

2 Timothy 1:7 Fear Not

Here in Southern California there is a portion of Newport Beach that is called “The Wedge”.

A) The Wedge is right at the southern tip of Newport Beach along the jetty that provides the entrance into the Newport Harbor.

B) The beach faces almost directly West. Because of this it is relatively calm unless there is a West Swell. Then it can be MASSIVE. { Pictures

1) It was called in Sports Illustrated the “Mt. Everest of bodysurfing”.

C) Huge MTs of water breaking in a shore break

1) It makes the Wedge an extremely dangerous place to Body surf especially on a big day.

You could be in the water at the Wedge on a small day and then out of nowhere see the massive swells come roaring in.

A) When that happens you can see the different reactions of the people in the water.

B) The “out-of-towners” tourists – Look of Panic – get into the shore as quick as possible.

1) Unfortunately the Wedge is shallow at shore and then drops off quickly.

2) Waves suck you into the impact zone - hammered

Tourists flee - Different reaction from the locals – Known respectfully as the Wedge crew

A) They didn’t run from the waves - They were experienced swimmers..... strong swimmers. Ran to the waves – Swim out – Respect / also excitement

B) They had faced these waves before. For them it was man vs. giant. And they would swim into position to catch these waves.

1) They were in for the time of their lives

C) Life can be like those waves – Come out of nowhere cause us to panic & want to run for our lives.

That is the situation that a Young Pastor named Timothy finds himself in as Paul writes this letter.

A) Timothy’s wave? Well, his mentor / His friend / His father in ministry, Paul is in a Prison cell in Rome – awaiting his execution

B) Timothy has been called to Pastor a Church in Ephesus – amidst growing persecution – threats from false teachers

1) And the Mantle of leadership is being passed from Paul to him

C) And at times Timothy feels anything but up for the Challenge.

1) Timid by nature- Shy – Struggles with his age

D) So Paul is writing to young Timothy – to encourage him – to face the Wave – rise to the Challenge

1) To remember that He has been called to this task and He can be successful not because he is a strong swimmer or trained properly

2) Not because he is a Charismatic leader that people just flock to – but simply because He has been called and equipped by God.

Fear is a natural and common response to what God has called you to do.

A) Young man who is about to get married – Fear finds its way into his heart – Am I going to be able to do this { Love / provide/ Spiritual leader?

B) The woman who is about to be a mom for the first time- or the 4th time

1) Am I ready for this? – Will I be a good mom?

C) You have just received a promotion: New responsibility – Can I handle this?

1) Woman entering the work force for the first time after being a stay at home mom for 20yrs – Can I really do this Lord?

D) God is calling you to a ministry position: You feel inadequate

1) Lord, are you sure you have the right person ?

E) The answer to every one of those questions is found in the words that Paul gives to Timothy here in our text 2 Timothy 1:6-7

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. {Fan the flame – don’t let it die out}

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

See, when I am called to something– I HAVE TO-BELIEVE , I have to, That God has supplied me with what is necessary to follow thru on it!

Fear: A Tool Of Satan

A) Satan loves to use FEAR as a tool to bring FAILURE into your Christian experience.

Fear gives a small thing a big shadow

B) There are 1000's of Phobias – things people are afraid of

Ablutophobia - Fear of washing or bathing.

Amazophobia - Fear of riding in a car.

Ambulophobia - Fear of walking.

Anglophobia - Fear of England, English culture, etc.

Bibliophobia - Fear of books.

Dentophobia - Fear of dentist.

Chorophobia - Fear of dancing.

Can Christians dance – Some can, some can't

Chronophobia - Fear of time.

Coulrophobia - Fear of clowns.

Some little kid got scared at a circus and some scientist got together – we got to give this a name.

Homilophobia - Fear of sermons.

Neophobia - Fear of anything new.

Phobias for just about everything!

A) Satan loves to use fear to Paralyze the Christian –

Redpath – Fear is the greatest enemy of our faith.

B) The exhortation to not fear or not be afraid is given over 120 times in the Bible.

C) Given to great leaders like Abe / Joshua / David Isaiah / Hezekiah / Elijah / the Disciples – why given – because they struggled with fear

D)) We need to bear in mind that IF we FREAK OUT, we'll get wiped out.

1) But if we GO IN to it, we will go through it.

Paul wants Timothy and us to remember – we never go into it alone – God has not given us a spirit of Fear sound mind.

A) I believe that NT Scholar and Theologian Gordon Fee is right in establishing that “spirit” in verse 7 should have a capital S and is in fact referring to the Holy Spirit

B) Verse 7 is not speaking about the human spirit or an attitude that God has given us, but of the Holy Spirit.

1) There are several reasons for concluding this:

#1 The word For in v.7 connects it to v.6. and in v.6 Paul is talking to Timothy about the gift given to him by the Holy Spirit

#2 The words Power love and sound mind or self control are graces given to the Christian by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

C) So Fee gives this paraphrase in verse 7: “For when God gave us his Spirit, it was not timidity that we received, but power, love, and self-discipline.”

D) The Spirit does not give fear that makes us shrink from duty, as Timothy was tempted to do.

1) Rather, the Spirit breathes “power” into the weak.

E) The marvelous fact is, the Timothy's of this world make perfect receptacles for the Spirit's power when they turn to him.

It has LITTLE to do w/ our NATURAL TEMPERAMENTS

A) God can take someone who is naturally shy / Timid/ make them a great leader – Confidence in him i.e. Gideon

B)) And He does it thru a series of confirmations that are meant to build a confidence in the reality – God is with them – Behind them

C) God can take someone else – who in the natural would seem like a great leader and yet not use them until they are broken – brought to nothing

1) Moses – trained in best Schools / War General / tries to do God's work in his flesh and falls on his face

D) Ends up in the desert – Nobody - But that is the beginning of Moses becoming a man that God could work thru

Oswald Chambers wrote:

“God can achieve His purpose either through the absence of human power and resources, or the abandonment of reliance on them. All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual dependence on Him made possible the unique display of His power and grace. He chose and used some-bodies only when they renounced dependence on their natural abilities and resources.”

E) It is a different process for each one but the same result – God is seeking to move us all toward that place of being dependent on Him

Consider these three graces: Power / love / sound mind. These are Characteristics found in those who are walking in the spirit, being led by the Spirit.

A) The Word Power Paul uses here is **Dunamis**

B) Dunamis is the word generally used by Paul of divine energy. It conveys the idea of effective, productive energy, rather than that which is raw and unbridled.

It refers to the power or ability to carry out some function, of the potential for functioning in some way by virtue of the Power of the Holy Spirit.

A) Here is what is interesting about this power: It is not a feeling – not something that is worked up!

B) In fact more often than not you really don't sense it until you are in the situation where it is needed.

C) You sense it when you are in the midst of doing what God has called you to do! Personal example

D) I have a calling to be a teacher of God's word! That is my calling in life

I never feel confident in my own abilities to do that. I am not a natural communicator – Spend one afternoon w/ me – discover that – don't have the gift of gab. -

A) And since teaching the Word is a serious thing / important to God – there is a dose of healthy FEAR – I experience in doing it – Big responsibility

B) So I study and Pray – prepare my heart to share – hours this morning before coming here.

1) But I don't show up FEELING empowered – It is not like – touch me, I am on fire.

{I feel the same as when I got up

C) But here is what happens – I get up here, open up the Word and somewhere in the midst of the service – I sense an empowering

1) The Word is going forth – I sense an empowering

D) The very fact that I am doing this blows my mind – not in my natural temperament – to being doing this

So the Power is not a feeling you wait to feel – before you go do what God is calling you to do. –

A) Power you experience – as you respond to your calling

B) **Restaurant, talking to a Waiter –**

1) Dessert late – sleep - Phone rings – {Everything in me wants to say – can we do this tomorrow – resist pray - Suddenly mind is clear – verses coming

C) God's supernatural power invading my natural weakness or temperament

D) Some never respond – never step out because they are waiting to feel some power – that is already available to them.

1) Gas in the engine of the car – get in and drive.

William MacDonald gives this insight “Unlimited strength is at our disposal. Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, the believer can serve valiantly, endure patiently, suffer triumphantly, and, if need be, die gloriously.”

Continues

“A man may be highly talented, intensively trained, and widely experienced, but without spiritual power he is ineffective. On the other hand, a man may be uneducated, unattractive, and unrefined, yet let him be endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit and the world will turn out to see him burn for God.”

So Paul wants Timothy and us to remember – God has supplied you thru the Holy Spirit with Power – Confidence in Him –

A) But the Power, notice, is accompanied by Love

B) It is excellent to have a giant's strength But 'It is tyrannous to use it like a giant!'

And power ever tends to be tyrannous.

C) **People in the world are into Power:** Power alone seeks to use people run over people –

1) People are seen as a vehicle for accomplishing my goals Achieving some agenda –

D) But in God's servants the HS adds love to power and the result is one where His servant is not seeking to use people but instead to serve them.

E) The word love here is Agape – It describes the unconditional, unselfish, costly love of God.

1) The Love that has "poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" at the time of our new birth (Ro 5:5).

F) Agape love is produced in the heart of the yielded, surrendered saint by the Holy Spirit and has as its chief ingredient, self-sacrifice for the benefit of the one loved .

I think it would have been a natural temptation for Timothy, given his natural temperament – to say why Bother.

A) **Why get involved – there are so many against me – so many problems – so many obstacles – Why – Just going to keep to myself –**

B) **Just going to do my own thing – Self-protection – self-preservation is the natural tendency of many of us.**

C) **Agape doesn't let us do that – Agape leads to action –**

1) **For God so loved the world – that He gave**

D) **When the all-powerful God could have destroyed and wiped out sinful, rebellious man –**

1) When He could have responded like a Giant,, He didn't – He reached out in Love – **Sent His Son!**

Share the Gospel

God places His Spirit in the heart of His servants to produce in them that same heart

A) **Love motivates you to take the risk – of being vulnerable – of giving without any sense of receiving in return**

D) Like Paul, you experience – The more I love the less I am loved in return

MacArthur adds that Agape

"It is a self-denying grace that says to others, in effect, I will give myself away on your behalf."

Sin Quenches that Confidence – Paul ministered with a pure conscience

Jesus Christ makes self-governing men.

Barclay: No man can ever lead others unless he has first mastered himself

A) Sound mind is better translated – Self control Or self discipline

B) It describes a person who is sensibly minded, balanced, and who has his life under control

C) Not run by emotions / feelings not slaves to my emotions – emotions are not going to be my master.

D) Word from God right now for some: God has not given you a spirit of Fear

- not ruled by that emotion –

E) He has given you thru the Holy Spirit – sound mind – a sense of self control

F) The very thing that keeps some people from stepping out – is the fear – that they are going to lash out – Bull in a china shop

Or that they are going to freeze –

God has given His spirit to you – Self Control

What wave are you up against - NO Fear

Know Jesus – Not in this alone

Charge it! – He is with you – He is behind you He has equipped you