Why are We Here? Elaine Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Timothy 1:7.
- B. If we have listened to the Scripture, we know why we are here.
- C. There are many intimidating aspects of life.
- D. Timothy was ready to run, and we often find ourselves here.
- E. We cannot run though because the real problem is we.

II. Timothy had many reasons to be encouraged (a strong background, laying on of hands by the Apostle Paul), but this was not enough.

- A. Paul was in prison, so Timothy did not have a leader of status to lean on.
- B. Society was rife with immorality.
- C. Timothy must have been discouraged by the godlessness in the church he worked with.

III. Women as people of God are called to ministry in this world.

A. All of life is to be seen as a way to serve Jesus Christ.

- B. When we compare our service to Jesus,' no service can be demeaning.
- C. Jesus Christ is our adequacy for ministry.

1. We need not compare ourselves because God makes foolish the strong.

2. Jesus Christ can reveal Himself in our failures.

3. Because of Jesus' love and acceptance of us, we can offer love and acceptance to others.

IV. The only context to think of our fears in is in the sovereignty of God.

A. Only God knows our full potential.

B. God bestowed a portion upon us of His own Spirit when He gave us our spiritual gifts.

C. We ought to be in awe over this.

D. We cannot force our expectations upon God—we must let God be God, and develop our patience through the circumstances of His choosing.

E. In order to be freed from our fears we must allow for failure—sometimes God's purpose is best developed through our failures.

Application questions:

1. What are some ways that you learned through failure?

2. Why is it important to allow for failure in the Christian life? How does this strengthen the believer?

3. What fears are you facing at this time in your life? How can God's sovereignty give you peace in these?
