

Overview of 2 Timothy

A Few Facts

- ❖ Second Timothy is one of the Pastoral Epistles of the Apostle Paul.
- ❖ The letter was written ~ AD 67 while Paul was imprisoned for a second time in Rome.
- ❖ The letter was an appeal to Timothy to visit his mentor one last time. Paul knew that his work was coming to an end (4:6-8).
- ❖ The major theme of the letter is endurance. Paul advises Timothy to remain faithful to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, faithful to sound doctrine and holy living and faithful to his ministerial calling, even in the face of suffering and opposition.
- ❖ Several Key Verses:
 - 2 Timothy 1:8
 - 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - 2 Timothy 4:2

Outline

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| I. | Introduction | <u>1:1-5</u> |
| | A. Greeting | 1:1-2 |
| | B. Thanksgiving | 1:3-5 |
| II. | Faithfulness in Hardships | <u>1:6-18</u> |
| | A. Because of God's Spirit | 1:6-7 |
| | B. Because of the Gospel | 1:8-10 |
| | C. Because of Paul's Example | 1:11-14 |
| | D. In Light of Other Associates of Paul | 1:15-18 |
| III. | Faithfulness to Sound Teaching | <u>2:1-26</u> |
| | A. Grace and Discipline | 2:1-7 |
| | B. Understanding the Gospel | 2:8-13 |
| | C. Avoiding False Doctrine | 2:14-26 |
| IV. | Predictions and Charges | <u>3:1-17</u> |
| | A. Predictions about the Last Days | 3:1-9 |
| | B. Charges to Timothy | 3:10-17 |
| V. | Paul's Farewell to Timothy | <u>4:1-22</u> |
| | A. Concluding Charge | 4:1-5 |
| | B. Paul's Personal Testimony | 4:6-8 |
| | C. Personal Remarks | 4:9-18 |
| | D. Final Greetings | 4:19-20 |
| | E. Benediction | 4:21 |

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Highlights from 2 Timothy 1:6-8a; 13-14

Verse 6: The phrase “to stir up” literally means to “fan into flame.” God has given us all the responsibility of keeping the spiritual fire burning in our lives. We do this by staying close to God and using the spiritual gifts that he has imparted to us. We stay close to God:

- (1) By spending time with him in prayer;
- (2) By reading, studying, and meditating on the Word (everyday);
- (3) By submitting ourselves to him in obedience;
- (4) By worshipping him in spirit and in truth; and
- (5) By committing ourselves to fellowship with other believers.

For more information on discovering and flowing in spiritual gifts, please visit: www.wilfredgraves.org/sermon111319.

Verse 7: When God gave us the Holy Spirit, it was not cowardice or timidity that was given to us, but power, love, and a sound mind. Power is the ability, capacity, or strength to do something. The Holy Spirit empowers the people of God to do the works of God. Love is the context in which God’s power operates. God acts powerfully because he loves us deeply and unconditionally. Furthermore, because we have access to both God’s love and power, we have no reason to be afraid of stepping out into the great things that he has called us to do in life. Finally, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives affects our mentality. The Spirit helps us to move beyond fear and timidity and to think clearly.

Verse 8 and following: With all that God has given us (salvation, the Holy Spirit, love, power, a sound mind, etc.), we are fully equipped to proclaim Jesus Christ and to represent him in the world. The “testimony of our Lord” is the gospel message. The gospel is the proclamation of who Jesus is and what he accomplished. In a nutshell, the gospel is the “good news” that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead so that we could become children of God through faith in him. God calls us to proclaim the gospel message with boldness. As Paul says in Romans 1:16:

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.