

God at Work!

2 Timothy 1:7

Sermon Outline

A. The Lord God (vs. 7a):

1. For God – The creator, all powerful, omnipresent God is always in control. No one or any circumstance can overpower Him.
2. For God – When things don't go well God works it out for our good (Romans 8:28).
3. For God – He is committed to finish a work He began (Philippians 1:6).
4. For God – He lives permanently within us (John 14:16).

B. Work He Does Not Do (vs. 7b):

1. Has not given – God once and for all, for sure has not permanently put in place any kind of desire or attitude that leads to fear.
 - a) *God did not give us a spirit of timidity* – Apparently lack of confidence was a serious problem for Timothy (1:6; 1 Cor. 16:10-11; 1 Tim. 4:12; NASU).
2. Spirit – Our human spirit provides us the ability to communicate with the Holy Spirit.
3. Spirit – Our spirit is the element inside of us that gives us the ability to feel, have various desires and reflections, as well as provide us the capacity to have faith in Christ.
4. Timidity/Fear – God never causes our desires to lack a commitment to keep the faith (3:14-17).
 - a) Proverbs 29:25 – “The fear of a man brings a snare, but whoever trust the Lord shall be safe.”
5. Timidity/Fear – God, who has authority over everything and is all powerful, never causes our capacity to have faith to fail so that we lack the strength to obey His Word.
 - a) Timothy, many interpreters surmise, was a man of quiet disposition—a retiring, timid individual who had been thrust into a leadership role for which

he had no predilection. The battle against the false teachers was strenuous, leaving Timothy weary, perhaps even questioning what he was doing. It is possible that he was overwhelmed by these circumstances.^[1]

- b) The only fear that the scriptures encourage is a fear of the Lord. A reverence the fact that He is all knowing, omnipresent, is holy and righteous and is faithful to discipline us so we grow up in Him for His glory and honor. This kind of fear leads to wisdom (Proverbs 10:9).

C. His Work for Us (vs. 7c):

1. Power – God has given us the ability (John 14:16; 1 John 4:4) and capacity (Hebrews 12:4) to overcome all the pressure that life brings (Romans 8:37-38), obstacles that come from day to day (Philippians 4:13) so that we can live in the mighty supernatural power of God.
 - a) We are never asked to do anything beyond what God gives strength and ability to accomplish.^[2]
 - b) The “power” that characterizes the Spirit is that which he brings into the life of believers as He indwells them. Thus, believers are “strengthened with power through His spirit in the inner person” (Eph. 3:16) and enabled to have a ministry of accomplishment “in the power of the Spirit” (Rom. 15:18–19).^[3]
2. Power – God has given to us the ability to face all obstacles and overcome them in His strength.
 - a) The power of the Holy Spirit is our strength (John 14:16).
 - b) The power of the Holy Spirit overcomes fear (1 John 4:4).
 - c) The power of the Holy Spirit stimulates faith (John 16:13).
 - d) ‘We can do all things through Christ’ – His Word (Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 4:12).
3. Love - Love is given by God when we are committed to love Him by keeping His commands (1 John 2:3-6; 4:7-12).
4. Love - The spirit of love (the desire to love) that God provides is a result of our willful decision to obey God as we relate to others even if those individuals operate in a negative manner towards us.
5. Sound mind; discipline - Because God has provided all the above, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it should lead to self-control, a fruit of the Spirit.
6. Sound mind; discipline - God works in us so that we can be sober in our thoughts (1 Peter 1:13-16) to have ‘a thoughtful awareness of what is best’ (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

- a) God uses His Word to keep our mind in troubled times.
- b) God uses His Word to solve our problems and find strength.
- c) God uses His Word to keep us sober in painful situations.
- d) God's work in us refines us to be like Him (1 Peter 1:3-9).

^[1] Larson, K. (2000). *I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon* (Vol. 9, p. 266). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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^[3] Knight, G. W. (1992). *The Pastoral Epistles: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 371). Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.