

Since this is such a major statement I want us to consider this verse again. If we truly understand what Paul is saying here, our Christian walk can truly be empowered, electrified.

*God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
2 Tim 1:7*

God has not given us a spirit of fear, timidity, cowardice. As one contemporary version states, *God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. Contemporary English Version* All of us face fear in our lives. We have many ways of dealing with it, some deny they are afraid, some acknowledge their fear and as a result just hide out from life. *The lazy person claims, "There's a lion out there! If I go outside, I might be killed!" Proverbs 22:13* So where do feelings of fear come from? The book of Job states, *For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward. Job 5:7* We have trouble in this life, *toil, iniquity, labor, mischief, misery, painful, perverseness.*

toil, i.e. Wearing effort; hence, worry, wheth. Of body or mind -- grievance(-vousness), iniquity, labour, mischief, miserable(-sery), pain(-ful), perverseness, sorrow, toil, travail, trouble, wearisome, wickedness.

Fear and timidity are fleshly ways of facing situations in our lives that we deem beyond our control. We have fear of the unknown, we have fear of change, we have fear of forces in nature and society are beyond our ability to control or overcome. To fear, to be troubled, is natural, the world we are born into is a scary place.

Fear is a natural, powerful, and primitive human emotion. It involves a universal biochemical response as well as a high individual emotional response. Fear alerts us to the presence of danger or the threat of harm, whether that danger is physical or psychological.

As natural persons we do well to be afraid, the world we are born into is dangerous, every day comes with *the threat of harm*. The world is under the control of a mighty foe, Apollyon, the Destroyer. John writes, *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 1 John 5:19* He writes in Revelation of this mighty ruler of the world, *And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon (the angel-prince of the infernal regions), but in Greek he has the name Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). Rev 9:11* We do well, if we truly are Christians, to consider that we have been rescued from a very dark place, the city of the destroyer. Paul wrote that the Colossians needed to recall that Christ *had rescued them from the dominion of darkness. Colossians 1:13 NIV* The dark domain of the devil is the source of fear because it points out our separation from God

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

This is a good reason for us to examine our hearts. Are we going to church and expecting that we are saved because God loves everybody. Attending a church doesn't make us a Christian anymore than being in a garage makes us a car. We need to examine if we truly are a Christian. Has Christ's sacrifice for sin covered our the sin nature, the nature we got from Adam. Look at what Paul says of the Gentiles before they came to Christ. They were separated from Christ, strangers to the promise of redemption, *having no hope and without God in the world*. That is the state of every one of our lives without Christ.

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly

were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Eph 2:11-13

Have we truly been Born Again? In our natural state we children of Adam, we are born into a life of fear. Like helpless sheep we go our merry way, distracted by the world we live in, not considering the true state of our souls, our eternal destiny. *All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. Isaiah 53:6* Because our eternal destiny without Christ is destruction man is naturally afraid. Our hearts from birth are foolish, evil, and fear God's judgement for sin.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. Is 53:6

Foolishness (sin, evil, meaning to be perverse) is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction (discipline of the moral nature), will drive it far from him. Proverbs 22:15

It is good to examine ourselves. Are we truly Christians? Are we trying to live in the flesh, living out a religious life based on our works? Telling ourselves that we are not too bad, not bad enough for God to send us to hell. Drowning the light of the Spirit that would expose our separation from God. Do we desire to live our lives as best we see fit, developing our own standards of right and wrong, our own methods of redemption, good works? Because of our sin natures we want to be our own gods, and in doing that we deny the true God. Psalms 14 states, *The fool (not just dumb person but an evil one) says in his heart. Says in his heart what? There is no God.*

1The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. Psalm 14:1

14Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Heb 2:14-15

How do we deal with fear? We deal with it by coming to Christ. He by His death rendered powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Remember our passage, *God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. 2 Tim 1:7* We cannot claim this passage unless our life is hidden with God in Christ. If we are still living a life independent of God, just being a good person, Christ is not being formed in you. Paul prays, *19My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, Gal 4:19* We need to come out of the kingdom of darkness and begin to live as new creations as children of the light. If we do this we become as Paul writes, *you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. Galatians 4:28* Our minds are, *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col 3:2,3*

If we desire to be in Christ, *our lives are hidden with Christ in God* all of the promises of God are yes and amen, *all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:20* So when Psalmist writes, *When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3* We as born again believers can do that we can trust in God no matter how afraid we are in our flesh, in the Spirit we can trust in God.

We know this because God doesn't give us over to fear, *perfect love casts out fear. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4:18* Think on this truth, *God has not*

given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. 2 Tim 1:7

Instead of fear, doubt and timidity God has given us power, love and self control. This is in the plan of God. Paul wrote the Thessalonians that God gave him boldness to declare the gospel, *after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. 1 Thess 2:2* Paul trusted God to come through, that he wouldn't be ashamed of the gospel, *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have complete boldness, so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. Phil 1:20 Berean Study Bible*

This is not just for our Bible heros but every one of us New Creations. After Moses died Joshua was commissioned to take over and lead God's chosen people into the promised land and *God told him to strong and courageous.*

5 "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous Joshua 1:5,6,

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

As Christians we must stand our ground and know that as God was with Moses He will be with us. The Spirit that raised Christ from the dead will give life to our mortal bodies.

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:11

May God give us *power and love and discipline* in our mortal lives as we strive to live for God's glory.