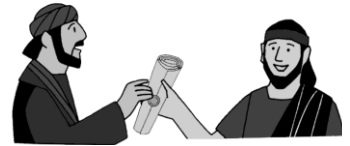


# THE CHRISTIAN LEADER



## 5. Empowered for Service

*(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)*

### Introduction

Paul is in prison at this time, but his thoughts and prayers often go to Timothy, who he remembers with affection. He is writing to encourage and help the younger man, stressing the importance of teaching the Word of God and living a Godly life. However Paul knows that we can't do this in our own strength, and so he reminds Timothy to 'rekindle' the gift of God within him.

### 1. Empowered by the Spirit      **2 Timothy 1:6-10**

- ✧ What is the gift of God that Paul refers to in 2 Timothy 1:6-7? Also see Acts 2:38-39, 10:45, 11:17
- ✧ Why do you think it was necessary for Paul to remind Timothy to rekindle that gift? V7-8

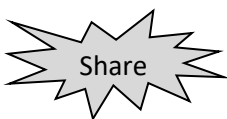


Do you need to rekindle the gift of God in your life right now? Share ways that have helped you stir up the gifts in the past, so you can encourage one another.

- ✧ What difference does it make in a person's life when he is empowered by the Holy Spirit? V7 c.f. Acts 1:8, Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:20
- ✧ Give two reasons why Paul says we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. V8 How are love, power and self-control linked with these?

### 2. Empowered to Serve      **2 Timothy 1:11-18**

- ✧ Why do you think Timothy may have felt ashamed of the gospel? V8, 15-16, 1 Corinthians 1:17-25



Many Christians face the same difficulty as Timothy. Share why you find it hard to testify about the Lord Jesus Christ. How can Paul's instructions help you?

- ✧ How had Paul suffered for the gospel? V8, 12, 16. What do you think it means when it says, 'suffering for the gospel'?
- ✧ How are we to face opposition? V7-8, 2:3
- ✧ Paul encourages Timothy to testify unashamedly even if it would mean suffering. How does his example, and that of Jesus, encourage you? 1:12, 2:8-13
- ✧ Why do we not need to be afraid of suffering? 1:9-10, 4:6-8, 18

## **Conclusion**

Whatever situation we are in, whether we live in a country where there is freedom to preach the gospel, or we live in a place where there is persecution, we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we allow the Holy Spirit to fill and control our lives, we will be bold to share the gospel and endure any opposition that comes as a result. So let's fan into flame the gift of God which is in us!