



OPEN

In every genuine believer is the gift of God – the living presence of the Holy Spirit. But as Paul tells a young Timothy in our text for this week, God’s presence and gifts in us are something we must tend to and ‘fan into flame.’ Timothy is one of the most talked about figures in the New Testament. His journey of being changed by Jesus seemed to be less a dramatic moment of change (like that of the forgiven woman in last week’s text) to more of a gradual change. In 2 Timothy 3:15, Paul talks about how Timothy had been taught the Old Testament scriptures from infancy, which prepared him for believing in Jesus. But when he received the ‘gift of God’ through faith in Jesus, the direction of Timothy’s life changed in terms of God directing him to full-time service. How have you been continuing to fan into flame your gifts?

REFLECT

- An ingredient to God’s plan for our life is putting key people in our life. Who are those people in Timothy’s life?
- In verse 7, Paul talks about 3 things the Spirit gives us. What are they and how would you define each as a component or aspect of life in Christ?
- Paul talks about Timothy receiving the gift of God through the ‘laying on of my hands.’ Is this a concept you are familiar with? What do you think Paul means by this?
- In Timothy 3:10-17, list some of the things about following Christ that Paul mentored Timothy in.

DISCUSS

- Timothy’s faith journey appears to be more a kind of gradual change, growing up being taught the scriptures and then at some point coming to faith in Jesus through Paul’s ministry, and then receiving a spiritual gift and calling to ministry. Spend time this week sharing one another’s testimony of coming to Christ. Has yours been gradual like Timothy or a more dramatic ‘before/after’ change? Share and explain.
- Paul and Timothy had a close spiritual friendship. In your journey, who have been the key people in your life that God has used to grow your faith thus far? What was it about them that God used?
- In our text, Paul talks about Timothy receiving a gift of the Holy Spirit through a time of prayer with the ‘laying on of hands.’ Has there been a time when you felt like you received or experienced the Holy Spirit in a time of prayer?
- Paul tells Timothy to ‘fan into flame’ the gift of God within him. What are some ways we can do that. Discuss.

APPLY

- If you know, share what you think are your 1-2 top gifts given by God. Share one way you can use that gift to serve God now, or in the near future.
- Timothy experienced a life-long journey of his life being changed, from ‘infancy’ to being called as a pastor. What is one area of change or growth that God is bringing about in your life right now? What can you do to ‘fan it into flame’?

PRAY

- Ask the Holy Spirit to increase His work in your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to release or activate the gifts of the Spirit in you for the sake of serving Him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for great spiritual power, love, and self-discipline to become a greater witness for Christ.