**2 Timothy 1**

**Intro:** Last week, we finished 1 Timothy.  Today, we will look at the first chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul’s second letter to Timothy.   2 Timothy is the last letter written by Paul, written as he is imprisoned in Rome awaiting his trial.  Timothy was still in Ephesus during the writing of this letter.  Let’s look at how Paul continues to encourage Timothy, his “beloved child” (v. 2), a few years after his previous letter.

**Conversation Starter:**Share about a time when someone encouraged you or when you encouraged someone after not seeing that person for an extended period of time.

**Read 2 Timothy 1.**

1.       Looking over the chapter as a whole, what are Paul’s basic instructions to Timothy?

-          Go over the chapter at a high level.  This is an observation question.

-          Fan into flame the gift of God (v. 6)

-          Join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God (v. 8)

- Keep sound teaching (v.13); guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you (v. 14)

2.       a. What does it mean to “fan into flame the gift of God” (v. 6)?  Why does Paul encourage Timothy to do so?

-          v. 6: “For this reason…” - v. 5 talks about Timothy’s sincere faith. As we have been given the gift of faith, we are called to actively build that gift up.

- Ephesians 2:8: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

- Paul is encouraging Timothy not to be timid but to live in the power that God has given him (v. 7) This is like Paul’s encouragement throughout 1 Timothy (1 Timohty 4:12 – Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity; 1 Timothy 6:20 - Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care…)

- “join with me in suffering for the gospel” (v. 8) – Paul is encouraging Timothy b/c the reality is that there will be opposition to holding firm to the faith and fighting the good faith. It’s only by God’s grace and strength in us that we can suffer for the gospel with joy.

b. What does this look like in your life?

-          Like we talked about last week, lead the group in sharing by being the first to share.

- There will be more time to share in question 4.

- Questions for the group: what are obstacles that we face in fanning the flame? What are positive examples of times you have fanned the flame? When have you seen the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline working in you?

3.       a. What is the “good deposit” Paul tells Timothy to guard?

-          The “good deposit” is the faith / the truth / the sound teaching Paul has given him (v. 13). “Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us” (v. 14)

- Ephesians 1:13-14: And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

b. From this passage, what specific roles does each part of the Trinity play?

    i. God the Father:

* the giver of grace, mercy, and peace, along w/ Jesus (v. 2)
* the giver of the gift of faith (v. 6)
* the giver of a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline (v. 7)
* gives the power to endure suffering (v. 8)
* saved us and called us to a holy life, by his purpose and grace (v. 9)
* shows mercy to us (v. 16, 18)

     ii. Jesus:

* the manifestation of grace (v. 9, 10) – “it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus”
  + Jesus was grace even before time began (v. 9)
  + the appearing of Jesus contrasts the false teachings of Gnosticism that Jesus did not come in the flesh
* destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel
  + v. 11 – Paul was appointed a herald / apostle / teacher by Jesus himself on the road to Damascus; he was blinded by a physical light too.
* we put our faith and love in him (v. 14)

    iii. the Holy Spirit:

* gives of power, love, and self-discipline (v. 7)
* as mentioned above, guards the gift and deposit of faith that God gives us (v. 12, 14)
* he lives in us (v. 14)

4.       In light of this chapter and the previous 1 Timothy Bible studies, focusing especially on the month of August, how can you fan into flame the gift of God and guard the good deposit entrusted to you?  Pray through the passage for yourself and each other.

* Make sure you have enough time to pray for each other.
* Encourage your members to share practical ways they can draw closer to God, but also encourage them to simple ask for the Spirit’s help in this.