

2. Discussion: Against the truth that God has not given a spirit of fear...the writer notes that he has given a threefold spirit as we mention below. This use of the word "spirit", incidentally, is not a reference to the Holy Spirit, but to the emotional quickening which is induced in us by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

a. It is a Spirit of power

The duties to be attempted by Timothy are large. When one faces a particularly large problem he often feels weak in the face of it. The academic life often poses such a grim possibility before us. But the emphasis is that the spirit given us by God is one of power, force, and thereby able to allow us to accomplish what the Lord has for us to do. The reality of Philippians 4:13 is seen in this verse and the truth of Acts 1:8 is also gleaned from it. We do not need to be afraid of the responsibilities and duties that may be before us...we have been given a spirit of power.

b. It is a spirit of Love.

Love involves the ability to forget yourself in the unselfish seeking of what is best for others. Selfishness is a great cause of personal and emotional grief and the emphasis is that we are freed from that. We do not have to fear for self-image. We may unashamedly give of ourselves to the health of the believers and know that what we are doing is in agreement with the spirit God has given. In the academic world it is very easy to be jealous of others...especially the gifted. It seems that they have it all and feelings of envy often complicate our lives. But if we remember the gift of God...it is the gift to love knowing that this is how we best grow and contribute. Envy is close to fear and is contrary to the interest of spiritual health.

c. It is a spirit of self-control