

“Kindle Afresh the Gift of God”

Intro: In opening the text we read of the Apostle Paul’s gracious encouragement and of _____ gracious _____. As we contemplate God’s precious Word we learn how we are to respond to persecution, whether it be our own or the persecution of someone we love. Here we learn how we who follow Jesus are to respond to the hardship we suffer for our _____.

I. Paul’s gracious _____.

A. As Paul reminded Timothy every believer must _____ God and His work by taking action, taking their mind captive, thinking not on earthly things but actively setting their _____ the _____ of heaven. Look to God!

B. Just as Timothy needed to be reminded to _____ the gift of God within him so do we need to remember this very thing, especially in the day of trouble: God gifted us, each and every one, you and me individually. The special *grace gift* is in us for the benefit of Christ’s church and His glory and honor. In times of trouble we must remember to not deny or ignore the gift God placed in us but we must take action, _____ who granted the gift and His purpose in it. We fan the flame of our gift by recalling it and faithfully exercising it, ministering Christ to others.

II. _____ gracious _____.

A. God does _____ give His people a spirit of cowardly _____ for such cowardice does not exist in God. God empowers us as He did Daniel who was cast into the lion’s den, and as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who was cast into the fiery furnace. God enables us that in the face of the threat of death we would _____ stand declaring: “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from your persecution, and He will deliver us! But even if He doesn’t, we are not going to bow to your torture but we will _____ the glories of _____ until our dying breath!”

B. The _____ who calls and gifts us also well _____ us, empowering His people to endure and excel under the duress of persecution. Faithful is He who calls you!

1. God presently enables every believer with His purpose _____ power. This power is the very power by which God raised Jesus from the dead (cf. Eph. 1:18-20). God enables you with His own supernatural _____! Trust in God!

2. God presently empowers every believer with _____ agape _____ which motivates the believer to put his life on the line when threatened for the sake of Christ. With agape in our heart for but one Master we will _____ in service to Him. This is the love with which God empowers us.

3. God presently empowers every believer with a spirit of discipline giving them _____ness of _____ and wisdom in the time of trouble. With this God-granted spirit of discipline we are enabled to face persecution with wisdom which results in a disciplined response of power and love.

Closing: As God placed in us a _____ for Christ let us remember Him, kindling afresh the gift of God which He placed in us through His indwelling Spirit.

As we are mindful that those who trust in Jesus will face various levels of persecution we are also mindful that timidity is not of God. By faith in Jesus we now determine to stand in our God-granted _____-_____ spirit of power, love and discipline. Wherever God has us He has us there to minister Christ in _____, love and discipline, and He has gifted us and equipped us to do so.

As God caused the Apostle Paul so will He cause you to stand and _____ during the day of trouble. Remember God! Trust in God! _____ upon the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 – www.heritageabq.org