

Transforming Daily
“ . . . for the gospel according to the power of God . . . ”
2 Timothy 1:8

This passage of Scripture is where the popular admonition “for God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (v.7) appears. It has been said that the book of Timothy is encouragement to develop sound doctrine, and 2 Timothy is encouragement to live by sound doctrine. Paul tells Timothy over and over to establish a solid and faithful testimony for the gospel of Jesus Christ in his life, and through the preaching of God’s Word, establish it in the lives of others.

Paul is very clear that Timothy is to be as aggressive, if not more so, in preaching and teaching the truth of the gospel as the false teachers are in preaching and teaching their heresies. Paul also gives Timothy instruction on how to accomplish the task. Some of the tools for the job Paul lists are faith, personal testimony, power, love, self-control, humility (without shame), grace, good works, godly doctrine, all Scripture, preaching, and the fellowship of the saints. Since more is caught than taught, the best defense is a good offense – Timothy is to live what he believes not just talk about it.

The conditions for the believer today are no different than they were for Timothy. The same instructions from Paul apply. Just as there were false teachers then, so there are today. Just as Timothy was to teach and preach the gospel then, so the believer is to preach and teach the gospel today. Just as it was the best approach for timothy to accomplish the ministry for Christ by living out his belief among and before the people then, so too is it the best approach for the believer to accomplish their ministry for Christ by living out his or her belief among and before the people today.

Do you live by faith? Are you practicing biblical doctrine unashamed and fearless in the power of Christ, in love, and of a sound mind? What of the influence that you have on the lives of others, does it move to exalt Christ, edify the saints, and evangelize the lost? As an ambassador of Christ, the believer is the only one who can with positive, virtuous motivation share the truth of the gospel with a lost and dying world. Have you accepted this privilege and responsibility for the gospel according to the power of God?