Why do you think Paul so often opens his epistles the way he does? (1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:1)

The history of Paul’s relationship with Timothy (Acts 16:1-3; Acts 17:13-15; Acts 18:4-5; Acts 19:21-22; Acts 20:1-5; Rom. 16:21; 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Cor. 16:5-11; 2 Cor. 1:1, 19; Phil. 1:1; Phil. 2:19-24; Col. 1:1; 1 Thes. 1:1; 1 Thes. 3:1-8; 1 Tim. 1:1-4, 18-19)


Why do you think that Paul always says, “Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,” but does not mention the Spirit? (Rom. 1:7; Gal. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; 2 Jn. 1:3)

What does Paul mean that he served God with a clear conscience? (Acts 24:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Thes. 2:10-12; 1 Tim. 1:5, 18-20; 1 Tim. 3:8-9; Heb. 13:18; 1 Pet. 3:14-16)

Why is it so important to have a clear conscience? (Phil. 1:9-11; Phil. 2:14-15; 2 Pet. 3:13-14; 1 John 3:21-22)

v. 3 – Note Paul’s prayers for Timothy. Timothy is a “strong Christian,” and yet Paul prays for him every day. How does this contradict our natural tendency? (1 Thes. 1:2-3; Rom. 1:9-12; Eph. 6:18-20)

v. 4 – Note the emotional transparency and vulnerability of Paul in verse 4. (2 Tim. 4:9-11, 16, 21; Acts 20:31; Rom. 15:30-32; Phil. 1:8; 1 Thes. 2:17-20)

How does Timothy’s family upbringing encourage you at a time when we so often hear of children raised in church departing from the faith in college? (2 Tim. 3:14-15)
What does Paul mean in verse six by telling Timothy to “kindle afresh the gift of God” in him?

Laying on of hands – (Mark 10:13-16; Lk. 4:40; Acts 8:14-19; Acts 9:17; 1 Tim. 4:13-16)

Reading vv. 6-8, what temptation is Timothy dealing with? (see also 2 Tim. 2:1-7; 2 Tim. 3:9-12; 2 Tim. 4:1-5)

Note what Paul describes as the opposite of timidity (fear) in verse 7
*Sofronismos -- Used in Titus 2:4 and translated “encourage.” Literal meaning, “to make of sound mind”; figurative expression, “to discipline, correct or make sober.”

What is fear un-powerful, un-loving and un-sound?

In comparing 2 Tim. 1:7 and Rev. 21:8, what is one of the main differences between a believer and an unbeliever? (see also John 12:42-43)

Why would Paul need to tell Timothy not to be ashamed of “me, his prisoner”? (Matt. 25:31-40)

“By "the gift" is meant his ministerial gift; for what qualifies men for the ministry, is not anything natural in them, nor acquired by them, but what is given unto them, and that of God: and this was "in" him; it continued with him; it was not lost by him, nor taken from him, as gifts may be, when they are not used; and yet it seems as if there was some decline, some backwardness and indifference as to the exercise of it: he might be too remiss,
negligent, and forgetful of it; wherefore the apostle puts him in mind to "stir" it up: there is in the word used a metaphor taken from coals of fire covered with ashes, as if almost extinct, and need to be blown up into a flame, and a very apt one it is; since the gifts of the Spirit, especially his extraordinary ones, such as ministers in those times had, are compared to fire: see Mat 3:11 and these may be reinflamed or increased, when they seem on the decline, by reading, meditation, prayer, and the frequent exercise of them.” – John Gill

“The spirit God gives to his ministers is not a fearful, but a courageous spirit; it is a spirit of power, for they speak in his name who has all power, both in heaven and earth; and it is a spirit of love, for love to God and the souls of men must inflame ministers in all their service; and it is a spirit of a sound mind, for they speak the words of truth and soberness.” – Matthew Henry