

Giving 100% 2 Timothy 1
2 Timothy 1: Introduction

“Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they’ve got a second.”

– William James, American Philosopher

- This chapter – in fact, this whole letter – can be seen as a half-time pep talk from the apostle Paul.
- Timothy had seen a lot of the Christian life.
- He had seen lives transformed and miracles happen.
- He had also seen lives destroyed by sin and hypocrisy.
- His spiritual father, mentor and coach was now languishing in prison awaiting his impending death.

- There were plenty of temptations to take the easy way out.
- But a life worth living is never a life of ease.
- Nobody wins the game by giving up.
- Nobody is ever inspired by the biography of someone who gives nothing, accomplishes nothing and inspires no one.
- In fact, no one ever writes that person’s biography.

- In Paul’s last letter to Timothy we find encouragement to face the challenges that the world sends our way.
- If Timothy was to finish well, he would need to give 100% - not hold anything back.
- This life is the only chance we have to make a difference for Jesus.
- How are we going to spend it?

2 Timothy 1: Outline

1. Stir Up the Gift. 1:1-7
2. Do Not Be Ashamed. 1:8-12
3. Hold Fast the Pattern. 1:13-18

Stir Up the Gift 1:1-7

- 1:3 tells us that Paul remembered Timothy in his prayers night and day.
- He was in prison at this time and must have been praying even more than usual.
- Jot down the names of at least three people that you should be praying for regularly.
- Then do me a favor and add me to that list.

- 1:5 **genuine faith** = “un-hypocritical faith”. Their faith was the real thing.
- This is a great case of faith being passed down from one family member to another.
- There may not be a sure-fire trick to influencing family members for Christ – especially our kids.
- Lack of hypocrisy is as good a place as any to start.

- Think of the people that influenced you early in your Christian life.
- What was it that impressed you about them?
- Who do you presently have the opportunity to influence in their walk with the Lord?
- What can you do to encourage them?

- 1:6 **Stir up the gift that is in you.**
- God gave Timothy a very specific gift.
- We don't know what it was, but Paul simply encouraged him to use it.
- We have to use our spiritual gifts too.
- Try different things until you find something that works well for you.
- Then do that again. And again. And again.
- 1:7 **spirit of fear** We should remember not to be intimidated.
- God has given us everything we need to serve Him well:
 - Supernatural power or ability.
 - Self-sacrificing, others-centered *agape* love
 - A sound mind, self-control or self-discipline

Do Not Be Ashamed 1:8-12

- Paul did not view his suffering as a hindrance to his ministry or a thwarting of God's plan for his life.
- He believed that God was working out His purpose and grace in the midst of – and perhaps even by means of – his difficult circumstances.
- In the midst of severe persecution self-preservation can become a high priority.
- Picture Timothy's situation:
 - The faith he had committed his life to was unpopular among the elite classes at this time.
 - His Savior was killed as a common criminal.
 - His mentor Paul was presently in prison and awaiting execution.
- Not only should Timothy not be ashamed, Paul now takes it one step farther: "Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel."
- We have to trust that God will give us the grace to face every obstacle and all forms of opposition – and still remain faithful – even if it means suffering and death.
- 1:12 **nevertheless I am not ashamed**
- Paul believed that his salvation and his ministry were both so valuable that they were worth any amount of suffering he might have to endure.
- See also:
 - **Romans 1:16**
 - **1 Peter 4:16**
 - **1 John 2:28**

Hold Fast the Pattern 1:13-18

- 1:13 **sounds words** = "healthy words"
- Paul had passed on to Timothy a message that would ensure the spiritual health of those who would accept it.
- Timothy was not to alter that message – but rather to hold it fast, maintain it, not let go of it at any cost or for any reason.
- He was to rely on the Holy Spirit's power to do this rather than his own. (See v.14)

- 1:15-18 We might imagine that the early church was full of only spiritual people who always remained faithful to God and one another in the face of adversity.
- The truth is many did not.
- **Phygellus** and **Hermogenes** are examples of those who distanced themselves from Paul when things began looking difficult.
- Apparently **all those in Asia** did the same.
- Paul poured out his life ministering in Asia for at least three full years.
 - (See Acts 19 & 20:17-38)
- Timothy was left there to take over the church and its extensive ministry.
- Now, near the end of his life, all those in Asia had turned away from him. How would you feel in Paul's position?
- **Onesiphorus** was different.
- What can we learn from his example?
- He was often an encouragement to Paul
- He was not ashamed of the legal troubles that Paul endured for the sake of the gospel.
- He went out of his way to encourage Paul when he was in Rome.
- This was typical of him back in Ephesus.
- Think of a few people who need encouragement in their ministries.
- Jot down the names of these people.
 - Missionaries
 - Friends
 - Someone you haven't contacted in a long time.
- Now write down something you can do to encourage them.

2 Timothy 1: Conclusions

- Once again, here are the three orders that Paul gave to Timothy:
 - Stir up the gift (1:6-7)
 - Do not be ashamed (1:8)
 - Hold fast the pattern (1:13)
- **Stir up the gift.**
- Perhaps you feel like God hasn't been using you lately.
- It might be time to get in there and serve Him in some tangible way (again).
- God primarily uses our spiritual gifts whenever we use our spiritual gifts.
- That's just how spiritual gifts work.
- **Do not be ashamed.**
- Is there a time or place in which you regularly get timid about your relationship with the Lord?
- When you regularly backpedal on your witness?
- What would it take to show that you are not ashamed of Jesus in that situation?
- Do that. Say that. Don't be ashamed.
- **Hold fast the pattern.**
- If you have begun wavering in your faith or your walk with the Lord, think back on what it was like to be strong.

- Is there someone you need to encourage?
- Is there something you need to do to get back to that “first love” of Jesus that you once had?
- What do you need to do to give 100% right now?

- There will always be plenty of temptations to take the easy way out.
- But a life worth living is never a life of ease.
- Nobody wins the game by giving up.
- Nobody is ever inspired by the biography of someone who gives nothing, accomplishes nothing and inspires no one.
- In fact, no one ever writes that person’s biography.

- We’ve just heard some encouragement to boldly face the challenges that the world sends our way.
- If Timothy was to finish well, he would need to give 100% - not hold anything back.
- You and I are going to have to do the same.
- This life is the only chance we have to make a difference for Jesus.
- How are we going to spend it?

- One last time:
 - Stir up the gift (1:6-7)
 - Do not be ashamed (1:8)
 - Hold fast the pattern (1:13)
- Jesus Christ held nothing back for you.
- You owe him 100%.

Romans 1:16(NKJV)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

1 Peter 4:16(NKJV)

Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

1 John 2:28(NKJV)

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.