

Fan Into Flame | Ryan Wekenman | 6.3.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This weekend, Ryan introduced us to the 4-part series on 2nd Timothy. During the time this letter was written, the apostle Paul is imprisoned, yet takes advantage of the opportunity to share the gospel despite his circumstances. The letter serves as a reminder that life with God is the best life there is and that we are not to be discouraged by the difficulties we experience. Paul knew that the gospel would be expanded because of his sufferings, and he encourages Timothy and all the followers of Christ who have followed since to find strength in the gospel and remain faithful and strengthened, full of power, love and a sound mind by the Holy Spirit.

Before you dive into the study check-in with each other by asking these questions:

- **How can your group be praying for you this week?**
- **What is one thing in your life that you're currently thankful for?**
- **What was the most impactful part of this weekend's sermon for you?**

GROW

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7

When a person puts their faith in Jesus, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; however, many of us live without an awareness of the Spirit's power at work in our lives. We are instructed to fan the gift of the Holy Spirit into flame, but many of us end up letting what could be a wildfire remain a small spark. Paul encourages us live called, and we do so when we learn to fan the gift into flame. Following Jesus is difficult on our own — we need to allow ourselves to be consumed by the Holy Spirit.

We are shown the three steps of how to fan this gift into flame: prayer, people, and the Bible. They work, but in Ryan's words, you've got to work them! In prayer, we must remember that there is no wrong way to talk to God and that any time you spend praying is time well spent. We also need to prioritize people — we are not made to walk with Jesus on our own. We need each other in order to be sharpened, encouraged and comforted as we learn to fan into flame. Finally,

we need to learn to create a daily rhythm of scripture reading and memorization: walking with Jesus and reading the Bible is not just about function; rather, it is about formation. The promises of God will move from your head to your heart as you commit them to memory and meditate on them day and night (Psalm 19:7).

Meditate on this truth: the spirit God has given us does not make you afraid and timid, but gives you power, love and a sound mind.

- Power: When you feel that God has called you to something and you don't feel ready for it, good! That means His power will be at work in you and you will be reliant upon Him.
 - Love: You are already loved. You are already chosen. You do not have to work to earn your love and prove to others that you are worthy. The One who is the embodiment of love chose you before the foundation of the world to belong to Him forever.
 - Sound Mind: you are a child of God created to live with a sound mind. You are not a victim to your circumstances. You are not under them, you are under the shelter of the Most High (Psalm 91). There will always be circumstances, so we can rest assured that our peace of mind does not have to be contingent upon our circumstances.
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- **Between prayer, people and the Bible, which do you feel you struggle with the most and why?**
 - **When was the last time that you took the time to constantly pray for others? How do you typically handle those moments when you don't see results of those prayers?**
 - **Between power, love and a sound mind, which one do you desire most at this point in your life? Let your group come alongside you to encourage you and pray for you in that place.**

MOVE

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-14

We need to fix our eyes on Jesus to realign ourselves and focus on the gift of God that we have been given. Following the 3 steps previously mentioned, we can focus on achieving the sound mind to bring grace and peace to our daily lives. Constantly practicing these things will help remind you of the true focus for our lives.

Ryan encouraged us to take the time to practice a breathing prayer during challenging moments. We were also encouraged to memorize some verses from 2 Timothy. As we do this, we will find that our minds will be transformed and renewed and help us take our anxious and fearful thoughts captive, making them obedient to Christ. We will be reminded of the amazing gifts and love that God has given to us as believers.

- **How often do you feel like you're drifting and need to refocus on God? What are some things you do to help get realigned?**
- **Do you find yourself getting caught up in anxiety and fear? How do you typically deal with those scenarios?**
- **Which verses do you plan to memorize this week?**

P R A Y

Pray together in groups of no more than three and ask God to show us how we can fan into flame the gift we have been given. Ask him to remind us of his love when we struggle with our own fears or begin to drift.