

“Letters to Timothy” (Part 4)
Pastor Jeff Alexander + October 2, 2016

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

As Paul nears the end of his life, his sole focus is on the “promise of life” in Christ Jesus.

With great tenderness, Paul speaks God’s grace into the life of his “son” in the faith.

2 Tim. 1:3 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. **4** Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. **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.

Paul is reminded that Timothy’s faith was shaped by the work of his mother and grandmother.

Who are the faith-shapers in your personal life?

2 Tim. 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. **7** For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. **8** So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

The laying on of hands, an ancient symbol of blessing, refers to Timothy’s ordination into the pastoral ministry.

The word for the “gift” of God is charisma. Who receives this kind of gift?

2 Tim. 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Because Christ has destroyed death, Christians live with the confidence that He is our “resurrection and life” (John 11:25-26) and, in Him, we truly never die.

2 Tim. 1:11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. **12** That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. **13** What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. **14** Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The Spirit’s “good deposit” lives in you, reminding you that your life is not your own!

1 Cor. 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*