

**CONTEND FOR THE
GOSPEL
KEEP THE FAITH**

FAN THE FLAME



Introduction to 2 Timothy

- Why 2 Timothy?
 - Important message for today
- 2 Timothy Setting & Background
 - Written by Paul while awaiting execution in Roman prison (64-67 A.D.)
 - Paul's final letter before his death
 - Christians suffering heavy persecution

Introduction to 2 Timothy

- Theme & Message
 - Contend for the gospel, keep the faith and endure suffering
 - Paul is writing to a young Pastor whom he cares deeply for and is encouraging him to endure the hardships of ministry even as he did
 - Paul also is sending a warning to watch out for divisive people (quarrelers) and false teachers who want to lead people away from the truth
 - Powerful appeal from Paul who knows his time is almost finished

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

CONTEND FOR THE GOSPEL

KEEP THE FAITH

Greeting & Encouragement

- Typical Pauline Beginning
 - Grace, mercy, and peace

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-8

FAN THE FLAME 

John Piper...

Why is it always “*grace to you*” at the beginning of [Paul’s] letters and “*grace be with you*” at the end of the letters? Here’s my answer: Because, as the letters begin, Paul believes that God’s grace is being mediated to the readers by the words — the truth — of each letter. And as the letter ends, and people have been receiving grace through reading or hearing these truths, he knows that the readers will now leave and return to the troubles of the world, and he prays that this grace, which they have now received through the word of God, will go *with* them as they return to the world.

Greeting & Encouragement

- Typical Pauline Beginning
 - Grace, mercy, and peace
 - Thanksgiving
 - Encouragement
 - I pray for you constantly
 - Sincere faith
 - Spiritual heritage
- Tone Set for Letter
 - Paul's opening reveals his deep affection for Timothy (closeness of relationship)

Paul's Appeal to Timothy (1st of 5 in Ch.1)

1. Fan into Flame the Gift of God

- Paul reminds Timothy of when he was given a gift by the “laying on of hands” (1 Tim 4:14)
- Everything following this statement is dependant on Timothy fanning into the flame the gift he received
- The outcome of “fanning the flame”:
 - NOT fear, but rather...
 - Power
 - Love
 - Self-control

Fanning the Flame

1. Chases Away Fear

- An acceptable sin?
- Is fear out of place for the Christian?
- Most of our fear comes from our view of God and whether we truly believe he is who he says he is
- As Christians, we do not have a spirit of fear
- Isaiah 43:1... But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Fanning the Flame

1. Chases Away Fear

2. Power

- Something that often seems to be missing from our Christian experience
- Power to live the life you could never live on your own
- Power for holy living and service

Fanning the Flame

1. Chases Away Fear

2. Power

3. Love

- The type of love God desires from his people is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit
- 1 John 4:18... ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Fanning the Flame

1. Chases Away Fear
2. Power
3. Love
4. Self-control
 - The desires within drive us and enslave us
 - God has given us self-control as a fruit of the Spirit that helps us master our cravings and sinful nature

Paul's Appeal to Us

1. Fan the flame!

- You cannot fan the flame by attending things, but rather only by engaging in your faith and intentionally pursuing God

2. Use the gifts that God has given you

3. Have Courage! The spirit God has given you is not one of fear, but of power, love and self-control

- The Almighty God, King of the Cosmos, Lord of the heavens & earth has promised that he is with us

A Prayer from A.W. Tozer

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.”