

2 Timothy

Keeping the Faith

Fanning the Flame

INTRO: *Today we begin a new study of what many believe is the Apostle Paul's final epistle. Written in the Fall of 67 A.D. from a Roman prison, Paul sought to encourage his protegee, Timothy, who was faltering under tremendous pressure. But could he be encouraged?*

I. Believers have been _____ into ministry and _____ for service. *Paul was an Apostle and Timothy was his emissary to Ephesus. The Holy Spirit had called and gifted both.*

II. Challenges in _____ can discourage the Believer's _____ and dampen the imparted _____. *Timothy was struggling to complete the task Paul had assigned him. Pressures from culture and personal complacency can stifle the effective employment of our spiritual gifts.*

III. When the challenges of _____ discourage your _____, rekindle the spiritual _____ imparted you. *The "gift of God" (one's spiritual gift received at conversion) may become weak through non-use. How does one rekindle this gift?*

A. Remember the _____ who invested in _____. *Relationships define our spiritual heritage.*

B. Rely on the _____ of the _____-_____. *The Holy Spirit provides the **power, love, and discipline** to overcome all challenges Believers face in ministry.*