

## **The Desire of Hearts That Possess Hope: To Honor the Lord**

**2 Timothy 1:7—For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.**

Timidity [DEILIA] The word is derived from a word which means cowardly or fearful.

What do people commonly fear? Other people ("What will they do to me?" "Do they like me?" "Will they hurt me?"). Difficult times ("Will things turn out OK?" "What will happen to me?" "When will this end?" "I'm not getting what I want"). Failure ("My life will seem like a waste." "I want to succeed in everything." "How will I look to other people?") Death ("What happens then?" "Will I be in agony?" "I don't ever want my life to end.") God has not given us a spirit of timidity. If our purpose is to honor the Lord, we need not hide in fear from these things.

Power [DUNAMIS] Other New Testament uses of this word explains its meaning. It comes from God when we are saved (Acts 1:8), it protects our salvation until the day we see the Lord in person (1 Peter 1:5), through it God does beyond what we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20), it is the force behind the work believers do in ministry (Colossians 1:28-29), and it works best when we are facing adversity (are weak in ourselves)(2 Corinthians 12:9).

Consider what this power is.

Give thanks for it.

Do you think/act as if this power exists in relation to your present circumstances?

Are you working according to this power to serve others?

Do you view yourself as strong or weak apart from God's power?

In what respects is this power the opposite of timidity?

How does this power give a believer hope?

Love [AGAPE] This word describes God's love (John 3:16, 1 John 4:10) and the love that believers have because of His love (1 John 3:16, 1 John 4:11, 1 Corinthians 13).

Love vs. Timidity

Love for God = obeying God

Love for God = a life view filled with hope

Love for people = loving God

Love for people = a life view filled with hope

God has given us a spirit of love.

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Discipline [SOPHRONISMOS] This word speaks of self control but also includes the aspect of thought or judgment. Other New Testament uses of words with the same root are translated "sound mind," "encourage," "sensibly," "self-restraint."

God has given us a spirit which includes discipline, control, right thinking, and the ability to reason based on truth.

How does discipline differ from timidity or fear?

Right thinking is the desire to honor God

Sound judgment does not include fear.

Sensible thinking views life with strong hope.

**1 Peter 1:6-9—In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**

Why does God allow distressing, difficult times in your life?

How can you honor God amid hard days?

Is this important?

"You love Him"

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What are the results of "believing in Him" in relation to trials?

Some examples:

Living out the marvelous truths of 1 Peter 1:6-9

**Philippians 1:20-22a--<sup>20</sup>...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me...**

The right purpose: to honor the Lord (vs. 20-21)

Paul's purpose is to exalt [MEGALUNO] Christ. The idea is to make or declare great, to greatly enlarge, or to hold in the highest regard. If today his opportunity is to exalt Christ in how he lives or how he dies, Paul is ready.

Consider an important relationship or a difficult circumstance in your life today. Take the words of verse 20 to heart: make them your own purpose. Evaluate the relationship or circumstance based on this life view explained in verse 20. How can you exalt Christ? What thoughts, words and actions must be yours if you are to boldly exalt Christ in this relationship or circumstance?

"To live is Christ and to die is gain;" some examples

The results of the right purpose: good news about the rest of your life (vs. 22).

If you live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for you!

Others will progress in faith (vs. 25).

Becoming a doer of the Word

**Hebrews 12:1-3—Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on the Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

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The passage: As we go through each phrase, embrace it. Choose to make it part of how you view your life today.

### Cloud of witnesses

Those mentioned in Hebrews 11.

### Lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us

Pursue holiness; walk with your Lord; focus on the battle to put off sin.

### Run with endurance the race that is set before us

Resolve a purpose for life: to run the race to the glory of God

Run with endurance.

### Fixing our eyes on Jesus

Remember your Lord: He ran the race to the end; He endured.

Follow His way.

### The author and perfecter of our faith

Faith is not of you: it is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:10)

Jesus will perfect the work He began in us until the end (Philippians 1:6)

### For the joy set before Him endured the cross

He made decisions about today based on eternity ahead (Romans 8:18)

### Has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

There were positive consequences to Jesus' choices on earth.

Jesus was faithful to the end and today is in the presence of His Father.

### For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself

How did Jesus deal with hostility?

Consider Him. Follow Him.

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### So that you may not grow weary and lose heart

This is the great result of a resolve to run/endure in honoring God to the end: Hope.

This is what happens when people remember/fix their eyes on/consider/follow Jesus in dealing with problems: Hope.

Hope: not growing weary

Hope: not losing heart

### The Implications

In family relationships

In ministry

In the lives of your children

People whose lives illustrate Hebrews 12.1-3

Living with this hope from God's Word

**1 Peter 4:10-11—As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

### What we are to do: The Mission

Serve one another:

It goes against the selfish sin nature. It fulfills Jesus' command to love as He did. It is the key to honoring God in relationships: in marriage, in ministry, with family, with friends. What dominates your thoughts: "What would I like?" or "How can I serve this person?"

Speak the words God would speak:

God is love.<sup>1</sup> God's Word is truth.<sup>2</sup> God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and discipline.<sup>3</sup> A good word makes the heart glad.<sup>4</sup> The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable.<sup>5</sup> A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word.<sup>6</sup> Pleasant words are pure.<sup>7</sup> The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds persuasiveness to his lips.<sup>8</sup> A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.<sup>9</sup> He who restrains his words has knowledge.<sup>10</sup>

Therefore, pursue knowing God and His thoughts and His words through the Word. Then seek His help to train yourself to speak His words in His way.

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1 John 4:8<sup>1</sup>

John 17:17<sup>2</sup>

2 Timothy 1:7<sup>3</sup>

Proverbs 12:25<sup>4</sup>

Proverbs 15:2<sup>5</sup>

Proverbs 15:23<sup>6</sup>

Proverbs 15:26<sup>7</sup>

Proverbs 16:23<sup>8</sup>

Proverbs 17:10<sup>9</sup>

Proverbs 17:27<sup>10</sup>

How we can accomplish this: The Means

Each one has received a special gift:

All believers have received spiritual gifts. All believers have received the Holy Spirit and are capable of the fruit of the spirit.

You have received the treasure of God's grace: be a good steward:

What if your uncle gave you \$3 million in cash and investments to use, oversee and accomplish profit? Would you try to be a good steward of it? This is of more value, both today and in eternity. The final product is not wealth or achievement but an effect on living souls.

By the strength which God supplies:

How much strength does God supply? Enough to handle any circumstance or trial you will ever face (1 Corinthians 10:13). And access to it is so certain, the Lord asks you to request it with confidence (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Is it possible to serve? Is it possible to speak the words of God?

Yes. In this great hope.

What can happen: The Result

Be a good steward of God's grace:

Know the contentment of accomplishing the most important things. Know the contentment of walking close to your Lord. Know the joy of having changed and grown as a Christian. One day lay a crown with more jewels at the feet of your God.

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Bring glory to God through Jesus Christ

Honor the Lord

Filtering thoughts and events of life through the truth of 1 Peter 4:10-11.

**Galatians 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

The Truths

1. The self which was living life for me is dead ("I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live"). Paul is not talking about the physical body. He refers to the unsaved person who was a slave to sin. That person no longer lives, no longer rules.
2. Christ lives in me, I live for Him ("But Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God"). This is the glorious truth for all Christians: you abide in Christ and He in you, you bear fruit and abide in His love (John 15:5-9).
3. I'm alive because of Jesus' love and death ("Who loved me and gave Himself up for me")

What are the practical implications:

When you are sick

When finances are better than any other time in life

When you don't feel loved by your spouse

When you have been faithful in ministry

When your child is stubborn in sin

When all in your family are walking with God