

| **Series Title:** Resilient Faith – Lessons from 2 Timothy |
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| **Weekly Title:** Resilient in Power |
| **Date:** Sunday October 20 2024 |
| **Bible Passage:** 2 Timothy 1:1-7 |
| **Purpose of Preach:** To challenge people to fan into flame the power of God in them to keep running, to keep dreaming and to keep being available for Jesus to use. |
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| **Introduction:**  [Please see the series introduction and use the notes to bring a general introduction to the series]. This week we are kicking off our new sermon series from 2 Timothy called “Resilient Faith”. Over the next few weeks we are going to unpack what “Resilient Faith” looks like and how we can step into it. Today we are looking at 1:1-7 and how we are to live with “Resilient Power.” Paul encourages Timothy to run with passion, expectation and faith into all that God has for him. Don’t live life with your faith being like a small flickering flame when God wants to ignite a roaring fire within you. In v.1-5 we see Paul’s huge heart for Timothy. He constantly prays for him and longs to see him again. He knew Timothy’s family and encourages Timothy about their faith in God. And perhaps more than anything Paul’s heart for Timothy is shown in his challenge and encouragement not to waste his life but to live and serve in the power of God. Don’t meander through life with your faith being small and just enough to get into heaven. Live courageously and expectantly and be continually filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. If we are going to have “Resilient Faith” we need to keep coming back to the truth that we have been filled with “Resilient Power”. I want us to see three things: |
| **1. The NEED for “Resilient Power”**  It seems that Timothy was in danger of losing his passion for Jesus. There are many reasons we can struggle to live in His power, but here are six reasons we see in Timothy.  *i) COMPARISON* Can you imagine how intimidating it must have been for Timothy to follow Paul: Paul was an incredible academic, church planter and pioneer. Timothy was part of Paul’s team and now he was being released into representing Paul into local churches. Timothy had to live with the challenge of being compared to the Apostle Paul.  I think comparison is one of the biggest reasons people don’t step out to be used by God today. We feel we can never live up to the standard of others and so lose heart.  *ii) FEAR -* Timothy could easily have been overwhelmed by what God was calling him to do.In 1 Timothy 1:3 he is called to challenge false teaching and he is called to build healthy church teams by appointing elders and deacons. In 1 Timothy 6 Paul tells Timothy to speak boldly and challenge those who are rich to keep their hope in God. Then in 2 Timothy 4 Paul just throws in “do the work of an evangelist” too. Allow the enormity of the call; how tough it could have sounded and how overwhelmed Timothy might have felt.  *iii) AGE* – I think we can dismiss ourselves because we think we are too young or too old but God never does. In 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul says don’t let people look down on you for your youth. Timothy had to battle against people saying he was too young (even though he was 40), today people have to perhaps more battle against being told they are too old.  iv) INSECURITY – Timothy it seems was by nature timid and anxious. He was severely lacking in confidence, which is why Paul tells the Corinthians not to “intimidate” him (1 Corinthians 16:10). This is why Paul has to remind him he doesn’t have a spirit of fear.  v) HEALTH – A very real battle we face in our race with Jesus are seasons of poor health and struggles. We see in 1 Timothy 5 that Paul tells Timothy to drink wine to help his stomach and “frequent ailments”. He could easily have felt that his poor health made him redundant to God and yet the total opposite is true.  vi) SUFFERING – A final reason that Timothy could have been losing his passion for Jesus was because of the cost and the suffering it was causing him. The battle was beginning to feel too fierce and the persecution too great. The pain and cost of following Jesus could easily have led to the roaring fire becoming like a flickering flame.  **Application –**  How desperately all of us need this Resilient Power of the Holy Spirit. Are we passionate and on for Jesus? Perhaps we know our faith is like a flickering flame rather than a roaring fire and today we desperately need this “Resilient Faith”. |
| **#2: v.6. The HOPE for “Resilient Power”.**  In v.6 Paul speaks into Timothy’s life and says, “there is a way forward, the gift that is in you can be transformed and your flicking flame faith can be fanned into a roaring fire.” Remember what is in you is a free gift from God. It is received through grace rather than because of your performance. And this gift is already “in you”. Paul is saying: “Timothy stir up what you already have. Walk into what is already yours, the gift you need to fan into flame is in you and just needs to be awoken and used. Timothy keep fanning this gift into flame, don’t ignore it or let it go to waste”.  **Application**  There is a way forward for every single person here. You do not have to meander through this life but there is the invitation and hope for a fresh season ahead. |
| **#3: v.7. The GIFT of “Resilient Power”**  Paul says “for God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control”. The only way we can keep going is through the power of the Holy Spirit. We desperately need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the power to overcome fear and keep going. It is the power to overcome all the reasons we have seen that can rob us of experiencing this power. It is the power to love with the love of Jesus. It is the power to be transformed from the inside out and live for Jesus more than ourselves and even this world. It is to have supernatural self-control. And all of this is a glorious gift. It is a power that anoints our gifts and brings wonderful fruit as we step out for Jesus.  **Application**  The call to "Resilient Faith" is a call to live empowered by the Spirit of God. It is a challenge to not allow the fears, insecurities, and difficulties of life to extinguish the flame of our passion for Jesus. Instead, we are invited to fan that flame into a roaring fire through the gift of God's power, love, and self-control.  ***Here are some examples of ways you might want to conclude the message. You could use some or all of them; develop them into different ideas or to fit with the Location***  William Booth reminds us,  *"The tendency of fire is to go out; watch the fire on the altar of your heart. Anyone who has tended a fireplace fire knows that it needs to be stirred up occasionally."*  **Application:** This week, reflect on the areas of your life where you may be feeling weary, overwhelmed, or tempted to give up. Where does the fire need *stirring up*? Perhaps it's a challenging work situation, a struggling relationship, or a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. Remember that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you (Romans 8:11).  Examples to use in application:   * Overcome Comparison: When you find yourself comparing yourself to others, remember that God has uniquely gifted and called you.Step out in faith with what God has given you, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit. * Confront Fear: If you are facing a daunting task or a difficult conversation, ask God to fill you with His Spirit of power, love, and self-control. Pray for the courage to take that first step, knowing that He will be with you. * Embrace Your Unique Season: Whether you are young or old, struggling with health issues or facing opposition, know that God's power is made perfect in your weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Allow Him to use you right where you are. Jesus meets us in the middle of our situations - invite Him in!   **Exercise:** Take a few moments to reflect on how we can fan the flame of our faith into a roaring fire. Write down one specific area of your life where you need to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. Ask people if they want to respond today to a filling of the Holy Spirit by standing or coming to the front. Pray for those who have responded by asking Him to fill them afresh and empower them to live with "Resilient Faith."  **Story from prayer partners - Open Doors. Pray for the persecuted church. *This example can be used within the sermon.***  PRAY WITH NURNOBI  “You can’t make me renounce my faith – I choose to follow Jesus!” That’s what Nurnobi told his family on 15 June, when they dragged him to a mosque and tried to force him to return to Islam. Local Muslim leaders had declared that he’d have to leave the village if he wouldn’t leave Christianity. Hearing his words, Nurnobi’s family violently attacked him in front of everyone at the mosque. The mosque leaders publicly excommunicated him – though they still harass him to return to Islam. Because of his new faith, Nurnobi is rejected by the whole community – nobody will help him, or even sell him the food and basic necessities he needs. Open Doors partners are encouraging him, and exploring how best to help him.  Please pray:  » For Nurnobi to remain strong in his faith, and for God’s wisdom to help him cope with the  situation – and forgive his persecutors  » For Muslims in the community pressuring Nurnobi to, instead, also come to know the Lord  » For Open Doors partners to provide the love of Christ and the fellowship of family. |