

You have it in you!

Opening Text: 2 Timothy 1: 3-7

Introduction: Timothy was a young leader of the early church, mentored by the Apostle Paul and who became the pastor of one of the most important churches of his time, the church of Ephesus. Paul devoted 3 books of the NT to this church (1st and 2nd Timothy and Ephesians). Jesus mentioned this church in the book of Revelation. By the middle of 60 AD Paul wrote these two letters to Timothy to encourage him to continue. He was facing the temptation to give up during a difficult time. Young Timothy was overwhelmed, probably in great fear. In fact, he was in tears over all he was going through. (V.14: ... “*greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears*”)

Ephesus was not an easy place.:

- There were doctrinal errors in the church
- Leadership problems (defection of leaders)
- Problems of a practical nature that had to do with the running of the church
- Spiritual pressure and intimidation
- Persecution – the letters to Timothy were written around 67 AD – two years after Nero set Rome on fire in the peak of his madness. He blamed the Christians and started persecuting them in Rome. By this time, the ripples of such persecution were reaching Ephesus also and the church pastored by Timothy starts to suffer. Paul himself is in prison in Rome for the second time and will be executed in the year 14 of Nero’s reign.

It is in this context that Paul writes to Timothy. In his first letter Paul tells Timothy to fight the good fight of faith and to stay put. Paul’s second letter starts with the words we read today:

*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.*

In you, in you, in you – Paul is basically telling Timothy: **you have it in you!**

Timothy was most likely feeling inadequate, unqualified, lacking the skills and the experience to deal with all those situations. He probably felt like he didn’t have what was required.

- a) Paul reminds Timothy of what was in him and how he needed to focus on what was in him, rather than what happening was around him
- b) Paul told Timothy to focus on what God had given him. Timothy didn’t have to take what God had not given him: he didn’t have to take the spirit of fear!

We are not spiritual paupers abandoned by God in this world. We did not come to a Kingdom that lacks resources. We didn't surrender our lives to Jesus to end up empty – no! He fills us. In fact, Colossians 1:12 says that He qualifies us. Colossians 2:10 says that He completes us.

That means that we are resourced in every way and lack nothing. God's fulness is made available to us!

You have it in you!

2 Peter 1:3 - *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

Philemon 1:6 - *that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

Paul reminds Timothy of all that he had in him!

1. The spirit of Faith

Timothy had the spirit of faith – not the spirit of fear.

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.

Genuine faith was in Timothy! Faith is the currency of heaven. With it we receive all of God's promises, all that heaven can offer. Faith is better than money in the bank!

Reinhard Bonnke said, "*faith is the link with God's power*"

Romans 12:3 says that God has dealt to each believer a measure of faith. We all have it. It is given by God. It is in you. You have it in you!

2. Spiritual Gifts

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.

Timothy had supernatural assistance right on the inside of him : *the gift of God which is in you*. The word *gift* in Greek is the word *charisma*. The Strong's dictionary defines *Charisma* as a "*miraculous faculty*".

There were in Timothy "*miraculous faculties*" that had remained dormant, perhaps even neglected but Paul says, you have it in you! – supernatural assistance, miraculous faculties. So, stir up that gift, fan that flame, put it into action!

In his first letter, Paul had already mentioned this:

1 Timothy 4:14 - *Do not neglect the gift that is **in you**, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

God gives us supernatural assistance on the inside, but we can neglect it and allow it to be dormant. We need to stir ourselves up and take hold of all that He has placed within us.

Walk in the spirit, desire earnestly spiritual gifts because you have it in you! You have supernatural assistance for every situation of life!

3. The Holy Spirit

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Pauls wants Timothy to focus on what He has from God, not on what God never gave him. Fear hadn't come from God, so he didn't have to take it. However, what he got from God was the powerful Holy Spirit! – the Spirit of *power, love and a sound mind!*

All that Timothy had (faith, gifts etc), came as the Holy Spirit took residence in his life. The Holy Spirit is our Helper (in the words of Jesus in John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7).

He is help on the inside of us.

Reinhard Bonnke wrote, *“without the church, the Holy Spirit is homeless. He is like Noah’s dove that found no resting place away from the ark. Without the Spirit of God, the church is a mausoleum. But with the Holy Spirit, the church becomes a mighty fortress. Then we conquer, and are not conquered”*

You have it in you – because of Who you have in you! He is our helper, He is the Spirit of power, love and of a sound mind!

Conclusion

Get hold of what God has placed within you. You have what it takes. Let the devil know what you are made of. Awaken the strength of your gifts and acknowledge that the Greater One lives on the inside of you – the Spirit of God, the Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind!

You have it in you because of the One who lives in you.