

A. Appropriate the Gift of God

2 Timothy 1:7

1. An Introductory thought

I am not one of those who thinks there is an instant cure for everyone's emotional variance but I do think that God has given us far more than most of us are willing to use. If we would learn to take His provision and put it to work, so to speak, we would surely be better in every area of life. What is called for in this is a clear-cut reckoning of the work of God as it applies to us and a willingness to trust Him with it.

There are several classes of gift in the framework of the New Testament. Most fundamental is the gift of life as in John 1:12. Close to that is the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the church and to the individual believer, as a Comforter/companion (John 14). Following this are the serving and edifying gifts of Ephesians 4 and other passages. But underlying all of these is the gift of strength and moral/emotional support referred to in our passage. With the creation of the new man of 2 Corinthians 5, there is this development of truth within us as to the work of God. Paul is now (in our passage) urging Timothy to a life of godliness and active service and he stresses particularly a dependence on what God has given. It is the key to our being able to fulfill the Divine commission in many areas of life. Our task is twofold: to know the gift and to use it. The first is much easier but the second demands some attention as well.

2. Discussion: What God has given us

a. not a spirit of fear

b. but one of power