

Rekindle Gift and Endure Suffering

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Timothy.

B. There are great challenges to Christian service.

1. The office for pastors sometimes becomes an unbearable place.
2. The view of Christian service is sometimes seen to be idealistic.
3. We find that Christian ministry is corporate and not individual. One can be assured that the people involved with will be selfish - there is still an old nature and a Devil.
4. There is no privacy in the Christian work.

C. Background.

1. Paul writing to Timothy was an aged, battle-scarred person.
2. He was writing from prison.
3. He was not far from martyrdom.
4. The letter takes on the character of a warm personal letter.
5. Paul's purpose is to keep Timothy on the track.

6. Outline.

- a. Get hot.
- b. Endure hardness.
- c. Keep on the track.

II. Paul's relentlessness shows up throughout the letter. Nothing stops him.

A. Many Christian workers are at the end of their rope.

B. If your spirit is up, you can go through almost anything. If your spirit is down, who can bare it?

III. It is good to reminisce in the Lord's work so that one does not forget what he has experienced in the Lord. (Deuteronomy 4:9)

C. Most do not need new truths, but new obedience to old truths.

D. Believers need to be rekindled for God.

E. Believer's gifts need to be rekindled for God.

1. The speaker came to trust Christ in high school.
2. The founder of the Navigators Dawson Trotman came to help him out in his spiritual development eventually - but originally he had no help.
3. Dawson Trotman became his spiritual father.
4. We all need someone to help us do our best.
5. We ought to consider the value of an individual life out to the crowd that we would pour out into that person.

IV. Feeling adequate.

A. The reason we rekindle the gift is that God gave us a spirit of self control and not timidity.

B. It is right to start out feeling inadequate because one becomes dependent upon God.

C. God has already equipped you with what you need - you only need to rekindle your gift.

D. Everyone has a gift - a special ability to do what God has required. It is no compliment to the Lord to say one has no gift.

E. Every gift is different - they are not for comparison.

F. Gifts can die down.

G. Timidity is the habit of being affected by fear.

1. Timidity manifests itself in shame, which is to suffer a painful emotion of disgrace.
2. Power is the anecdote to answer in Jesus' name. This has to do with authority. Power is the strength to stand in the name of Jesus and witness.
3. Power and witnessing involve suffering.
4. Love manifests itself in a willingness to suffer for others.
5. Suffering is the price of leadership in the Lord's work.
6. We are to take our share of suffering and welcome it.

Application questions

1. What does it mean to be rekindled for the Lord? How does this occur?

2. How can feeling inadequate be a positive thing?

3. Have you carried suffering in your life with a positive attitude? Why is it important to do so?
