

THEME: God wants more for you than just a lifestyle of leisure.

OPENING REMARKS: It's not very often that a pastor has the opportunity to preach on his favorite verse in the entire Bible, but that is indeed the case for me today. My favorite Bible verse is 2 Timothy 1:7 (*"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."*)

But today's message will be about so much more than discussing our favorite Bible verses. As we dive into 2 Timothy 1:3-7, we're going to be pushed out of our comfort zones and reminded to abandon the pursuit of leisure and begin living more emphatically for God's glory. We're going to be seeing the apostle Paul remind and push and exhort his protege Timothy to pick up the pace in ministry. It is a powerful reminder for us as well to stop slacking and turn off the cruise control. To do what God has called us to do and not hold back. To go "all in" and stop playing it safe. To not be fearful, or timid, or even wasteful in fulfilling the ministry that God has uniquely and supernaturally gifted you for.

It's the kind of Bible passage that steps on your toes. You can't walk away from a passage like this and not feel the push to be used by God more directly. It's a call to remember what you're here for; why you're still alive on this floating ball of dirt. It's a not-so-subtle reminder that the *American Dream of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness* is unlikely to ever be God's call for a Christian. God wants more from us, desires more from us, and demands more from us. "Cruise control" in non-optional behavior for God's child. He saved you, gave you spiritual gifts at the moment of your salvation, and provided specific ministries in which you are to exercise those gifts for the benefit of other people. There is no time for dillydallying or for leisure or for mediocrity in ministry. Human souls are to be our currency! Jesus died for *others*. God could not be more serious about your ministry ... and so we need to take them just as seriously as well.

FYI... I've been preaching this message to myself over and over again for many weeks now — leading up to this moment — and so now I finally get the chance to encourage YOU to excel even more, to both grow up and mature up, and to stop straddling the fence of indecision. So, buckle up buttercup...because God wants more for you than just a sugar-coated lifestyle of comfort, ease, and worldly pleasure. Are you ready? I hope so...because God doesn't play games!

READ: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

MAIN POINTS:

- I. Spiritual Leadership is OBSERVANT - (vs.3-6; various words)
 - II. Spiritual Leadership is MULTI-GENERATIONAL - (vs.5)
 - III. Spiritual Leadership is AGGRESSIVE - (vs.6)
 - IV. Spiritual Leadership is POWERED BY GOD - (vs.7)
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I. Spiritual Leadership is OBSERVANT - (vs.3-6; various words)

Remember, Recall, Mindful, Remind

A. "I constantly REMEMBER you" - (vs. 3)

- "constantly" refers to something unceasing, without interruption.
- 1. "I thank God" - (vs.3)
- 2. "whom I serve with a clear conscience" - (vs.3)
- 3. "in my prayers night and day" - (vs.3)
 - QUOTE: "*There is no better way to motivate other believers to consider their accountability to be faithful and to move their hearts in service of Christ than to continually hold them up before the Lord in prayer—and tell them of it.*"

B. "even as I RECALL your tears" - (vs. 4)

- 1. "longing to see you" - (vs.4)
 - "longing" - means intense desire or yearning for.
- 2. "so that I may be filled with joy" - (vs.4)

C. "For I am MINDFUL" - (vs. 5)

- 1. "of the sincere faith within you" - (vs.5)
 - "sincere" - ('*anupokritos*') - negative prefix before word for 'hypocrite'
- 2. "and I am sure that is in you as well" - (vs.5)

D. "for this reason I REMIND you" - (vs.6)

II. Spiritual Leadership is MULTI-GENERATIONAL - (vs.5)

5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.

A. "the way my forefathers did" - (vs. 3)

- refers to patriarchs, prophets, and Old Testament saints

B. "which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois" - (vs.5)

C. "and your mother Eunice" - (vs.5)

D. "and I am sure that is in you as well" - (vs.5)

III. Spiritual Leadership is AGGRESSIVE - (vs.6)

6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

A. "to kindle afresh" -

- literally means: *"to keep the fire alive"*
- Said negatively: 1 Thessalonians 5:19 *"Do not quench the Spirit"*

B. "the gift of God" -

- "gift" ('*charisma*') - special expression of grace; like a "grace gift"
- "gift" is singular; not plural -
 - 1 Peter 4:10 *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*
- Not only preaching and teaching, but "the work of an evangelist" (2 Tim 4:5).

C. "which is in you" -

D. "through the laying on of my hands" -

- 1 Timothy 1:18 *"This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight"*
- 1 Timothy 4:14 *"Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery."*

IV. Spiritual Leadership is POWERED BY GOD - (vs.7)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

A. "For God has not given us" -

- Consider your divine resources! - MY FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE
- "has not given" - aorist indicative; showing past completion.

B. "a spirit of timidity" -

- "timidity" - means 'fear' (ESV); timid, cowardly, shameful fear that is generated by a weak, selfish character.
- Greek word for "timidity" ('*deilia*') - used only here in New Testament.
 - Carries more of a negative meaning than '*phobia*' (fear).

C. "but of power" -

- '*dunamis*' - great force or energy; English words: dynamic and dynamite.
- '*dunamis*' - Has the idea of effective, productive energy; not raw or unbridled or uncontrollable.

D. "and love" -

- '*agape*' - volitional and selfless love that desires and works for the best interests of the loved one.
- Romans 5:5 "*the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*"

E. “and discipline” -

- ESV renders this word “self-control”
- literally: secure and sound mind; self-controlled, disciplined, a properly prioritized mind.
- Romans 12:3 *“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”*

THEME: **God wants more for you than just a lifestyle of leisure.**

SEVEN (7) POINTS OF APPLICATION:

1. **Every Paul needs a Timothy and every Timothy needs a Paul.** - (Christian discipleship is for every believer!)
2. **A Christian stuck on "cruise control" is someone who has settled for mediocrity.** - (Are you currently active with your ministry/faith or stagnate?)
3. **Disciple-makers must be committed to remembering, praying for, and encouraging those they are mentoring to excel even more in both faith and ministry.**
4. **The faith you obediently and passionately live out today will have significant impact on future generations of believers.**
5. **From time to time, all of us need to kindle afresh the gift of God in us.** - (QUESTION: On a scale of 1 - 10, how are you doing at fulfilling God's will for your life at this time?)
6. **There's to be no such thing as a Christian who isn't active in at least one main area of ministry or service to other people.**
7. **If you're living in fear then you're probably too focused on "SELF" and you're not tapping into the power, love, and self-control that God has already given you.**

HOMEWORK:

1. **Pray about and ask at least one mature Christian you know to mentor you in the faith.**
2. **Pray for the person God would have you mentor, and ask God to bring that person into your life with this very purpose in mind.** (iron sharpens iron)