

FAN THE FLAMES

Paul wrote Timothy this second letter to encourage him. Paul is in prison in Rome at the time. **Verse 6** gives the purpose he wrote the letter—so Timothy would *“stir up the gift of God which is in you.”*

“Stir up” literally means **“fan into flame,”** or **“rekindle the fire.”**

“The gift of God” in **verse 6** was through **Paul’s** hands. Paul, as an apostle had the power to impart spiritual gifts by the laying on of hands (**Romans 1:11; Acts 8:18**) This would be an undeniable sign of an apostle (**2 Cor. 12:12**).

Spiritual gifts were **temporary (1 Cor. 13:8-10)** in contrast with **eternal love (1 Cor. 13:8)**. Even in the first century, only three things were **permanent:** faith, hope, and love (**1 Cor. 13:13**).

The gift in **2 Tim. 1:6** is not to be confused with *“the gift of God”* in **1 Tim. 4:14** which was given with the laying on of the **elders’** hands; that was the **work of evangelist (Ephesians 4:11)**.

Outline of 2 Timothy

2 Tim. 1:7 gives the outline: *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Not a spirit of fear 1:8-18 *“do not be ashamed”*

A spirit of **power 2:1-13** *“be strong...”*

A spirit of **love 2:14-26** *“pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace”*

A spirit of a **sound mind 3:1-4:8** *“be watchful in all things”*

Though we do not have spiritual gifts today through the apostles’ hands, we should do what Paul told Timothy to do. We should be all that we can be with the talents, resources, relationships, and spiritual blessings which God has given us to use to His honor and glory.