But this is doubtful.

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4. Better to see it as a point in time in Timothy's ministry (I suspect when he was sent to Ephesus) where Paul laid hands on Timothy and he had a unique "filling" of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Acts 8:17-18; 9:12, 17-20 [immediately began to proclaim]; 19:6.
 - b. The "gift" was the unique filling and empowerment of the Spirit to do the work of ministry.
5. How does he do this?
 - a. It is not clear, but vs 8 is an example of what I think it means. It is kept hot through faithfulness. Where Timothy embraces his calling and embraces the suffering. But not by his power but the power of God.
 - b. He must be convinced, walk in the conviction that the Holy Spirit has filled him to perform and complete his ministry. If he loses sight of that he will fade away.
 - c. How does this apply to us?
 - (1) In one sense it doesn't, unless there is a unique point in time where the Holy Spirit were to fill one of you (recommend my sermon).
 - (2) However, the Spirit has nonetheless regenerated us, He indwells us; and we are told repeatedly in the bible to walk by the Spirit.
 - (3) And that is how we too walk in the conviction of the presence of the Spirit.
 - (4) We are aware that He is battling against our flesh so that we do not do as we would please.
 - (5) We walk in awareness that the Spirit is keeping us safe in our salvation. That He is guiding us and strengthening us.
 - (6) We live with the conviction that He prays on our behalf in ways we cannot even fathom.
 - (7) From the moment that the Holy Spirit bring new life to you there is a work that He begins to do that changes you and grows you.

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- D. If you forget the Holy Spirit and you do not remember His constant preserving, empowering work on your behalf you will struggle.
1. You will think it is all on you. You are alone in this. God has saved you and now it is up to you to gut it out. And that is soul-draining work.
 2. But if you realize that God has given you His Spirit. He does these things I have listed above. And we can always call out for more strength, more wisdom, then you will persevere and our life will be consistent with our salvation and calling.
 3. All of this is through the grace of God.
 - a. The gift of the Spirit is one not earned but given. But it is what defines us as Christians.
 - b. Take away the gift of the Spirit and we are in trouble. We are but humans with no power from God.
 - c. How would you run the race? How would you endure hardships, suffering or persecution?
 - d. It is by keeping the knowledge of God's saving work in the forefront of your mind that you persevere. You seek to focus on the author and finisher of your faith. You run in the power of the Spirit.
- E. Back to vs 7 to consider the sense of the triad.
1. There is almost an echo of "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)
 - a. This fits with Timothy because the Spirit is with him and even upon him.
 - b. If Joshua decided to be filled with fear and be dismayed it was not God's fault. God promised to always be with him.
 - c. If Timothy chose to be dismayed it was not the failings of God either. The gift of the Spirit was upon him and it brought power, love and discipline.
 - d. I would argue the same for us. Christ has promised to be with us to the end of the age. He has said that all authority had been given

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to Him. He had promised the coming the Spirit so that we would have the power to be His witnesses throughout the world.

2. Consider, finally, what the Spirit brings us and it becomes obvious that if we have the conviction that this is true how it changes our outlook as Christians.
3. The Spirit brings power.
 - a. *Dunamis*, dynamite.
 - b. Ephesians 1:18ff; 3:14ff (note “Spirit”, strengthen, love, power in this)
 - c. This power was promise in Acts 1:8 where Jesus said, 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.”
 - d. Romans 15:13, 19.
 - e. Our entire ability to persevere, to put away sin, to hope in the faithfulness of God is all dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.
 - f. We can do nothing truly for the Lord in our own ability. All of it is borne along by His quiet, powerful working.
4. The Spirit brings love.
 - a. In Galatians 5:22 the first “fruit” of the Spirit in our lives is love.
 - b. Romans 5:5.
 - (1) Not our love for God but His love for us is the point of this passage.
 - (2) vss 6-11 then lays out the ways He has shown us the depth and glory of His love for us.
 - (3) Notice how it was poured out within our hearts. “Through the Holy Spirit.”
 - (a) This gives it an infinite aspect if you will think about it for a second.

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- (b) That word, “through” speaks of the channel through which the Father pours His love into us.
 - (c) Now, if that channel were anything else but God Himself, then it would be limited.
 - (d) *But it is not, it is our infinite God who is the channel.* And therefore we are receiving an infinite amount of the Father’s love through the channel of the infinite Holy Spirit.
 - (e) There will never be an end to this love.
 - (f) John 7:38-39 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive. . . .”
 - (g) Beloved, if you are struggling with true hope, if your heart is given to despair and depression, please set your heart to think on these things.
- (4) What would change in your life, your words, your delights and your attitude if you lived under the constant conviction that through the infinite Holy Spirit the infinite love of our Heavenly Father was filling and flowing in you?
5. The Spirit brings discipline.
- a. Unique term used only here. Gives the sense of carefulness, sobriety of mind, wise and restrained in decisions.
 - b. Another fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 is that of self-control.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is who teaches us wisdom for living. Not passively received, but as a gift through diligence and humility of mind.
 - d. The Spirit settles us down to the task of pressing on and growing up.
 - e. When you lack that discipline it is again not the fault of God. It is the resisting of the work of the Spirit in you, if you are truly saved.

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- f. But if you are convinced that the Spirit in you is one of discipline then as you struggle with it, you know you can cry out for God to work and know that He will because he already has!

III. Second, the conviction to not be ashamed of the gospel (8).

IV. Third, the conviction to suffer for the gospel (8).

V. Fourth, the conviction to keep the gospel in the forefront of our minds (9-10).

VI. Fifth, the conviction to remember our God (12a).

VII. Sixth, the conviction to remember our end (12b).

VIII. Seventh, the conviction to retain sound doctrine (13).

IX. Eighth, the conviction to guard the gospel (14).

X. Ninth, the conviction to stay the course before God and brethren (15).

XI. Tenth, the conviction to bless and encourage those in the battle (16-18).

XII. Conclusion.

A. Just one of ten convictions that I see in these verses but I hope that it prepares you to consider the rest.

B. Ministry is hard. Not just “pastoral” ministry, but what every Christian has.

1. It is hard to be a Christian parent, spouse, single person, employer, employee, citizen and anything else.
2. All of us have a calling, a vocation (which is where ‘calling’ comes from, Latin *vocatio*).
3. All of it is good and proper before God. All of it is to be a Christian act of service/ministry.
4. But only when we have settled in our hearts certain things to be true will we find a level of faithfulness in our service.

C. Rest in your own power, your own discipline, your own love and you will stumble. Be convicted that God truly has given the Spirit and with Him comes power, love and discipline and you will prosper.

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Small Group Questions

- Why do you think Pastor uses the term “conviction” in these 10 points?
- How does understanding the presence of the Holy Spirit help change your perspective of living as a Christian?
- In all honesty, do you find it easy to keep in the forefront of your mind the presence and work of Holy Spirit? Why or why not?