



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 8-5

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FAITH AND FIRE

Winning spiritual battles is great when we look back from a place of victory, but when we are in the fight, the battles can tear us up. Many feel they are losing the war and do not know what to do. We earnestly pray for them because they need a powerful breakthrough right now. Soon all believers will stand on the field of battle. In the future, everyone will need much more power to fight that which is coming on the earth. Take the test; fear is a sign that tells us that we are not ready for this battle. Are you ready? Paul saw this fear in Timothy and gave him the solution. He said, *“God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* 2Ti. 1:7 (NKJ) In his explanation, he told Timothy to find faith and fire. In this study we will explore Timothy’s desperate situation and discover how and where he would find the strength to fight the battle. I trust that God will help you find the faith and the fire that you need to fight your battle.

Paul wrote this 2nd letter to Timothy from a dungeon in Rome. He was a prisoner there once before. The 1st time he was under house arrest and his friends could visit him. After his release, he took his 4th missionary journey. Upon returning to Rome, he was imprisoned again; this time under Nero. He was put in a dungeon and his friends did not know where he was. Finally, word got out and the church realized that without a supernatural rescue, Paul would die in a dark dungeon. Later in this letter, Paul says, *“The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me a crown of righteousness.”* 2Ti. 3:7

Listen to the words of Paul, *“To Timothy, my dear son ... Recalling your tears, I long to see you ... I have been reminded of your sincere **faith**, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into **flames** the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self discipline.”* 2Ti. 1:2-7

From this nightmarish dungeon Paul writes a letter to his dear son. He writes as an apostle but more so, as a father. He does everything he can to prepare Timothy for the future. Paul has faced the roughest battles; he has faced discouragement, demons, abandonment, rejection, beatings, so many desperate days, and even death. Now, for Christ’s sake, he must pass the apostolic mantle to Timothy. Timothy would move to a new level, and with higher levels come bigger devils. Timothy cried, he could not bear the thought of Paul’s death. He could not bear the thought of being alone to face the enemy without the covering, the compassion and the guidance of his spiritual father.

What could Paul say to prepare his son for the day of intense battle that Timothy would surely face?

He told Timothy that fear and timidity would never do; the spirit of fear that was moving over him was not from God. *“Timothy, if you want to win this fight and be victorious over the battles ahead, you must have the Spirit of power, the Spirit of Love and the Spirit of self control and a sound mind.”*

Only a **supernatural power** from God's throne room can break the strongholds of the enemy that will come against you. Nice words and good programs will not be enough for the day of despair. Apostolic power is needed for that day.

You also need the Spirit of **supernatural love**. That is a care and compassion for others that goes beyond human strength and reason. Only as you extend this sacrificial care for others will you find what you need for yourself.

Thirdly, you will need **supernatural self-control and soundness of mind**. God is not flighty, illogical or weird. He is the greatest inventor, scientist and mathematician ever, and none will ever rise to the level of His creative genius. He is the wisest counselor and the greatest strategist in the universe. Yes, He can break the laws of nature and perform any miracle, but He above all others, is logical and sound in mind. You will need that anointing for the battle that lies ahead; don't be flighty.

Paul told Timothy that to have the power, love and sound mind that was needed for battle, he must re-discover the faith and the fire that he once knew. He pointed Timothy to 2 sources where he would find that faith and fire. He pointed to a generational heritage for faith and an apostolic impartation for fire. He told Timothy to remember the

extraordinary faith that was passed down to him from his mother and grandmother. He also told him to remember the gift of God that he received when Paul laid his hands on him and gave him the apostolic fire.

All of the weapons that you will need to fight your battles will not come from your relationship with Jesus alone. Some weapons will be given to you through the servants of God that He has put in your life. You will need a faith heritage and an apostolic impartation of fire. Woe to those who find themselves standing alone on the day of battle.

Personally, I am really blessed; my paternal grandparents were missionaries. My father was a pastor and a real man of faith. My mother is Jewish and was born in Israel. Derek and Lydia Prince adopted her when they were missionaries there. I have an amazing **generational faith heritage** that comes to me from both sides of my family.

Both, my father, Irvine Wyns and Derek Prince, my grandfather laid their hands on me, when I was a young man. **They released an apostolic fire in me.** That fire only grows brighter and stronger with the passing of time.

I draw strength and resolve from both of those deep wells and when the enemy comes in like a flood, I fan into flames the gift of God within me. Then the Spirit of power, love and a sound mind rises within me. Paul reminded Timothy of the **generational faith** that was passed on to him from his

mother and grandmother. He also reminded him to fan into flames the fire that was put in him when Paul laid his apostolic hands on him.

Maybe you are not blessed like Timothy or me, to have such apostolic and generational blessings. If you lack these, you should go on a journey to find them. Secure the wells of faith and fire in your life; find powerful people of God and come under their covering. Look for those who will extend a spiritual adoption over you, especially if you are a first generation Christian. Then receive the inheritance of a generational faith through them. Next, seek out someone with an apostolic anointing. Ask them to pray over you so that the apostolic fire will burn within you. Church is more than a meeting for worship and preaching. It is time for you to be really connected with the people of God. It is time to have powerful and purposeful relationships.

These relationships will give you increased faith and Holy Spirit fire to help you in the day of battle. Timothy had both, yet Paul still reminded him of the well of faith that had been passed on to him and he had to encourage him to fan into flames the fire that was within him.

On the day of battle let the generational faith rise and fan the apostolic fires until they burst into flames. Then you will have power, love and the sound mind that you need. **ΑΩ**



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