



Fatherly Encouragement to Continue

WEEK 2

WARM-UP

- What tradition did you learn from your parents that you want to teach your children?
- Tell about something entrusted to you that wasn't yours (e.g., dog, valuable belonging, home). How did this change how you cared for it?
- Have you experienced building a grill fire or bonfire? Did you succeed?

WORD *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God . . .* **2 TIMOTHY 1:8**

(Read also **2 TIMOTHY 1:5-14.**)

Paul went through many hardships as he carried out his mission of preaching the gospel. This was causing people to abandon him and the mission. But relying on God as he went through these trials enabled him to impart valuable lessons to the next generation. He wrote this letter to Timothy, the young leader of the church in Ephesus, encouraging Timothy to stand firm and endure. Sometimes the hardship of pursuing God's mission can deter us from pressing forward. What did Paul tell Timothy, and what can we learn from it?

1 | Timothy received a legacy of faith.

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **2 TIMOTHY 1:5**

Timothy came from a godly family. Paul mentioned that both his mother and grandmother had a *sincere faith* in Christ, and he believed that they had left this legacy to Timothy. Paul called upon this faith to help Timothy endure even if he felt like falling away. Though we don't all have a direct legacy of faith passed to us by our immediate family, we are all recipients of the legacy of faith and obedience passed down through history. Every believer was first told the gospel by someone else. With this faith, we can endure, knowing that our hope is in God. How did you first hear about the gospel?

.....

.....

.....

2 | Timothy received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7

Paul also encouraged Timothy to stand firm because he had the gift of God in him, which was the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is within believers even now, and He is not a spirit of fear, but one of *power and love and self-control*. This is why we can stand firm in troubling times: We have the same Spirit within us, and He is not a spirit of fear. How has the gift of the Spirit helped you endure? How can you fan this into flame?

.....

.....

.....

3 | Timothy received a calling to preach the gospel.

⁹. . . *who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began . . .* ¹⁴*By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.* **2 TIMOTHY 1:9, 14**

Paul reminded Timothy that he had been saved by God's grace and called for His eternal purposes. In verse 14, he admonished Timothy to *guard the good deposit* entrusted to him, *by the Holy Spirit* who dwelt within both of them. We have also been saved by God and called to His mission, and this good deposit, which is the gospel, has been entrusted to us as well. This includes making sure that the gospel is heard and understood by those we preach it to, and that they too will be able to communicate it accurately to others. According to Matthew 28:19, what are we called by Christ to do?

.....

.....

.....

APPLICATION

- We have a well of power to draw from: Even when we've hit rock-bottom, God never will. How can you draw on the bottomless well of God's power every day?
- We are assured that we can preach the gospel through God's power and not our own. Knowing this, what can you do to preach the gospel to family and friends who don't know Christ yet?
- Is there anyone today you might need to encourage? How can you stand by this person in spite of your own challenges?

