

2 Timothy 1:1-7

**2TI 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

**2TI 1:2** To Timothy, my dear son:

**Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**2TI 1:3** I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

This first portion of this chapter is very personal. It is a letter from Paul to not just a fellow worker but one who is trusted, even respected for the work that He does. We will see more of Paul and Timothy's relationship over the next few weeks. But Paul had a special relationship with this guy.

This passage from 2 – 8 is about **remembering and reminding**. Paul remembering and Paul reminding Timothy of his relationship to God and those around him.

1. Paul obviously sees an advantage in good parenting. He reflects on his own **heritage** and then on Timothy's.

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John Stott comments that "Man is to a great extent the product of his inheritance." Most of us would agree that the most formative influence on our lives has been our parents and how they run their lives at home. Stott goes on to say "": True, no man can inherit his parents faith in the way he inherits facets of their personality. But a child can be led to faith by his parents teaching, example and prayers."

I have to agree with that. My parents led by example. They lived christian lives at home. I have never heard my dad swear, I heard them pray for people who had hurt them, they sacrificially gave to others – realistically they are amazing christians. While my faith is

not dependant on them – it is my own responsibility, I feel dad and mum did their very best. One funny thing is –

I do not remember ever being told nursery rhymes.

But I do remember bible stories, from them and my grandparents.

Consequently, I discovered nursery rhymes and kids stories from my own kids – love em.

Both Paul and Timothy had homes that facilitated a relationship with God. Interestingly enough, Timothy's grandmother and mother are mentioned – not his father. We know from Acts 16:1 Timothy's dad was greek and mother was Jewish. A mixed marriage so to speak. It is assumed that the father of the house was not a christian, otherwise he would have been mentioned also.

So here we have not a perfect christian home, but one that Christ was in. I think we have to be realistic. Not every home has two christian parents. Not now, not then, probably not in the future. Doesn't it encourage us that we don't need a perfect home to produce offspring that can do God's will.

2. The second thing here is that we have **friendships that affect** who we are and what we do.

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Logically, we remember regularly the people we are close to. Paul remembers Timothy and places Him before God. Remembering is good for us, but here Paul uses his remembering to Timothy's advantage. **He prays for him often.** This really struck home to me. I am a nostalgic kind of guy, I remember my mates and what we did but here I have a lesson. Remembering should lead me to pray for my mates. Actually, even if I remember bad things I can pray for those involved, friends or not.

This friendship of Paul and Timothy was more than just friendship – Basically, **Paul mentored Timothy.**

A mentor is someone who helps a less experienced person to develop skills.

Mentoring in a biblical sense is what we could term discipling.

We give people the skills of knowing God, then allow them to disciple someone else. This process is a command. Go into all the world and make disciples. There are no exemptions mentioned in scripture and I think all of us can be involved. Young men – go out and find an older more mature man to mentor you – older women, make yourself available to younger women – women who are going through something you have. The idea is one of support. Basically it is a personal pastoral care thing.

The other with this concept is – **Being real.**

**Paul remembers Tim's tears.** There is a realness about a relationship that two guys and cry together. There is a realness about relationships where these things don't bother us. Now perhaps, no everyone in the church has confidence in everyone else to be like that. Is

that an issue – no. But I do feel we all need someone that we can be totally real with. Go look for a mentor, and look for a relationship of total realness.

3. Another thing here that affects who we are is **God's call**. Now let me say here I believe God has called all of us to ministry. Of some sort. We spoke about it in our Our Spiritual Gifts series over the last month. Priesthood of all believers and all that.

Paul is reminding Tim of God's call on his life.

***6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.***

Sure, Tim had a special job but he reminded to fan the flame, or get this special gift he had. going We have a responsibility to get our gifts going. We have a responsibility to get our ministry going. There is no retirement from ministry. Like my grandfather said "Old preachers don't retire they just preach longer". Maybe this is true, but when He retired His ministry changed. Less preaching, more encouraging young preachers. He was encouraging me when He was 80 something.

Sometimes, ministry changes, mine has – for years I worked with youth then children now with everyone. How has your ministry changed? Have you retired for your own sake or for God's sake? What ministry does God want you doing now? If you've retired or relinquished one ministry, what are you doing for God nt its place?

Verse 7 tells us that no matter when, where or how – God gives us the tools for ministry.

***7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.***

**We have all the power we need, all the love we need, all the self discipline.**

I was speaking to someone years ago who said that their self discipline was dodgy in certain areas of their christian life. He said "I just don't have the faith to hang in there." We prayed, then we prayed regularly, then we became mates and kept in contact and we still pray for each other. And by the way – yep he had it in him, he has been an amazing example of God's grace and his commitment to Jesus is demonstrated all through his life – it is what he is known for.

Maybe that is it like he said - Maybe it is our faith that is not up to scratch – not our self discipline. Maybe we don't really think God can do what He says He can. God has given us the tools we need, even the capacity for self discipline. SO perhaps now is the time to go for it. .