



river west church

God's Assignment; God's Resources

2 Timothy 1:7

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10.16.2011

Extraordinary Things Through Ordinary Lives

God used Timothy in extraordinary ways. This is especially encouraging to us, because Timothy wasn't a natural leader, or powerful personality. The record shows that Timothy was a timid, insecure, and frail young man who simply said yes to a life of serving Jesus. That's awesome, because most of us are more like Timothy than we are like the Apostle Paul. Timothy is a great model for all of us who want our lives to count for Christ, especially when we don't feel we have a lot to offer in and of ourselves. The powerful lesson of Timothy's life is that God does extraordinary things through ordinary lives.

One of the ways this happens is that God gives us assignments. Sometimes we think of these assignments as a "Calling." But the word "calling" is misleading, because we think it only refers to those who are "called" to full time ministry or mission. That's why I prefer the word "assignment." God has assignments for each of us as followers of Christ. When you step into your assignment (big or small) by faith, that's when you will find the "courage of your calling" as a Christ follower.

God's Resources

But there is something else God does to accomplish extraordinary things through ordinary lives: He gives us His Holy Spirit to work in and through our lives. That's the message of 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God gave us a Spirit, not of fear, but of power and love and self control."

It's really important to see that this verse isn't just about an attitude that we work up in our own thinking. This verse is about the Spirit of God working in us. In many translations, the word "Spirit" is capitalized. That is to indicate that the reference is to the Holy Spirit and not just our own attitude. I'm certain that this is the correct way to view what Paul is saying to Timothy and to us in this verse.

When God gives you an assignment, He meets you in that assignment with his own resources. This is the promise of God's Spirit at work in and through your life. But it's crucial to realize that God gives us His resources as we step into our calling. When you say yes to God and take a step of faith, you will see the work of the Spirit in a greater degree in your life and ministry. Let's look in more detail at 2 Timothy 1:7. This verse gives us three key dimensions of the Spirit's work in our lives:

Power

Love

Self Control