**2 Timothy 1:1-5 — How Do I Motivate Those I Mentor?**

January 17, 2020

1. What is the background of 2 Timothy?
2. Paul wrote this letter from the Mamertine prison.

…encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. Acts 14:22 (ESV)

1. Nero’s persecution of the church landed Paul in prison.
2. Paul’s life in prison was difficult.
3. Timothy’s life in Ephesus was difficult.
4. Timothy didn’t look like a leader.
5. Paul cared about passing on the gospel more than he cared about himself.
6. How do I motivate those I mentor?
7. I motivate someone when I can speak to them from a position of authority.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 1 Corinthians 15:9 (ESV)

1. I motivate someone by letting them know my love for them.

To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

* *Grace* is God giving us what we don’t deserve.
* *Mercy* is God not giving us what we do deserve.
* *Peace* is the absence of hostility.

1. I motivate someone by letting them know I pray for them.

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.   
2 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)

…The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)

1. I motivate someone by letting them know they bring me joy.

As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 2 Timothy 1:4 (ESV)

1. I motivate someone by reminding them of their heritage.

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

Of all the people I have ever known, she had the greatest influence on me… She and my father didn’t have much education… but my mother was a woman of God — Billy Graham speaking about his mother and father.

1. I motivate someone by reminding them the Holy Spirit has gifted them for their task.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,… 2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV)

1. I motivate someone by reminding them the Holy Spirit gave them a new nature.

…for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV)

* Power
* Love
* Self-Discipline

Life Group Questions

1. What stood out in this message? What did you learn you didn’t know?
2. How did Paul’s faith help him face the hardships of prison and certain death?
3. Of the seven ways Paul set out to motivate Timothy, which one is most important for you to remember? Which one is most important for you to apply to your leadership?
4. In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul tells Timothy to fan into flame his god-given gift of church leadership. What might have caused this gift to die down? What does it take to develop a gift? How do you know what gift(s) God has given you? How can you develop it?
5. Paul was Timothy’s spiritual mentor. Do you have a mentor in Christ? Who are you trying to mentor in Christ?
6. What is the importance of a mother’s role in raising godly children, especially when her husband is absent or often gone?
7. The Holy Spirit doesn’t just give us the gifts we need to accomplish the task he has given but he gives us a new nature. He gives us a nature than can handle tough circumstances and tough people. How has the Holy Spirit changed your nature since becoming a Christian?