



KEEP THE FAITH

BIG IDEA: Faith is a gift we are to guard and pass on to others.

DATE: Wednesday, October 29 and Sunday, November 2, 2025

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

OPENING QUESTION

Who passed on their faith to you? *Was it a family member or friend? How have you rekindled your faith or kept it going?*

SETTING THE STAGE

In order to fully appreciate the letter of 2 Timothy, we have to understand what happened in the two or three years since Paul sent his first letter to Timothy. Timothy was still pastoring the church at Ephesus, but Paul was now imprisoned in a Roman dungeon, suffering “even to the point of chains” (2 Timothy 2:9). Many of Paul’s friends and fellow workers have been killed in the persecution enacted by the emperor Nero. The outlook for Christians seemed dire. Paul himself would be executed shortly after sending this final letter.

STUDY THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 1:3-14 (NLT)

Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again. ⁵I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

⁶This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. ⁸So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don’t be ashamed of me, either, even though I’m in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. ⁹For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the

way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹¹And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

¹²That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return. ¹³Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

DISCUSSION

THANKFUL FOR TIMOTHY: 2 Timothy 1:3-5

- In prison, facing execution, Paul still found reason to be thankful to God. What are some of the practices that Paul has maintained, even in chains?
- The word *genuine* that Paul uses in this passage can also be translated *unhypocritical*. What are some reasons that Paul provides for Timothy's remarkable genuine faith?
- How is a person's spiritual growth impacted by the lives of others? Share examples from your own life.

TIMOTHY'S FAITH AND HERITAGE: 2 Timothy 1:6-11

- What did Paul, his spiritual father, want him to remember about his calling?
- How does Paul describe the calling that he and Timothy received?
- What are the dangers of relying on our own strength and abilities to complete a God-given task? How can one tell the difference?

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL: 2 Timothy 1:12-14

- Why do Christians need reminders that we shouldn't be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What gives you the confidence to serve or suffer for Christ without fear of being ashamed? How do our attitudes toward suffering dictate our abilities to withstand it?
- How does loyalty to our leaders and spiritual mentors impact us when our faith is under fire?
- Who has been a role model of the faith to you and in what way? How did they help you fan the flame of your faith to keep it burning?

RESPONSE

We are all called to pass on our faith and thankfully where God calls, He equips. What are some ways God has gifted you to build up the church? Think about spiritual gifts and experiences you have gone through that have shaped your faith. These experiences have given you wisdom and empathy that you can pass on. Ask God to give you divine opportunities to share your gifts or story with someone this week.