

Timothy Had to be Told Twice...

by Pastor Frank Wm. Nagy

Timothy had to be told twice:

1 Tim 4:14 “**Do not neglect the gift, that is in you**, given you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

2 Tim 1:6 “I remind you. **Stir up the gift of God, which is in you** by the laying on of my hands.”

If this mature man of God had to be told and reminded, how many more times might we need to be told for us to **first gain the gift** and then **to stir up the gift** God wants to be active in our lives?

How Did Some of Christians Gain Their Spiritual Gift? Paul Sought to Impart It to Them!

Paul longed to impart a spiritual gift to the Romans: “I long to see you, **to impart some spiritual gift**, to establish you, 12 so I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me (Romans 1:11).”

Paul told the Corinthians...

“**To desire!**”

“**Covet** earnestly the best gifts... (1 Corinthians 12:31).”

“...**Desire** spiritual gifts, especially so you may prophesy (1 Corinthians 12:31).”

“**To seek!**”

“As you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **seek** so you may excel to the edifying of the church (1 Corinthians 14:12).”

“**To pray for!**”

“Let him who speaks in an unknown tongue **pray** so he may interpret (1 Corinthians 14:13).”

“**To covet!**”

“Brothers and sisters, earnestly **covet** to prophesy... (1 Corinthians 14:39). ”

“**To seek!**”

“As you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **seek** so you may excel to the edifying of the church (1 Corinthians 14:12).”

How does the command to “**earnestly desire the gifts**” allow the passive approaches so many of us take? Instead, shouldn't our attitude be more like the one King David and Solomon had about seeking wisdom? As they said in Proverbs 4:7, “Wisdom is the principal thing; so get wisdom and with all your getting get understanding (Proverbs 4:7).”

What does one do with Paul's command of Ephesians 5:18, "**Be filled with the Spirit!**"? The Greek here speaks in an active, ongoing tense. It's literally: "Be being filled with the Spirit." Here Paul commands the believer **to stir himself up to get regularly refilled.**

We read of the overflowing Jesus spoke of in John 7:38: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38)." Just considering this passage, should make it clear many Christians don't know what it is to be filled with the Spirit once, let alone **stirring themselves up** to be filled so often, that they are continually filled

Paul gave Timothy this same message twice. It was serious business for Tim to attend to. Why? Because if he didn't stir himself up to apply what God had placed within him, he might not finish his work and gain all the blessings God had in store. How do we know this? Just look back to 1 Tim 1:18: "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which were spoken over you, that by them you might war a good warfare." Paul also told the Colossians in Col 4:17, to say to one of their own, "Take heed to the ministry, which you have received in the Lord, so that you may fulfill it (Colossians 4:17)."

Since Paul had to tell Timothy twice... how many more times do you need to be told for you to stir yourself up as you should?

Stir Up God's Gift in You!

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