

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

Fan the Flame

SERIES

Come Alive in 2025

DATE

2/2/2025

KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:1-14

SYNOPSIS

God put a fire in you, but you must keep it burning.

HIGHLIGHTS



🔥 Fan the Flame

We've been talking about Coming Alive in 2025. God can breathe new life into you and your situation. He can suddenly bring revival to us where bondages are broken, prodigals come back to God, and there's an overwhelming sense of the presence of the Lord. Revival is a sovereign act of God, but we can prepare the way for his visitation through repentance and returning to our first love.

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

Here is an inspiring relationship between an older Apostle and a young pastor. Scholars estimate that Paul was about 30 years older than Timothy, and since this was written just before his execution, Paul was around 60 and Timothy around 30. There was a mentor/mentee relationship here that was particularly close. Mentoring relationships are a good thing. If you are a younger believer, you need the support and guidance of an older believer. And, if you're the older one, you need to help the younger develop in their faith. Don't despise the age gap.

5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (sound mind).

Timothy's faith actually began generations earlier with his grandmother, then his mother and finally him. 🔥 **Don't underestimate the power of generational influence.** There are scriptures that talk about how God is interested in your whole family when you become a believer.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Acts 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.

Paul calls it sincere faith. Other bible translations use words like unfeigned, genuine, and unhypocritical. Timothy wasn't just going through the motions or playing Christian. He was the real deal. Faith is more 🔥 than just mental assent. **Sincere faith affects attitudes and actions.** Real faith, sincere faith, is walked out in everyday life regardless of the situation. Then, if your faith is genuine, you need to keep the fire burning.



☞ Did you know that **you have at least one gift from God**? The gifts are for all believers, not just those in public ministry. There are public gifts like prophets, pastors and evangelists. But there are also gifts of wisdom, faith and healing. And there's more; some we don't always think of as gifts like helps, service and encouragement. And I'm only listing a sampling of the gifts mentioned in the scripture.

As a believer, you have at least one gift and you need to use it to benefit others and glorify God. If you don't, it will diminish over time. Like a fire, it needs to be fanned into flame and stirred up. Let's talk about Paul's analogy of a fire. God's gift in you is a fire which can grow or weaken. Paul is not saying that we ☞ need to create a fire – that's God's job. But he is saying that we need to **keep that fire burning and growing**.

Have you ever tended to a campfire? If it gets down to embers and you want to get it going again what do you do? Don't you stir the embers and throw another log on? Sometimes you need to blow on it or use some cardboard to wave a breeze into it. It needs more air to reignite. Let's build on the analogy a bit more.

The fire represents the gift of God in you. He started the fire. You must maintain it. Sometimes, through neglect it diminishes to embers. Those embers need to be stirred. You need to poke around in your own heart to rekindle that fire for God. Some parts have turned completely to ash and need to be pushed aside ☞ so that the remaining embers can reignite. What things are blocking your fire? **Remove the hindrances**. Also, embers die out much more quickly when they are separated. So, you stir them to get the glowing ☞ embers together. **Time together with other believers**, talking about God can keep the embers glowing.

Any fire needs fuel, so you throw another log on. I think the fuel for spiritual fire is best understood as ☞ God's Word. Elsewhere God's Word is likened to bread which feeds us. So, **feed your fire with the Bible**.

Then, that fire needs air. It's still amazing to me that glowing embers, with a little fresh kindling, can burst into flame with a gust of wind. I've actually gone to extreme measures to burn leaves in the past. They didn't want to keep on burning, so I put them in a contained area, got out my leaf blower and those barely burning leaves lit up like the fourth of July. Your fire from God needs air, which I think is the Holy Spirit. ☞ He is literally described as a wind or the breath of God. So, **invite the Holy Spirit to breathe fresh wind into your spirit and reignite God's fire within**.

Then, look for opportunities to use your gift and step out in faith. And, if you're feeling timid or afraid, understand those feelings aren't from God. Actually, God gives us power, love and a sound mind.

--David Guzik... Paul wrote this to Timothy because boldness matters; without it, we can't fulfill God's purpose for our lives. God's purpose for us is more than making money, being entertained, and being comfortable; it is for each of us to use the gifts He gives to touch His people and help a needy world. Fear and timidity will keep us from using the gifts. God wants us each to take His power, His love, and His calm thinking and overcome fear, to be used of Him with all the gifts He gives.



☞ You have a gift. Old or young, you have a gift. **Discover it, develop it, and deploy it** all for God's glory. If you're not sure what gifts you may have, ask those who know you. Often, your circle of friends can see God's handiwork in you better than you see it yourself. Once you know your gift, learn all about it, ask God ☞ to help you grow in it, and look for opportunities to use it. And **don't be ashamed**.

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner... 12 ...I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

Our modern world has turned this completely upside down. The culture around us often says everything is okay and without shame, unless you're a bible-believing Christian; then you're a horrible person. But that is not what the Bible says. Don't be ashamed of the gospel.

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Luke 9:26

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Don't be ashamed of the gospel and don't be ashamed of your faith. Live it out. Walk it out. And, don't be ☞ ashamed of your gifts. Use them for the glory of God. And, **stay grounded**.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

☞ **Stick to the Word**. One of the greatest compliments I can get regarding my preaching is that I stick to the Word. Some people have posted online that Open Bible is true to the Word and doesn't focus on personal opinions or current trends. I love that. The more we're grounded in the Word, the more stable we will be. And, in the context of using our gifts, we must make sure we align with God's Word. The gifts will never contradict the scripture.

☞ **Live out of love**. Our motive in sharing our faith and our gifts should be that we love others. Let your gifts be a blessing to others. Let love be your motivation.

☞ **Guard your heart**. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Paul calls it a good deposit entrusted to you. The gift of God needs to be fanned to flame and it needs to be guarded. Don't let it get stomped out. Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in you.

☞ **To Come Alive in 2025, Fan the Flame of God's gifts in you.**