**He is Able to Keep What I Have Committed to Him**

*2 Timothy 1:12*

**Introduction**

1. **1 Timothy 6:11-12** – Paul urges Timothy to pursue what is right, fight the fight of faith, and in doing so reminded him of the confession of Christ he made. **(cf. Acts 8:37**)
	1. This confession of faith is necessary to be recognized by Christ and God – **Matthew 10:32-33**
	2. It is not merely a statement of conviction held at the given time, but the beginning of a lifelong confession in word and deed. (**cf. Colossians 3:17**)
	3. Therefore, as the landscape of our journey of faith changes over time we must revisit and remind ourselves of our confession and remain determined to hold it without wavering. (**cf. Hebrews 10:23**)
2. Biblical faith is sacrificial. For this reason, it is challenging. Those who don’t see a challenge in faith may not be making sacrifices that “the faith” demands.
	1. It is easy to have faith that is selective – only doing as much and going as far as comfort and convenience allows.
	2. When faith is complete, and without reservation, it leads to tremendous sacrifice – we not only do what is required when it is easy, but even when extremely difficult.
3. Doubt, hesitancy, and timidity may confront us at times on our journey of faith, but these fiery darts of the adversary can be extinguished and deflected by the reminder of who we are committed to, what He has done, and what He is capable of continuing to do. (**cf. 2 Timothy 1:12**)
4. A Concern
5. Passing the Torch to Timothy
	1. Paul encourages Timothy in his work as an evangelist as his life neared its end – **2 Timothy 4:5-6** (**v. 6**, ***“For”*** – *gar* – assigning a reason – “because I’m about to die”)
		1. Pouring out of drink offering = final act of sacrificial ceremony.
		2. ***“fulfill your ministry”*** – carry it out fully – not just with an end in mind, but the quality of it as a whole – complete, neglecting nothing.
		3. NOTE: Not that Paul doubted Timothy. Not a mark against Timothy’s character. But that a man of great faith like Paul is determined to leave no stone left unturned. **(cf. 2 Peter 1:13** – like Peter)
	2. Paul urges Timothy to avoid neglecting “the gift” that is in him:
		1. **2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 4:14** – “remind” brings attention to a previous time Paul mentioned Timothy’s “gift.”
			1. **2 Timothy 1:6** – ***“stir up the gift”*** = ***“Do not neglect the gift”*** – **1 Timothy 4:14**
			2. He had already spoken to Timothy about this, and thought it necessary to do so again.
		2. What is the gift?
			1. **Spiritual gift?**
				1. *Charisma* – that which is freely and graciously given, favor bestowed, gift (BDAG)
				2. Sometimes (not always) miraculous – **Romans 1:11; 12:6**
				3. Concerning salvation – **Romans 6:23**
				4. Paul’s self-control in sexual passion – **1 Corinthians 7:7**
				5. Natural gift (as distinct from miraculous) – **Romans 12:6-8** (some miraculous, some not; teaching); **1 Peter 4:10-11**
				6. Not necessarily referring to a spiritual gift.

Laying on of hands? – **1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6**

Used for setting apart and endorsing men for work – **Acts 13:3** (Paul and Barnabas at Antioch) (no spiritual gifts imparted to Paul)

* + - 1. **Prophecy specifically about Timothy?**
				1. **1 Timothy 4:14**
				2. Idea: Specific prophecy concerning Timothy being chosen for the ministry.

**Acts 13:2** – divine calling recorded for Paul and Barnabas.

**Acts 16:2-3** – where is it for Timothy. Simply Paul wanted him to go.

* + - * 1. ***“by prophecy”*** – *dia* – the channel of an act. (Prophecy was the channel through which Timothy received his gift.)

**NOTE: does not indicate that “prophecy” WAS the gift.**

* + - * 1. **1 Timothy 1:18** – charge to wage warfare by prophecy.

***“This charge I commit unto thee, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to thee, that by them thou mayest war the good warfare” (1 Timothy 1:18***; ASV)

I.e. they led the way to Timothy in his faith – **cf. 2 Timothy 3:15** (knowing scripture)

SO WAGE WAR BY THEM, NOTHING ELSE (**cf. 1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7** – not fables, etc.)

* + - * 1. How would he not neglect the gift? – **1 Timothy 4:12-16** – by giving heed to the very prophecies (Scriptures) that led him to where he was already.
			1. **An ability Timothy had?**
				1. What made Paul want to take him? – **Acts 16:1-3**

**(v. 2)** – well spoken of.

**(v. 3)** – something Paul saw.

NOTHING SPOKEN OF ABOUT PROPHECY.

PERHAPS GIFT GIVEN, BUT NO RECORD.

* + - * 1. Later description confirming the wisdom of Paul’s evaluation at the beginning – **Philippians 2:19-22**
				2. Exhortations throughout – **1 Timothy 4:12, 14, 16; 2 Timothy 2:1; 4:2, 5** – concern his stand in truth, teaching, preaching, fighting false teaching.
				3. **Conclusion – Timothy’s gift concerned his ability to teach/preach effectively.**

Paul’s perception of such, and his decision to open a door for Timothy to be used involved him in the process of bringing such to further light – **2 Timothy 1:6**

* + - * 1. Don’t neglect it? 🡪
1. Apostasy and Persecution on the Horizon
	1. Apostasy:
		1. Already a problem – **1 Timothy 1:3-4, 7, 19-20**
		2. More to come:
			1. Spirit foretold apostasy – **1 Timothy 4:1**
			2. Error of Hymenaeus and Philetus already spreading – **2 Timothy 2:16-18**
			3. Perilous times – **2 Timothy 3:1-6 (**including false teachers)
			4. Choosing fiction over fact – **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
	2. Persecution:
		1. Especially in second letter as Paul’s life is nearing its end – prematurely by persecution. (Sacrificial)
		2. Don’t be ashamed, but share in suffering – **2 Timothy 1:8**
		3. Must endure hardship – **2 Timothy 2:3**
		4. Had carefully followed Paul to this point – **2 Timothy 3:10-12**
2. Paul’s concern for Timothy – **2 Timothy 1:5-6, 8** – neglect of “gift” sandwiched between remembrance of his faith, and exhortation to not be ashamed of Paul’s suffering with a call to share in it.
	1. Implication – When Paul departs this life, and Timothy assumes the mantle of faith and proclamation of the gospel, Paul wants to ensure he will not waver amid the immense adversity he, like Paul, would have to endure.
3. A Consolation
4. A Spirit of Power, of Love, and of a Sound Mind
	1. Don’t neglect your gift by folding under the weight of adversity, namely, persecution.
	2. **2 Timothy 1:7** – for God hasn’t given a spirit of fear.
		1. Fear – *deilia*; timidity: — fear. (Strong)
			1. *“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity”* (NASB)
			2. “lack of mental or moral strength, cowardice” (BDAG)
			3. “(from *deos*, ‘fright’)…The word denotes ‘cowardice and timidity’ and is never used in a good sense” (VINE)
		2. Condemned – **Revelation 21:8** – ***“cowardly”*** – *deilos* (from which *deilia* comes)
		3. Extinguished by Christ for His brethren – **Hebrews 2:14-15** (through His death and resurrection) (Fear – *Phobos* – not same word, but fear of death is where the timidity comes from ultimately.)
	3. Rather, God has given a spirit of:
		1. Power (*dynamis*)
			1. **2 Timothy 1:8** – to endure suffering for Christ.
			2. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – Example of Paul’s thorn in the flesh, and the Lord’s reply/supply.
				1. **(v. 9)** – ***“strength”*** and ***“power”*** = *dynamis*
				2. ***“Grace is sufficient”*** – i.e. the strength and grace are parallel – they come with each other.
				3. **Titus 2:11-12** – grace teaches. (It is the gospel message.)

**Romans 1:16** – power (*dynamis*)

**1 Corinthians 1:18** – power (*dynamis)*

Had power to transform Paul and sustain him through trial and tribulation.

* + - 1. **Philippians 4:13** – can do all things (i.e. required by gospel) through Christ (in gospel – crucified, resurrected, reigning).
		1. Love
			1. “Nothing will do more to inspire courage, to make a man fearless of danger, or ready to endure privation and persecution, than ‘love.’ The love of country, and wife, and children, and home, makes the most timid bold when they are assailed; and the love of Christ and of a dying world nerves the soul to great enterprises, and sustains it in the deepest sorrows.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible; 2 Timothy 1:7)
			2. ***“For the love of Christ compels us…” (2 Corinthians 5:14).***
			3. Love is enough motivation to face death itself for the object of its focus – **John 13:34-35; 15:13; 1 John 3:16**
			4. Love’s effect – **1 John 4:17-19**
				1. **(v. 17)** – Perfected (complete, mature love; i.e. as God loves) for boldness in judgment – no fear of the judgment day, because God abides in us as we love. (we are right with Him)
				2. **(v. 18)** – Such casts out fear – if we’re loving God and the brethren (perfectly – completely – according to His standard) there is no reason to fear. (Fear is punishment in and of itself.)
		2. Sound Mind
			1. Greek word used once in the NT – “sound mind” – *sōphronismo*s; discipline, i.e. self-control: — sound mind. (STRONG)
				1. “exercise of prudence, moderation, self-discipline, prudence” (BDAG)
				2. “The state referred to here is that in which the mind is well balanced, and under right influences; in which it sees things in their just proportions and relations; in which it is not feverish and excited, but when everything is in its proper place.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
			2. Without it – **2 Timothy 4:10, 16** – folding under temptation of world, and pressure of persecution.
			3. With it – **1 Peter 5:8-10** – resisting Satan, enduring suffering, steadfast in faith, allowing God to perfect, establish, strengthen and settle.
1. The Case of Paul
	1. **2 Timothy 1:8, 12** – call for sharing in suffering followed by Paul’s assurance to Timothy of own experience.
		1. He suffers immensely for the gospel, but know that Christ can keep what He has committed.
		2. Paul committed his life (in totality), and knows Christ is in control (**cf. Philippians 1:21**).
	2. **2 Timothy 4:6-8** – Paul could say this because of the confidence of Christ.
		1. **Titus 1:2** – God’s promise is certain, cannot lie.
		2. Christ reigns in victory, and will grant us the victory.
	3. Based on Paul’s life of sacrifice for the Lord, Timothy is called to do the same – trial, tribulation, persecution may come, but you can persist in the gospel.
2. A Commitment
3. Paul had committed himself fully to Christ, which is why he was confident of Christ’s keeping of him.
	1. **2 Timothy 1:12** – He is able to keep.
	2. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** – Christ will do what He has promised to do.
		1. This is conditional.
		2. Only if we do what we have promised to do.
		3. **(v. 13)** – i.e. He must remain true to His will, and cannot save us if we are no longer faithful. (Teaches opposite of once saved always saved.)
4. With the encouragement, and following the example of himself, Paul charges Timothy to make a full commitment in his preaching/teaching, and general service of God.
	1. **2 Timothy 1:13-14** – commitment in holding fast the pattern.
	2. **2 Timothy 2:1-7** – commitment (corresponding to before) in standing strong in grace (gospel). Imagery:
		1. **(v. 3)** – endure hardship as soldier.
		2. **(v. 4)** – follow your King – follow His commands, even at expense of “affairs of this life.”
		3. **(v. 5)** – follow the rules.
		4. **(v. 6)** – consume it yourself. (**cf. 1 Timothy 4:16** – take heed to self and doctrine – save self and others)
	3. **2 Timothy 3:12-15** – continue in word despite persecution.
	4. **2 Timothy 4:1-5** – continue to preach the truth no matter how people reject hearing it.
	5. **Overall** – stay committed to the Lord and His gospel no matter who else does, and no matter what happens to you because of this.

**Conclusion**

1. Our walk of faith with the Lord is one confronted with myriad trials.
2. Whether it be physical pain, or other forms of trial (emotional, familial, relationships, etc.) we are expected to endure and remain faithful.
3. We must face those trials with the assurances God has blessed us with, and remember the mindset of Paul – **2 Timothy 1:12**
4. If, and only if, we remain faithful to the Lord no matter what happens, and no matter who we are separated from in the process, the Lord will grant us the victory in the end.