

Fan Into Flame: Read 2 Tim 1:6-7:

Paul (as his coach/mentor) is urging Timothy to really get hold of the GIFT God has put in him and fan it into flame. **For us** to build a church – to shape this town for God – to reach nations: We need to get hold of the GIFT God has - and will - put into you, and to let it burn hot.

A Gift of Purpose: Starts with “For this reason” what reason?

Our faith is alive, contagious and infectious. If you know Jesus you have something **living** to fan into flame. It may feel like a dull ember – you can still start a fire if you fan it into flame. If we know Jesus our faith is alive – a living saviour – Spirit dwelling in us – WE HAVE SOMETHING TO FAN INTO FLAME

Gift of More

“fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you” Paul – as Timothy’s – Coach, Mentor, Friend, Spiritual Father - wants to bring the best out of Timothy. He knows there’s more in God for Timothy, and that Timothy is “made for more” **We are made for more!** It’s not about starting again, but cultivating what you have already received “kindle afresh” (Message “keep it ablaze”)

****Questions**** Can you look back and see times when you’ve been more on fire for God? Times of more fruitfulness – serving effectively. If so you need to fan into flame the gift of God. (How? Read Heb 12:1)

A Gift with Responsibility

“I remind you” Not your mum – grandmother – your brother etc **but YOU** to do something about it. No use saying – this happened, that happened, nothing happened – **you need** to fan into flame what God has put into you. Parable of the talents: Not judged for what they achieved, but whether they took responsibility.

Bill Hybels: good churches 25% of people know and have fanned their spiritual gifts. Don’t know your gift? Pray, Ask, Step out and serve in it! If our church has gaps, someone needs to step out. **We’re spirit equipped.**

A Gift of God

The word used to mean “Gift of God” elsewhere “spiritual gift” or “Gift” referring to work of Holy Spirit. Also 1 Cor 12:4 - 1 Cor 12:31 - Romans 12:6. Ability from God that takes us past our human ability: many listed in the Bible - 1 Cor 12 and Romans 12. 1 Cor 12:7. Something available to “each one”.

A gift of Grace: The way to translate “Gift of God” is “Grace Gift”

The enabling of the Holy Spirit is not something we **earn or deserve** - It’s something we GET because of the **faith that lives in us**. It not in Timothy because of his goodness, success or anything else, but by God’s love and grace. Paul reinforces this by saying *“in you through the laying on of my hands”* - not you or your effort.

Laying on hands is a sign of commissioning (Acts 6 and 13:3; 1 Tim 5:22) and brings God’s blessing (Jacob->Joseph; Jesus->sick + children), also often associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit: Acts 8:17 and 19:6.

A Gift that isn’t timid: v7 *“the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives power, love and self-discipline.”* The Holy Spirit isn’t just the giver of the gift, **but the gift itself:** Fan into flame the gifting the Holy Spirit gives us - we fan into flame the person and presence of the Holy Spirit. When the spirit of God comes upon us – power, love, self-discipline – fantastic package, they are a complete package not individual items! Do you need those things today? Ask God to fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION - A Gift for you!

Do you need to fan into flame the gift of God in you today? To kindle afresh the gift of God in you today? Have you yet to discover the gift of God to you? Do you need to receive Power - Love - self-discipline today? **Fanning into flame** is an ongoing process. Throwing off hindrances, repentance, changing habits, stepping out, seeking advice. It’s also for here and now. Come to God and ask him to be filled with the Holy Spirit; lay hands on each other – expect God to come and set you ablaze!