



Genuine Faith

By Shannon Ford on August 23, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Timothy 1

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from a dark and damp Roman prison cell, just before his death in AD 67. Paul understood that ministry would only become more difficult for Timothy with his death. Paul knew Timothy needed to stand true to Christ and be willing to suffer for Him and not be ashamed. Though hardships would come, Paul wanted Timothy to continue in those things he had learned, drawing on the rich heritage of faith that had been passed down to him and to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.

In verses 3-5, Paul states that he thanks God every time he remembers Timothy and prays for him constantly. While sitting in his gloomy dungeon and facing death, Paul longed to see Timothy once more and expressed his sincere gratitude for Timothy's genuine faith that he learned from his mother and grandmother. Paul realized that genuine faith had been modeled for Timothy through his family. Though true faith cannot be inherited, it can be demonstrated within the context of a family. Paul was convinced Timothy had the same genuine faith of his mother and grandmother.

In verses 6-7, Paul challenges Timothy to, *"fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."* Timothy and all Christians must constantly be at work exercising the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to each of us. Paul also reminded Timothy in verse 7 to not fear or show timidity. Paul reminds Timothy that only the Holy Spirit can give power, love and self-control.

Timothy's experiences in life had been preparation for his ministry, and Paul was confident of the genuineness of Timothy's faith. The Spirit within him would give all the power needed for ministry. What more could he want? What more could we want?

PRAYER: Father, thank You for the family members and others who invested and demonstrated their genuine faith into my life. Holy Spirit, give me the power to continue this legacy of faith with my children and grandchildren.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Timothy 2

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