

Fan the Flame
2 Timothy 1:5-7
Upstream Discipleship, part 2

- Nero, the Roman Emperor (37-68 A.D.), was an insane monster of iniquity, a “demon in human shape.” After the Fire in Rome in 64 A.D., Christians were falsely accused of burning Rome, of hating the human race, and were being targeted for awful persecution.
- The work of the gospel was under great siege. Many were departing from the faith, promoting doctrines of demons, and deserting the apostles’ testimony (1 Tim.4:1, 2 Tim.1:15). During times when God’s Word and work are under attack, God’s people must not be ashamed, but we must FAN THE FLAME, stand and serve unashamed.
- “Stir up the gift of God:” Kindle afresh the flame and keep it burning hot and bright. Paul may be cold but he is thinking of fire, the fire that God had lit in his soul.
- To Fan the Flame:

1. A Sincere Faith is the Great Essential, v.5

A. Unfeigned faith is a sincere, genuine & unhypocritical faith. It is a SAVING FAITH. (1 Timothy 1:5, 18, 4:1; 6:10; 6:21)

B. Fan your faith into flames. Make this your prayer! “Fan my faith O Lord into a flame that will spread to all that I meet!”

2. A Divine Giftedness is the Great Element, v.6

- Paul encourages him to fan his God-given gifts into a flame in order to stand in the midst of PERILOUS TIMES (2 Tim.3:1), to reject the PERNICIOUS doctrines, and to withstand the deceitful POWERS of this world.

A. We must realize God’s Gifts accompany God’s call, Romans 12:6, 1 Corinth.12:7, 1 Peter 4:10,11.

B. We must WAR A GOOD WARFARE through God’s Gifts, 1 Timothy 1:18-20

C. We must not NEGLECT God’s Gifts, 1 Timothy 4:13

3. Divine Resources give Great Encouragement, v.7

- Christians were being falsely accused of being hateful and were being killed. We have not been given a gift of fear, but to stir our gifts with:

A. Dynamite Power: A strength of character, boldness.

B. Divine Love: A desire for and a delight in the well being of the one loved, leading to active, self-sacrificing efforts on another's behalf, without condition or without expectation of return.

C. Disciplined Mind: A servant of God must subdue his own desires as he preaches to others to deny themselves.

- A sound mind is a control over one's thinking and actions that allows a balanced outlook in any situation. When everything is coming unglued, a sound mind remains level-headed, focused, trusting in the power and love that the Spirit provides and so perseveres in life and ministry.

Let's fan the flame in 2017 that Christ may be glorified through the gifts He has given to us!