



## Have We Lost Our Minds

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Christ First Church  
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**INTRO:** Today we take a break from our study in John. I want you to turn your Bibles, or turn them on to 2 Timothy 1. We will read vv 3-10, and then we'll focus on a couple of these verses for a few minutes today.

While you're turning, let me share something with you. **JOKE** A man walks into his doctor's office. He's distraught. He has a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "What's the matter with me Doc? I need to know what's wrong, tell me please"!!! The doctor looks at him for just a moment then replies, "You're not eating properly".

You can't throw tomatoes if you're not here. Awww, this is a good day to be a pastor :)

**BACKSTORY:** Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy during his second imprisonment in Rome, shortly before his death. In this letter, Paul gives Timothy a bold, clear call to continue in the gospel despite present suffering.

During his imprisonment, many had abandoned Paul. Because of that, Paul's memories of Timothy's sincerity and devotion are especially touching. It's apparent in the tone of the letter, that Paul feels certain he's about to die. And so, in his final words to Timothy, Paul urges him to stand firm in the work of the gospel. With a word of urgency, He also asks young Timothy to come for one final visit, and to bring his cloak and books, and especially the scriptures, when he comes.

Second Timothy is very personal. It is a final letter to a close friend and co-laborer.

The key themes of 2 Timothy are...

1. Suffering is part of the Christian experience.
2. The Christian response to suffering is unwavering faith in God's power.
3. The Gospel is the basis (reason) for the Christian's endurance.

Let's read together this short passage and see what the Word has for us today....

**2 Timothy 1: 3-10** *"I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ...*

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”

Okay, we can easily see from these verses what the context is, concerning this passage. First, let me draw your attention to v 7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” I want you to focus on that phrase “SOUND MIND”. My title for this sermon is..., “HAVE WE LOST OUR MINDS”

Don't leave me now. This is no scoffing dismissal of all that's happening in our world. And you know me better than to think it's a political rant. IT IS simply, a catchy title that gets to heart of our passage. So hang in here with me for a few minutes.

Here in v 7, we have a powerful conjunction in the little word “but”. And when you're studying scripture and come across a conjunction, the first thing you should do is...start singing “conjunction junction, what's your function”. HA! Then the second thing is to establish it's importance. What is it doing to the sentence? What comes before and after it? And how does it change our mindset?

Here, we see it contrast the first statement with the second. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear,” That's the first... “but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

“For God has not... BUT He has... God has NOT given us a spirit of fear BUT HE HAS instead given us a spirit of POWER, of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND. A SOUND MIND. Those two words are translated from the Greek word Sō-fro-nē-smo'. It means an admonishing or calling to soundness of mind, to moderation and self-control.

So Paul is saying to young Timothy, when things are bad... when there is suffering... when you are being persecuted... when all hell breaks loose... there are some things you need to KEEP IN MIND...

**1) REMEMBER THE PASSION:** vv 3-5 “I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”

Quick note: v 3 “I thank God,” Paul lived with a continual attitude of gratitude. And so it is only fitting that he break into a chorus of thanksgiving. What makes this time so amazing is the context. Where is Paul as he gives thanks to God? In prison (2 Tim 1:8), in chains (2 Tim 1:16), in Rome (2 Tim 1:17). Incarcerated like a criminal. Why? He is suffering for the gospel of Jesus Christ. YET He is thankful to God in all things.

VV 4-5 “being mindful of your tears” Paul doesn't mention exactly what he's speaking of here, but from the context we can see that Paul was moved by the passion of Timothy's very genuine faith. He said in v 5 “I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you” Timothy had been a very passionate young man when it came to the things of God. But now he's in a place of persecution and suffering. Paul seems to be saying, when you find yourself in a bad place, a hard place...go back to what you know. Go back to the truth of who Christ is. Remember the passion with which you once worshiped Him, and do it again.

## I) REMEMBER THE PASSION: vv 3-5

Amy Carmichael

Give me the love that leads the way,  
The faith that nothing can dismay,

The hope no disappointments tire,  
The passion that will burn like fire.

Let me not sink to be a clod;  
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

## II) REMEMBER THE PRESENCE: v 6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” I LOVE THIS VERSE!

The gift of God is certainly His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit by which Jesus lives within us. What an awesome gift! The “laying on of my hands” possibly refers to the presbytery by which Timothy would have been sent out from to preach the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The point here being, Paul says REMEMBER that gift that’s in you. That gift is nothing less than the PRESENCE of GOD!

**APPLICATION:** Sometimes Christians get distracted by the things, the concerns, the troubles of the world. And if we’re not careful, it’s easy for us to come to the same conclusions, develop the same anxieties and concerns. AND IF WE WERE LIKE THE WORLD, meaning we did not have God’s PRESENCE living in us, then we would have every right to be troubled. BUT WE ARE NOT LIKE THE WORLD. We are children of God. And God DOES live within us. We just need fan the flame of that relationship!

Relationship need to be rekindled from time to time. Our relationship with God is no different. REMEMBER THE PRESENCE THAT IS INSIDE YOU... and stir up that precious gift.

So, Paul tells Timothy to I) REMEMBER THE PASSION II) REMEMBER THE PRESENCE, and...

## III) REMEMBER THE POWER: vv 7-10 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel!”

Paul was encouraging Timothy by saying, it doesn’t matter the situation, or the difficulty we face, as long as we remember what we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. We literally have the WHOLE of Heaven’s POWER in Jesus. He is the fullness of the expression of God. And He lives in us, and for us.