

Letters to Lead By

2 TIMOTHY 1:1–7

FIRST DAY: Introduction

What will be the legacy that you leave? What can you pass down that will enable others to resist the spirit of fear and operate in the spirit of power, love, and soundness of mind?

Paul, knowing that his execution was imminent, wrote Timothy a very personal letter. This second epistle to Timothy was Paul's last will and testament to his beloved son in the faith. In this last letter, Paul sought to leave Timothy with a strong reminder of what he had already been given: the power of faith, the Spirit of God, and the Word of God. These divine elements would sustain Timothy through the terrible ordeal of Paul's execution and equip him with all he would need to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Paul began this final letter by reminding Timothy of:

- the power and purpose of God's call upon his own life
- the gifts of God through Jesus
- his personal love, concern, and faith in Timothy
- the gift of God latent in Timothy

Paul reminded Timothy of the great faith that had been passed down to him from his mother and grandmother, which was the same faith that Paul had received from his forefathers. Furthermore, Paul encouraged Timothy that God had given him spiritual gifts, as well as power, love, and soundness of mind.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have access to the same gifts, Spirit, and Word; they sustain us, equip us, and empower us through the disillusionments, hardships, and sorrows of life. Greater still, this same legacy of faith (held by the forefathers, Timothy's grandmother and mother, Paul and Timothy) is ours to hold and pass down to others, that they may receive the same sustenance, perseverance, and power to be ministers of Jesus Christ in a dark and dying world.

Pray that God would give you a legacy of faith to give to others.

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Timothy 1:1–2

1. While awaiting his imminent execution, Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy from a Roman prison. Use his introduction in 2 Timothy 1:1 to record the following:

- a. How he identified himself

- b. *By* what means he had obtained his calling (verse 1b)

- (1) Why was this essential to Paul's calling?

- (2) Why is this essential to your calling? See also Matthew 7:21.

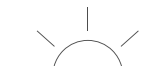
- c. What he was called *according to* (verse 1c)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Greek word for *will* is *thelema* and is used almost exclusively of God and refers to His preferred will or choice.

- (1) In light of Paul's impending execution, why is this so fitting?
2. How did Paul identify Timothy? 2 Timothy 1:2a
- a. Compare this with 1 Timothy 1:2a. What do you see?
3. In 2 Timothy 1:2b, Paul pronounced the same blessing over Timothy as in his first letter to him. Print this blessing here.
- a. What strikes you most about this blessing?
- b. Why do you think this blessing deserved repeating?
4. Take a moment to pray Paul's blessing to Timothy over someone in your life.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In his pastoral epistles, Paul added the word mercy knowing pastors need mercy; to churches it was always grace and peace, but to pastors he added mercy.
 –Pastor Chuck Smith

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Timothy 1:3–4

1. Paul opened this letter to Timothy on a personal note. Use 2 Timothy 1:3 to remark on Paul's:

- a. Gratitude

- b. Service

- (1) Paul linked his service to God with that of his *forefathers*. Use Acts 24:14–16 to briefly describe this service.

- c. *Prayers*

2. Use the following phrases from 2 Timothy 1:4 to describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy:

- a. *Greatly desiring to see you*

- b. *Mindful of your tears*

- c. *Filled with joy*

- (1) Recalling Paul's imminent execution, why do you think seeing Timothy would be especially joyful for him?

3. How does Paul's earnest care for Timothy minister to you?

4. Take a moment to pray for someone whose tears (struggles) you are mindful of.

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 1:5–6

1. As Paul continued his personal sentiments to Timothy, what quality did he *call to remembrance* about him? 2 Timothy 1:5a
 - a. The Greek word for *genuine* means *without hypocrisy, unfeigned*. Why is this an essential mark of *faith*?
 - (1) Use 1 Peter 1:6–7 to underscore how faith acquires this quality.

2. According to 2 Timothy 1:5b, who were the influencers for Timothy's *faith*?

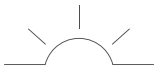
a. The legacy of faith from these two women was passed down to Timothy. How does this showcase the godly influence a woman can have?

b. Link this with the following Scriptures to comment on the marks of a godly legacy:

(1) Deuteronomy 11:19–21

(2) Psalm 78:4–7

(3) Proverbs 31:28–31



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Greek word for grandmother, *mamme*, is used only once in the New Testament and, like the word *momma*, is a term of endearment.

(a) What do you desire to leave to the next generation?

c. Use 2 Timothy 3:14–15 to describe how Lois and Eunice passed this legacy to Timothy.

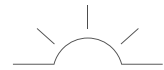
3. According to 2 Timothy 1:5c, what was Paul's persuasion concerning Timothy?
 - a. How does this further attest to the legacy of faith?

4. Paul then reminded Timothy to *stir up the gift of God*. The Greek word for *stir up* is *anazopureo*, which means *to kindle* or *to keep in full flame*. Where did Paul say this gift was? 2 Timothy 1:6a
 - a. What does this suggest to you concerning God's gifts to us?

 - b. Link this with Paul's previous exhortation in 1 Timothy 4:14. What do you see?
 - (1) Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy to do this?

5. To lay *hands* on someone was to confer authority or power to them (2 Timothy 1:6b). Observe that Timothy's *gift* had been given to him when Paul laid *hands* on him. How does this punctuate Paul's exhortation?

6. Ask God to *stir up* in you the gifts He has given.



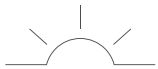
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God graciously gives His gifts to us. Sometimes we need other believers to recognize and affirm our gifts. In the same way, we should acknowledge and affirm the spiritual gifts we see in others.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Greek word for *sound mind* is *sophronismos*, and appears in the Bible only in 2 Timothy 1:7.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Selfishness leads to fear because, if we are selfish, we are interested only in what we will get out of serving God, and we will be afraid of losing prestige, power, or money. True Christian love, energized by the Spirit, enables us to sacrifice for others and not be afraid. The Spirit produces love.¹
—Warren Wiersbe

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Timothy 1:7

1. Paul wrote that *God has not given us a spirit of fear*. The Greek word for *fear* is used to connote cowardice or a person who fled from battle. Why do you think it is essential that believers remember that such a *spirit* is *not given* to us from God?
 - a. Accordingly, why do you think a *spirit of fear* would inhibit Timothy from using the spiritual gift God had given him?
 - (1) How might the *spirit of fear* inhibit a believer today from exercising his spiritual gift?
 - b. Link 2 Timothy 1:7a with Romans 8:15. What do you see?

2. Rather than the *spirit of fear*, use the following chart to explore the *spirit* God has *given us*:

A SPIRIT OF ...	SCRIPTURES	YOUR INSIGHTS
<i>Power (dynamis)</i>	Proverbs 28:1 Acts 1:8; 4:31 1 Corinthians 2:4–5	
<i>Love (agape)</i>	Romans 5:5 Galatians 5:22a 1 John 4:18–19	
<i>Sound mind (self-control, discipline)</i>	Galatians 5:23	

3. Considering your study today, why is it essential, as believers, to remember that God has given us the spirit of:

a. *Power*

b. *Love*

c. *A sound mind*

- (1) Take a moment to pray and ask God to fill you with the power of His Spirit.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Paul's second letter to Timothy was even more personal in tone than his first letter. From 2 Timothy 1:1–7 note and remark on the personal element you see in:
 - a. Paul's greeting (verses 1-2)
 - b. Paul's gratitude (verse 3a)
 - c. Paul's prayers (verse 3b)
 - d. Paul's desire (verse 4)
 - e. Paul's remembrance (verse 5)
 - f. Paul's exhortation (verses 6–7)
2. From your study this week, how are you inspired by the examples of:
 - a. Lois and Eunice
 - b. Paul
3. Take a moment to pray for this next generation that they may not have *a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*