

**“Courageous Christianity”**  
Letters to Timothy — Part 11  
*2 Timothy 1:1-7*

***What would you do for God  
if you knew you couldn't fail?***

**Background:**

- Paul's situation had drastically changed.
- He remained strong in the midst of a collapsing civilization.
- This was Paul's last letter.
- Paul was passing the mantle of leadership.
- Paul desired to see Timothy one last time.

**1. The importance of the message.**

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
2 Timothy 1:1-2

- Why would Paul identify himself as an apostle to Timothy?
- What is the “*promise of life*” in Christ?
- Why did Paul add the unique blessing of mercy to Timothy?

**2. A unique perspective.**

*I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.*  
2 Timothy 1:3-4

- **Gratitude**—is the first prerequisite of encouragement.
- **Service**—The primary purpose of service is worship.

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ...*  
Ephesians 6:7

- **Clear conscience**—What did Paul mean? Had he always done what was right?

**3. A compliment and encouragement.**

*I have been 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.*  
2 Timothy 1:5

- Timothy had a heritage of faith.
- Paul declares, “I have no doubt you are a man of faith!”

#### 4. God’s gift to Timothy.

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. 2 Timothy 1:6

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 1 Timothy 4:14

- “*fan into flame*” - this pictures a man placing dry tender on a glowing coal.

#### 5. Timothy’s power for ministry.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

***Competency for ministry never arises from the minister.  
It is always the result of the Holy Spirit at work!***

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

***Ministry is not about the one ministering—  
ministry is always about the Word of God!***

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; ... 1 Thessalonians 5:19

**Application:** What work has God given you to do? What are the spiritual gifts He has equipped you with to accomplish that work? When you use your spiritual gifts, you literally unleash the truth and set it free to work in the church and the world. If you are not using your spiritual gifts, then you are wasting your life.

**Action step:** Talk to your small group leader, your ministry leader where you are serving in the church, your spouse, or your youth pastor leader, and ask him or her how they see God’s gifting in your life?