

LOVE

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Quiz:

- 1) What year did Paul write 2 Timothy and where did he write it?
- 2) Who was emperor at that time?
- 3) What was Paul's greeting to Timothy?
- 4) One who has been reconciled to God by the 1 of God and by faith can with full confidence know the assurance of the merciful 2 of God in Christ for him/her. Further that person can be convinced that the 3 of God which passes all understanding is the guaranteed gift of God to all who 4. Having been justified by 5, having become one who has been given the gift of the grace and mercy of God, we have 6 with God, a peace that we are given by God only because of the sacrifice that 7 was willing to suffer for us.

Answers:

1) A.D. 66/67 (while in prison in Rome)

2) Nero

3) “To Timothy, *my dear child. Grace, mercy, and peace from God*

the Father and

Christ Jesus our Lord!”

4) grace, love, peace, believe, faith, peace, Jesus.

LOVE

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Romans 5:1 (NLT):

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

In verse 3, Paul begins to encourage Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:3-7 (NLT):

³ *Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.*

⁴ *I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again.*

⁵ *I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.*

⁶ *This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual*

gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

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

Let us also read this passage from “*The Message*,” a contemporary (present day) translation, used only to help us get a better understanding of the passage in language you are more familiar with.

2 Timothy 1:3-7 (MSG):

³ Every time I say your name in prayer—which is practically all the time—I thank God for you, the God I worship with my whole life in the tradition of my ancestors. ⁴ I miss you a lot, especially when I remember that last tearful good-bye, and I look forward to a joy-packed reunion. ⁵ That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! ⁶ And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! ⁷ God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.

Paul becomes very emotional here as he begins speaking with the young man that he loved just as much as he would his own son.

You may have noticed in your study of the epistles (letters) that Paul always finds reasons to be thankful to God, no matter how discouraging the circumstances with which he may be battling. In spite of the fact that he had

long years of hard struggle and suffering behind him and was most likely facing an early execution, he still feels gratitude toward God. Paul was satisfied with the things he had accomplished for his God and Savior, and rightfully so.¹

1 Timothy 1:3:

I am thankful to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did,³ when I remember you in my prayers as I do constantly night and day.⁴

Paul certainly seems to be speaking here of the fact that the faith that is required of both Paul and Timothy is the same faith that was required by their forefathers in Old Testament times. Paul had been instructed in this faith and hope from the time he was a young boy, just as his forefathers had been before him. It was true that Paul had done a terrible thing by persecuting the Christians and blaspheming Christ and the Christian religion. But, as he himself said, this attitude had been due to ignorance. You see, before his conversion on the Damascus Road, Paul believed sincerely in a Messiah that would come at some future date, but he considered Jesus to have been a

¹ Ibid.

false messiah, and those who believed in and followed Him to be teaching a lie. So Paul's dedication to serving God had been performed with a pure conscience and sincere faith, foolish as it was in view of the fact that Jesus was the real Messiah and Paul was persecuting the very God he sincerely believed he was serving. Paul offers this as an explanation, not as an excuse.

2 Timothy 1:4

*As I remember **your tears**, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.*

Probably refers to Timothy's tears when Paul left him to journey to Macedonia. Shows that Timothy truly loved Paul, and by what we can piece together here, Timothy could have been very dependent on Paul.

Paul continues by expressing his love for Timothy and stating that he keeps him in prayer continually. His heart was filled with longing to see his young friend, especially since he could not get rid of the memory of the tears which Timothy had shed at their last meeting.

Acts 20:36-38 (NLT):

[Paul is speaking]

³⁶ *When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them.*

³⁷ *They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye.*

³⁸ *They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.*

This deep feeling that Paul and Timothy had for one another expresses what love is all about, and we hope you will carry this thought with you always:

If you don't love someone more than yourself, you cannot experience what true love is.

The difficult ministry in which Timothy found himself was making him feel inadequate to the task. His inexperience was raising doubts in his mind as to whether he could continue. Paul refers to it as “*faint-heartedness*.” As Paul thought of this last good-bye and of the fact that he had not been able to see Timothy since that time, he began feeling a loneliness as he thought of the young man he loved as if he were his own son. As Paul thanked God for

Timothy he allowed his mind to drift back to remember Timothy's mother, Eunice, and her mother, Lois, Timothy's grandmother, both of whom were faithful women of God, and he saw that same faith in Timothy.

1 Timothy 1:5

I recall your sincere faith that was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am sure is in you.

Paul knew that Timothy's faith was strong and that he desired to serve His Lord. He had the same kind of sincere faith that both his mother and grandmother had. The influence family has on how a child develops is usually a very important factor in their lives as we are reminded of here.

Timothy's mother was a Jewish Christian and so was his grandmother. His father, however, was a Greek and apparently an unbeliever as we are told in Acts 16:1: *"He also came to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but whose father was a Greek.*

1 Timothy 1:6:

*Because of **this** I remind you to rekindle (remember)² God's gift
that you possess through the laying on of my hands.*

The gift from God was the Holy Spirit that came to dwell in Timothy,
giving him the ability to preach the gospel message.

1 Timothy 1:7

*For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love
and self-control.*



Lack of confidence was a problem for Timothy. It is probably the same for
many of us.

Have you ever been afraid? There is no need for fear because God has given
you the Holy Spirit as well. Therefore, whatever happens to you, you can be
assured that He will do what is best for you and provide for your daily needs,

² Parentheses ours.

one day at a time. Now that does not mean that fear will never get the best of you, and if it does, stop whatever you are doing and pray.

1 Corinthians:16:10-11:

Now if Timothy comes, see that he has nothing to fear among you, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I am too. ¹¹ So then, let no one treat him with contempt. But send him on his way in peace so that he may come to me. For I am expecting him with the brothers.

We might paraphrase the above passage in this way: “*Be gentle with Timothy. His feelings are easily hurt.*” Does that sometimes also apply to you? Timothy needed to remember the gift God gave him so that he would not lose sight of the fact that God had generously equipped him for this ministry and Paul had tried to make that fact clear to Timothy. God had given Timothy the ability to teach and the willingness to teach as special evidence of His mercy.

Therefore, Paul felt it his responsibility to remind Timothy of the responsibilities that came with these kinds of special gifts, as it had been transmitted to him through the laying on of Paul's hands at the time of his ordination. Timothy had at that time been given the special ability in every

respect for the administration of the office of pastor. Timothy was to stoke the fire of the gift of grace God had given him and allow it to become a blazing fire, the fire of **faith**, of **love**, of **confidence**, and of **courage** to speak the truth of God's Word in its purest form. The gift God had given Timothy was still in him, but he was strongly being tempted by the enemy (Satan) to neglect it. Timothy needed to call upon the Holy Spirit acknowledging that by and through His power, He could stand strong.³

The Holy Spirit that God has placed in every pastor is not one of timidity, or lack of courage, or of faintheartedness. He has provided pastors with a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. "The true Spirit that should actuate all believers and especially the ministers of the Word is the Spirit of strength and power, of an energy rooted in the omnipotence of God, that knows no fear; the Spirit of love which enables a person not only to offer work freely, but also to make sacrifices for the cause of the Lord;" the Spirit of self-discipline that **enables the Christian pastor to use sound common sense** under all circumstances, to employ that tact and diplomacy which chooses the best methods in all situations and thus gains friends for the Gospel.

³ Ibid.

This is a gift of grace, through the Spirit, and should therefore be found in all men and women that are engaged in the glorious ministry of saving souls, as well as in all believers that recognize their duty of placing their strength and abilities in the service of the Lord.⁴

Gifts are not given as a fully grown mature plant. They are given by God through the Holy Spirit within us as seeds to develop and grow through use.

When a person comes to believe in Christ as their personal Savior, the seed of a spiritual gift is planted within them. If they do not develop it by using it, it will remain just a seed. If, however, they water it, nourish it, and place it in a location where it gets plenty of light (SON-light), they will find that eventually it will grow into what it was created to be.

Do not let the gift within you remain dormant; that would be an insult to God.

Find out what your spiritual gift is and begin using and developing it. I believe that was Jesus' intent in the parable of the three servants.

⁴ Ibid.

Matthew 25:14-30:

¹⁴ *"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.*

¹⁵ *"To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.*

¹⁶ *"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.*

¹⁷ *"In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more.*

¹⁸ *"But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

Sounds like this servant was like the church members who go hide themselves in their churches where they feel safe.

¹⁹ *"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.*

²⁰ *"The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five*

talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

²¹ *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave.*

You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

He developed his seed into the ten talent plant it was designed to be. The second servant developed his seed into the four talent plant it was designed to be.

²² *"Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.'*

²³ *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

²⁴ *"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.*

²⁵ *'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the*

ground. See, you have what is yours.'

²⁶ "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.

²⁷ 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.

²⁸ 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

²⁹ "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

³⁰ "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The third slave stayed a one talent seed and never developed his gifts into the plant God expected him to be. How many talents have you been given? And what are you doing with them?