



WEEK 1 - FAN YOUR GIFT INTO FLAMES

OVERVIEW

When Paul left Timothy in charge of the big and influential church in Ephesus, it undoubtedly raised eyebrows. "How can a young outsider from Lystra lead here?... He's no replacement for Paul!... etc." Timothy must have been frequently beset by doubts about his abilities or worthiness to shepherd this congregation. However, Paul knew that Timothy had been called to lead in this way and had heard the prophetic words spoken over him by the elders in Ephesus. Thus, he encourages his protégé to remain courageous and remember that his gifts come from God.

As we at Grace look ahead to the next 30 years, it would be easy for us as new members, new volunteers, and new leaders to also fall into doubts and discouragement. "Grace has had such an amazing history. Grace made a name for itself. Who are we to build on such a strong foundation?" And yet, we have been called to Grace at this time. And God will equip us with the gifts we need to carry on. Let us remember the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline God has given us!

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 and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 2 Timothy 1:5-14.

1. Who could you encourage to fan their gift into flames? Conversely, who encourages you?
2. Do you have a mentor? If not, why not? Share one practical step you could take to pursue a mentoring relationship.
3. Do you have a hard time believing what Paul says in verse 7? Why or why not?
4. Amy suggests that we need all three of these (power, love, and self-discipline) together. Give an example of what could happen if we have one without the other two.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

1. What are some obstacles to living this way?
2. What are the advantages to living this way beginning at a young age? For yourself? For your community? For your world?

When you first came to Grace Church, how did you see God at work? What did you experience that made you want to keep coming back?

RESOURCES

gracechurch.us