FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD

2 Timothy 1:6 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.

Greeting

2 Timothy 1:1&2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle – sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead –

John 10:10b “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Acts 16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

Philippians 2:22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

Grace: unmerited favor (God giving us what we don’t deserve), enabling strength

Mercy: God not giving us what we do deserve

Peace: peace with God through Jesus’ death on the cross, experiencing the peace of God through the work of the Holy Spirit

All three come equally from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. The word translated “Lord” means master and is also the word used to translate *“Yahweh,”* the personal name for God in the Old Testament.

Thanksgiving

2 Timothy 1:3&4 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

I Timothy 1:19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Timothy’s godly heritage came through his mother and grandmother, not his father or his father’s parents. Although it is difficult, a godly woman can raise godly children even though their father is an unbeliever.

Fan into Flame the Gift of God

I Timothy 1:6 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.

“Gift” is *“charisma (plural charismata)”* in Greek referring to a spiritual gift and from which we get our word charismatic. *“Charisma”* is derived from the Greek word *“charis”* which means grace. A spiritual gift is a “grace thing,” given by God to every believer to enable them to serve in the body of Christ.

Romans 12:6a We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

I Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

I Peter 4:10(ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.

We are all commanded to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-21) and as we walk in the Spirit the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:16-26)

Galatians 5:22&23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

But spiritual gifts make us unique, specifically equipping us to do what God wants us to do in the body of Christ, a phrase used to describe all Christians in I Corinthians 12:12-14 and a local group of Christians, a church, in verse 27.

I Corinthians 12:12-14 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts to form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but many.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

I Corinthians 12:15-17 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

I Corinthians 12:18-20 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

I Corinthians 12:21-23a The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.

When Does a Christian Get His or Her Spiritual Gift(s)?

Since every Christian has at least one, every Christian receives a gift the moment they are saved. Other gifts may be added later. I Corinthians 12:31 “Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.” Gifts may be imparted later through the laying on of hands, though that does not seem to be the normal procedure.

I Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. (This and 2 Timothy 1:6 probably refer to the same occasion.)

What Happens if You Neglect Your Gift?

The body suffers because each gift is important.

Your gift stops being like a fire and becomes like a bed of ashes and coals that is ready to die out completely and needs to be stirred or fanned into flame once again. For some reason, Timothy apparently tended to neglect this particular spiritual gift and he was in danger of having that particular gift become useless.

How Do I Discover My Gift(s)?

Ask God to show you something that needs to be done to help others individually or collectively, and then do it.

If you find great joy in serving that way and if others are blessed, you’re headed in the right direction. Don’t be overly concerned about labeling your gift.

Things to Remember

This letter is from the Apostle Paul to his “son in the faith” Timothy.

Timothy had a godly heritage from his mother and grandmother, but not from his father.

Paul’s first admonition to Timothy is to fan into flame a particular spiritual gift that he apparently tended to neglect.

We each have a spiritual gift or gifts that the church needs. Through neglect they can become ineffective, although they are never completely lost. If we have not been using our gift, we need to stir it up, fan it into flame to make it useful once again.

If we have not yet discovered our gift(s), we need to ask God to show us areas where we can serve others and see which areas of service give us joy and bless others.