1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You
3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as ***I remember you*** *constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 As* ***I remember*** *your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 5* ***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.*

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

8 ***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, 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, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (2 Ti 1:1–14). (2025). Crossway Bibles.

> We know from scripture that God's uses difficulties, suffering, opposition, persecution, trials - to perfect us, specifically to perfect or character - *James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. - Peter says - going through trials is like gold being refined through fire - I this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:6-7 - both leaders of the early church says - rejoice when we face trials because it purifies, perfects, completes us - resulting in God being glorified.*

However we know from experience - that trials and difficulties can bring discouragement - scripture also affirms the reality - Peter says "though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials" - trials bring grief - pain, even sadness, sorrow, distress, heaviness of the soul - which can diminish your joy, peace, zeal, confidence - the apostle Paul likes to use the runner metaphor in describing the Christian life - trials can cause you to stumble, fall, slow down, pause, even give up altogether - hence both James and Peter exhorts / encourages us to change our thinking with regards to trials (for it's a mind battle) - so we can rejoice - so we can be "joyful, patient, faithful - even the midst of affliction.

At the heart of our passage today is Paul's encouragement to this young Pastor, Timothy is verse 6 - "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God". This message from his mentor seems to tell us that the spiritual fire of Timothy's zeal and devotion to his calling has cooled down. He's probably discouraged and even fearful in relation to his ministry / service - hence the need for Paul to encourage him in verse 7, Timothy "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" KJV

***What diminished Timothy's spiritual fire and zeal? What factors threatened Timothy's spiritual fervor?** (we don't know for sure, but we can get some hint from the context on what this young Pastor is going through. Remember our message on context - let's go up 2000 ft and look at both 1 and 2 Timothy)*

1 Tim 1:3 - We know Timothy was sent by Paul to the Ephesian Church to stop the propagation of false teachings within the church - they descended into meaningless talk rather than advancing the kingdom of God (btw - in our gatherings, bible studies, even conversation around the table during lunch or lifegroup dinner - always assess your conversations - will this advance God's kingdom?).

However, as we head to Paul's second letter - we begin to see all kinds of difficulties for both Timothy and Paul

- *Some of their ministry companions deserted them - Demas (di-mas), Phygelus (fi-gel-lust), Hermogenes (hermo-gen-niece)(1:15)*
- *Meaningless/godless talk continues within Timothy's church (after being in Ephesus for 2-3 years) and false teachings are still being propagated by some members. (2:16-17) - Paul's tells Timothy - don't worry "The Lord knows those who are his"*
- *There were people who opposed him for selfish reasons (2:23).*
- *Timothy was experiencing persecution within and outside the church (there were impostors within the church)*
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- *Timothy himself was fearful in dealing with these people within the church. ("do not be ashamed", "God did not give a spirit of fear but of power", be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2:1) - his members were prob much older and intimidating - don't let people look down on you because you are young (1 Tim)*
- *In the light of these untrustworthy people in the church, Paul encourages Timothy instead to focus on entrusting God's Word (train) reliable people who can teach others. - Why was this important?*
- *Paul requested Timothy to come to him in Rome - 4:21 Do your best to get here before winter. 4:9 Do your best to come to me quickly - Paul has no other companion except Luke (4:11)*

- *Paul is like a Father to Timothy - in fact Paul calls him his son (1:2) Timothy loved Paul, his imprisonment prob had a negative effect on him, though it inspired many others -*
- *Paul himself who was previously under house arrest, now was in a crowded dungeon, chained as a criminal (2:9) Timothy knows that his mentor's time in limited, Paul is about be put to death soon (4:6)*
- *Even without knowing the specifics - putting yourself in Timothy's shoes, you can see how all these can erode the zeal and spiritual fire of Timothy.*
- *You get some idea on why Paul needed to encourage Timothy… and why we also need this encouragement*

2 Tim 1:3-9

*In our passage today, Paul **reminded young** Timothy of three things to encourage him - (this also applies to us today) and it is the work of the Holy Spirit to "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. - John 16 (will bring to remembrance the teachings of Christ) - our hearts are prone to wander - prone to stray away from God perfect and pleasing will - prone to stray away from the paths of righteousness.*

Indeed - This battle is begins wiith the mind - it not the circumstance that is the source of our discouragement (or encouragement)- its our thinking - we need to learn and remember to see things around us from God's perspective - how do you expalin Paul and Silas in dark Philippian Dungeon - singing praises to God - hence the need to remember…

Remember who you are in Christ

*3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as **I remember you** constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 As **I remember** your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 5 **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.*

Paul, encouraged and reminded Timothy - that I'm constantly praying for you! Paul had the faith that his prayers will move mountains, his appeals before God on behalf of Timothy will be heard. That God, by His power, is going to both grant Timothy the willingness and strength (to overcome … fear, disappointment, and timidity) and the ability to accomplish His good purpose - in midst of tremendous opposition and difficulty.

Timothy remember, you're my son in the faith, and you bring me joy and encouragement. I long to see you which brings me joy. Paul was also encouraged by a man named "Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me" 1:16 - in a broader sense, this is the joy of the fellowship of believers.

Paul reminded him of his sincere, genuine - faith in Christ, which started with Timothy's grandmother, then mother. We know faith can't be inherited - we don't become a Christian by association (by being a member of Christian family). But Timothy's grandmother and mother were instrumental in leading Him to Christ. (a reminder to Christain parents with regards to the impact of your witness and testimony (how you live your life at home) to the faith of a child). - Timothy you're on your side of truth and the Lord is on your side - so there's nothing to fear or be anxious or ashamed about.

1. *Being prayed for and knowing that you are being prayed for is an encouragement. (prayer for one another during your 1:1 discipleship meetup, before and after, practice praying for one another at the end of your lifegroup (if you finish early) - you can group into 3 or 4 - we do this during our prayer meetings, dont be ashamed to come forward for prayer to to approach me of any of our leaders for prayer at the end of our service or during fellowship, don't ashamed to ask for prayers via text msg or FB. - **pray for God's wisdom /perspective - (James) - pray for the desire and ability to accomplish God's purpose/calling - enlist people to pray for you***

2. *The fellowship of believers is a great source of encouragement (that's we are commanded -not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (why? as the return of Christ gets closer, trials, difficulties - called tribulation will*

increase) - however, let each of us make every effort that our fellowship, conversation during lunch fellowship or life group dinner or any gatherings - builds up the body of Christ and his kingdom, building one another in faith and relationship - don't hesitate to correct if there is godless and meaningless talk - gossip, heated discussion about politics

3. *Remember you belong to Christ - if you're on the side of truth and if your intentions are righteous, good, and holy in God's sight - then there is nothing to fear - even if you're being opposed - "Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. - 1 Peter 3:*

Remember what you have in Christ

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

This can both mean the Spiritual Gift (spiritual abilities given to believers - which what saw in most interpretations) or presence of the Holy Spirit. Paul says - timothy - you are gifted with spiurtual abilities throug the laying fo my hands - the very presence of God is in you - through his Spirit - this spirit is a not spirit of fear - which is often the source of our discouragement - but a spirit of power, love and self control.

Fear of death, failure, marred reputation, losing comfort …

Paul, begins this section, with for this reason - because who who you are in Christ - you being prayed for, you have the body of Christ to encourage and equip, above all you being to Christ - fan into flame the gift of God,

- *Keep the fire alive - **So how do we keep the fire alive? another question …***
- ***What's will diminish the Spirit's fire?** - things that will quench the Spirit (like pouring water into fire) 1 Thess 5:19 - do not quench the Spirit (*
- *If you look at surrounding passages - of 1 Thess 5:19*

*12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,[c] encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 **Do not quench the Spirit.** 20 Do not despise prophecies (God's Word), 21 but test everything; **hold fast what is good**. 22 **Abstain from every form of evil.***

Obedience *- fans the flame of the Spirit (abiding in Christ, carrying the cross daily)*
***Disobedience** - quenches*

This does not make sense - looks like circular reasoning - obey to fan the flame, but you fan the flame to obey, That's why Paul began with the reminders to Timothy - this like a bicycle or flywheel - it must have the right starting point, wobble in beginning (may not feel the flame - but it will build up) - the Grace of God, though faith in Christ (we push forward, to gain God's approval of acceptance - but because we are already approved and accepted by God) - we keep moving forward - when a bicycles stops moving forward - you fall, when flywheel stops - it very hard to regain momentum.

We are called to run the race with perseverance - forgetting what is behind, as runner, do not let anything slow you down of stop you - if you fall, rise up quickly (by humility, repentance and confession). Its not busywork or activity - even resting and spending time with Lord - fans the flame.

Remember the the two disdipels walking with Jesus to Emmaus - Luke 24:32 - 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Remember your holy calling in Christ

8 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, 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, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

You have calling and duty/.purpose to fulfill in this life - fulfilling what God has called you can bring the deepest pain - or the highest joy - a topic for another day… - In the workplace, when there are difficulties, we don't give up, in fact we ae paid to sold problems and find solutions even in midst of difficulties and setback, we don't sulk or get depressed at work when the problem is difficult (we call meeting, all hands on deck…) but when it comes to our duty towards God's calling and purpose - we quit and sulk when there's a setback, instead of moving forward and working with other believers.