

1. Next week's LifeLine is 1 Peter 2:9.
2. Who will be here on Halloween?

## LifeLines October 24, 2022

### Today's Scripture: 2 Verses

#### 2 Timothy 1:6-7

**For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands: for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power & of love & self-discipline.**

#### WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

#### CONTEXT

This letter, unlike 1 Timothy, was probably written when Paul was in prison in Rome facing death. Many of his friends had abandoned him. He knows his execution is drawing near. Timothy was his faithful "child," & Paul longed to express his love, bless & encourage him & strengthen him even as he warned him of probable trials ahead. This is like Paul's farewell address to Timothy who is ministering in Ephesus, probably in the midst of heresy (opposing opinions & beliefs).

In most of his letters, Paul addressed the churches & their short-comings or needs. This letter was personal. Timothy was young, probably a little timid & intimidated by the people he was trying to influence with the gospel, & he was discouraged. In previous verses Paul tried to strengthen Timothy & encourage him. Paul said he remembered Timothy's tears, & he knows his faith. Paul loved Timothy, & he wanted to motivate him to be bold. He wanted to build Timothy up to endure & encourage others to do the same. Paul reminded Timothy of his godly heritage - the role models Timothy had in his mother, Eunice, & grandmother, Lois, women both strong in the faith.

## **DIFFERENT VERSIONS**

### **NKJV**

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power & of love & of a sound mind.

### **NLV**

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear & timidity, but of power, love, & self-discipline.

### **MSG (vs 5-7)**

That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith - & what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, & now to you! And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you & prayed – keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with His gifts, but bold & loving & sensible.

### **TLB**

This being so, I want to remind you to stir into flame the strength & boldness that is in you, that entered into you when I laid my hands upon your head & blessed you. For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise & strong, & to love them & enjoy being with them. (What a wonderful blessing to pray over your child or grandchild!)

### **NIV**

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. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love & self-discipline.

### **AMP**

That is why I remind you to fan into flame the gracious gift of God, (that inner fire – the special endowment) which is in you through the laying on of my hands (with those of the elders at your ordination). For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but (He has given us a spirit) of power & of love & of sound judgment & personal discipline (abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind & self-control).

## GNT

For this reason I remind you to keep alive the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, His Spirit fills us with power, love & self-control.

## SELAH

### BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

*For this reason I remind you...* To bolster Timothy's courage, Paul wanted to remind Timothy he had a lot to be thankful for - his background, the faith of his mother & grandmother, everything Timothy had learned & what the two of them had endured & accomplished together. Have you ever needed to be reminded or encouraged in this way? Being reminded of what Christ has done for us in the past is a good exercise.

*to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands...* (Fans of The Chosen will like knowing that the term "rekindle" means "to stir up" in addition to "fan into flames.") What a great way to encourage someone rather than say, "You need to be bolder!" The Spirit was conferred on Timothy at his ordination in Lystra, his home. Paul wanted Timothy to keep the flame of that sacred fire burning in spite of his (Paul's) imminent death. Paul was aware that Timothy was dispirited, uncertain & struggling in the face of carrying on with the tasks bequeathed to him. Paul reminded Timothy that God's gift of the Holy Spirit was already in him, & along with that gift were *all the gifts* of the Holy Spirit.

God has placed gifts inside us, too, but He still needs us to cooperate with desire & will to fulfill His purposes in us. We can't wait passively in the wings for God to use us. God may be waiting for us to "stir up" the gifts He's already placed in us.

*for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice...Or fear!* Fear (False Evidence Appearing Real) forgets that God is God! Paul reminded Timothy that his timidity was *not* a spirit from the God he served! We now have a spirit of courage. This Spirit will help us meet any difficulties or dangers.

*but rather a spirit of power...* The word 'but' prepares us to hear what kind of spirit God *did* give. We use the power of the Spirit to face whatever life brings. This power can change the way we act & react. God's power helps us face

what must be faced. (This reminds me of some of the testimonies shared in LL last week.) This power is the power needed to be effective in His service. There are lots of great verses about the Spirit of God in us!

*& of love...* God's enduring love is an amazing resource. His love & loving Presence carry us through opposition & difficult situations. The spirit of love can also indicate a spirit of sacrifice. This is love that gives us the right heart toward God & others. Most of us understand something about the spirit of loving sacrifice. (Anything you want to share?)

*& self-discipline...* Self-discipline & self-control are the ability to act on God's will by doing what He calls us to do through sound reasoning, not by flying off the handle or making excuses. It reveals the "me" we want to be in any situation. Discipline reflects a secure, sound mind. Spirit-empowered discipline & control reflect or can create a biblically ordered life where we learn to apply God's Word to every situation. This is discernment. The discipline of a sound mind enables us to live every part of our lives according to His will. Versions that use the term "sound mind" offer a great contrast to the panic mode & confusion of a fearful mind or a mind *not* stayed on Christ. A sound mind surrenders to the control of the Holy Spirit.

The power, love & discipline spoken of above come only from God, & every genuine believer possesses these God-given resources. Fear & timidity prevent us from using the gifts God has given us. Remember who it is that comes to kill, steal & destroy!

**SELAH**

## **RELATED VERSES**

Joshua 1:9, I hereby command you: Be strong & courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Psalms 46:10, "Be still, & know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

Isaiah 11:2, The spirit of the Lord shall rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom & understanding, the spirit of counsel & might, the spirit of knowledge & the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:29, He gives power to the faint, & strengthens the powerless.

Isaiah 41:10, ...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My victorious right hand.

Luke 10:19, See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes & scorpions, & over all the power of the enemy; & nothing will hurt you.

Acts 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

Acts 6:6, They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed & laid their hands on them.

Romans 5:5, ...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 8:15, For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. (To what things do we become slaves?)

1 Corinthians 14:20, Brothers & sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults.

1 Corinthians 16:10, If Timothy comes, see that he has nothing to fear among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord just as I am;

2 Corinthians 10:3-4, Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Ephesians 1:3, Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:19, ...and (that you may know) what is the immeasurable greatness of His power for us who believe, according to the working of His great power. God put this power to work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, & seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:20-21, Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church & in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever & ever. Amen.

Ephesians 6:10, Finally, be strong in the Lord & in the strength of His power.

2 Thessalonians 3:3, But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you & guard you from the evil one.

1 Timothy 4:14, Do not neglect the gift that is in you (public reading of scripture, exhorting & teaching), which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

Titus 2:6, Likewise urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Hebrews 11:6, And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists & that He rewards those who seek Him.

1 Peter 1:13, Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed.

2 Peter 1:3, His divine power has given us everything needed for life & godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory & goodness.

1 John 4:1, Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

## **SUMMARY**

If we ever feel hesitant, afraid, intimidated, discouraged, we must remind ourselves of the Spirit of God within us. When we remind ourselves of this gift, we must do so with gusto – fanning it into a flame! This is the same Spirit & power that raised Christ from the dead! It lives in us! There is no fear in God's Spirit. His Spirit is ours. He's given the Holy Spirit to us. God's own

Spirit gives us power, love, a sound mind, & self-discipline to do what lies ahead.

Fear is still a driving force for many in the world. It's one of the devil's favorite devices to confuse our minds, cause irrational thoughts, misunderstandings, & turn us from the will of God. How often do we call on the Spirit? Invite Him to guide & guard us? Comfort us? We stand with the power of God on our side, in our lives, in us.

*Let this verse be a **LifeLine** for you!*

*Let's Continue Learning!*

**SCRIPTURE IS OUR –**

***LifeLine!***

References: [bible.com](http://bible.com); [inspiritencourage.com](http://inspiritencourage.com); [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com); [bibleref.com](http://bibleref.com); [media.faith-bible.net](http://media.faith-bible.net); [enduringword.com](http://enduringword.com); [crossway.org](http://crossway.org); [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com); [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org); [christianity.com](http://christianity.com); [openbible.info](http://openbible.info);