

SELF CONTROL

Pastor's Desk – May 2, 2021



2 Timothy 1:6-7 (6) *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

When the Apostle Paul advises us to "stir up the gift" in us, he is essentially telling us to correct ourselves and put what we say we believe into action. He mainly speaks explicitly about the gift of the Holy Spirit, but the purpose of his warning includes all of the truths we have gained as a result of the Lord giving us His Holy Spirit.

Because of a key component, grace, the elect is responsible to God to respond in accordance with these truths. To act apposite to them is to quench the Spirit of God. Opposing the truth chokes and suffocates good outcomes; it hinders growth into the image of God.

Proverbs 25:28 states, "*Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.*" Such an individual is helpless against deadly forces that pressure them to yield. To do what is correct entails discipline, the self-control to respond in conjunction with the truth. Because essentially everything in life - including the enemy, the world's lure, and our cravings - works against our genuine submission to God. Therefore, Paul commands us to utilize self-control and to stir up the gift that has been graciously given to us through the mercies of our Heavenly Father.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos