



# 2 Timothy

## Servant of God

Sample Lesson #1  
and  
Leader's Guide Answers

**Read—2 Timothy 1:1–7; other references as given.**

What do you do when you feel fearful, discouraged, or even abandoned? The world says forget about your problems, have some fun, be positive, have a drink, take a pill. But these aren't good answers, especially for Christians who can rely on God and His grace to give them victory over the trials of life.

Second Timothy is God's manual on how to live strong, not in human strength or temporary fixes but in God's grace. Written by the apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), the letter explains how to live a truly godly life in a truly ungodly world.

In this first lesson Paul introduces himself (v. 1), presents the source of all godly living (v. 2), and encourages Timothy to live wholeheartedly for God by reminding him of his godly heritage (2 Timothy 1:3–7). In this lesson you'll learn the importance of overcoming life's trials by learning to rely on God's grace.

Before you begin, ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and transform you into the image of His Son.

1. Paul was called to be an apostle **by the will of God** (2 Timothy 1:1). In 1 Timothy 1:1 Paul said his apostleship was by God's commandment. The two phrases are essentially synonymous. God's commands, rightly applied, are His will for us.
  - a. Many Christians are uncertain about God's will for their lives. List three important aspects of God's will that apply to all believers (Ephesians 6:5–6; 1 Thessalonians 4:2–5; 5:18). Personalize your answer by completing the following sentences.
    1. It is God's will for me to \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
    2. It is God's will for me to \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
    3. It is God's will for me to \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
  - b. What three things must every Christian do before he can *consistently* discern God's will for his or her life (Romans 12:1–2; the word **prove**, [Greek *dokimazo*—to approve after testing, to discern; NIV: "approve"])?
    1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. \_\_\_\_\_).
    2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. \_\_\_\_\_).
    3. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. \_\_\_\_\_).
2. Paul called Timothy his **beloved son** (2 Timothy 1:2; literally, "child") even though Timothy's biological father was a Greek and probably an unbeliever (Acts 16:1–3). What *do you think* Paul was saying about his relationship with Timothy when he called Timothy his son (Philippians 2:19–22)?
3. Many Bible scholars believe Timothy was a pastor or elder at Ephesus when he received Paul's second letter (1 Timothy 1:3). On a previous occasion Timothy had expressed his sadness with tears (2 Timothy 1:4). Many Bible scholars believe Timothy may have become discouraged in the ministry as a result of opposition to the truth (1 Timothy 4:1–5; 6:3–5).
  - a. What three heavenly gifts did Paul want Timothy to experience in greater degree (2 Timothy 1:2)?
  - b. List at least four practical things Paul did to encourage Timothy (2 Timothy 1:1–5).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).

4. Now think of a time in your Christian life when God used another person to help you when you were discouraged. What *specific* things did he or she do to encourage you?

5. A genuine (NIV: "sincere") faith in God had existed in at least one member of Timothy's family for three generations (2 Timothy 1:5). What *do you think* are some characteristics of a genuine or sincere faith?

6. Paul told Timothy to **stir up the gift of God** (2 Timothy 1:6). The gift of God was not the gift of salvation but likely a spiritual gift Timothy received when he was commissioned into the gospel ministry (1 Timothy 4:14).

a. Paul's admonition to Timothy to stir up the gift teaches us some important truths about spiritual renewal. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).

b. Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift of God, but he did not tell him how to do it. What specific things do you do to maintain spiritual vitality?

7. God gives several things to those who turn to Him in faith—the promise of life (2 Timothy 1:1); the opportunity for a pure conscience (2 Timothy 1:3; Hebrews 10:22); grace, mercy, and peace (2 Timothy 1:2). He also provides Christian friends to encourage us when we become disheartened.

a. What has God not given to believers (2 Timothy 1:7)?

b. If God has not given believers a spirit of fear, from where do you think this controlling influence or spirit originates?

c. Take a moment to examine your life. Is your life characterized by fear or faith? Do you find yourself motivated by fear, or do you regularly turn to God in times of trouble?

# 1 Genuine Faith

1. a.
    1. It is God's will for me to serve the Lord diligently in my place of employment (Ephesians 6:5–9).
    2. It is God's will for me to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:2–5).
    3. It is God's will for me to be thankful for everything that God allows to come into my life (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
  - b.
    1. A Christian must present himself to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
    2. A Christian must not accept the world's value system (Romans 12:2; **do not be conformed to this world**).
    3. A Christian must allow his mind to be constantly renewed by the Word of God (Romans 12:2).
2. Timothy had served and honored Paul in the same way a faithful and obedient child would his father.
3. a. Grace, mercy, and peace.
  - b.
    1. Paul reached out to Timothy by writing him a letter of encouragement and instruction.
    2. Paul reaffirmed his love for Timothy by calling him his dearly beloved son (2 Timothy 1:2).
    3. Paul told Timothy that he was praying for him (2 Timothy 1:3).
    4. Paul told Timothy that he wanted to see him (2 Timothy 1:4).
    5. Paul expressed compassion for Timothy's situation rather than criticizing him (2 Timothy 1:4).
    6. Paul expressed confidence in Timothy's spiritual relationship with God even though Timothy was discouraged at the time (2 Timothy 1:5).
4. Answers will vary.
5.
    1. A passionate desire and love for God.
    2. An unwavering commitment to the truth.
    3. A genuine love for other Christians and the lost.
    4. Other answers could apply.
6. a.
    1. Salvation by itself does not guarantee continuing spiritual vitality for the believer.
    2. Believers must assume some personal responsibility for keeping themselves spiritually vibrant. This doesn't mean, however, that the Christian can accomplish this without God's grace (John 15:5).
    3. God's gift of salvation is free, but it can be abused by neglect.
    4. Other answers could apply.
  - b. Answers will vary. The Greek word for "stir up" means to stir up the smoldering embers into a living flame, to keep at white heat. General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once said to his followers: "The tendency of fire is to go out; watch the fire on the altar of your heart." The believer should do his best to maintain close communion with God through daily Bible study and prayer, confession of sin, as well as maintaining close fellowship with other believers in a Bible-believing church where Christ is honored and each believer is encouraged by the faith of others (2 Timothy 2:22).
7. a. A spirit of fear.
  - b. Satan. The Bible says that Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Satan attempts to steal the peace and joy that God wants every believer to experience.
  - c. Answers will vary.