

**2 Timothy**  
***Dealing with Debilitating Fear***  
**2 Timothy 1:6-7**

**Home Group Questions**

➤ Below is a list of fears mentioned in the sermon. What are some fears specifically related to the Christian life?

- Finances
- Health
- Position in life – what you think it ought to be
- Job security
- Concerns about children or parents
- A difficult boss or a successful relative
- Public speaking
- Two words – organic chemistry
- Witnessing
- The unknown

*In addition to witnessing, here are some other fears believers tend to have:*

- 1) Worldview conversations with family at holidays and other times*
- 2) Feeling like you cannot live up to expectations for Bible knowledge in this church or in this group. Help folks not to be intimidated – remember, we learn in community and all growth in knowledge and understanding should be celebrated.)*
- 3) Being called on to pray or even to read Scripture (IMPORTANT – do not ask anyone in your group to speak or pray who will not be comfortable doing so. This is a serious fear for some.)*
- 4) Tithing – what if we go into debt because of our decision to give? (Note – I have never heard someone say, “We began tithing and it ruined us financially.”)*
- 5) Fear of church division*

➤ Paul encouraged Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you.” Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Do you have a sense about the spiritual gifts represented in your group? How can individuals “fan into flame the gifts that are in them?”

*This is simply “working on one’s craft.” How can you become a better teacher, a better musician, a better servant?*

- How does love overcome fear? It can sometimes seem that love increases our fears! We worry about the safety and well-being of our loved ones, so what is up here? Read 1 John 4:13-21. Although it might seem unrelated to our text, there are connections.

*This is about verses 16-21 but begin in verse 13 for context. John’s writing style is so different from Paul’s. His reasoning is more cyclical in nature. If you have an ESV Study Bible, look at the introduction of 1 John and read the section titled Style and Substance. If you do not have an ESV Study Bible, it would be very good for you to purchase one. Or, Ricky has some in his office if you would like one of those.*

*Verse 18: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” John is talking about fear of judgment. Believers need not be troubled about judgment. Leaders, be sensitive to those who struggle with assurance of salvation – this verse is likely to increase their fear, not decrease it. Remind them that this passage is meant to assure, not create doubts.*

*To address this text, see the notes under “love” in the sermon.*

- Spend time discussing the sermon points about dealing with debilitating fear:
  1. Spend more time in the Word
  2. Pray specifically for victory over fear
  3. Confront, don’t run
  4. Expect setbacks
  5. Remember, if you fail, you might have lost a battle, but you haven’t lost the war
  6. Thank God for all victories
  7. Look for new challenges

*See attached sermon.*