

## FAN THE FLAME

**Request:** Would you do a study on church missions. I am interested in getting more people into our church because we have so much to offer them spiritually.

First, it is important to understand that the thing that sets our church apart from some other churches is the level of teaching and training for ministry. This difference has been compared by some to the difference between general education and college. Therefore the type of believer that is attracted to DSBC is the spiritual advancing believer who desires more teaching and training and support for ministry.

Paul may have had this in mind when he wrote these words to such a missionary in training by the name of Timothy– “and for this reason I remind you **to kindle afresh** the gift of God which is in you though the laying on of my hands.” (NAS, 1 Tim.1:6)

The Greek word for **kindle afresh** is *anazopureo* (p.a.infin/ triple compound Greek verb/ ana, zoe, pur). It means to **fire up again or to keep in full flame or to stir up coals**.

KJ – “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up** the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” (1:6)

NIV - “For this reason I remind you to **fan the flame** the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

Amplified - “That is why I would remind you to **stir up (rekindle the members of, fan the flame of, and keep burning)** the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination].

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Fan the Flame for missions.</b>
---

**1. We will begin our study on Fan the Flame for missions by the following three homiletical points of our lesson text (2 Tim.1: 5-8).**

**Faith** (1:5) – Grandmother Lois and mother Eunice: (Acts14: 6, 21-23) Timothy was probably converted by Paul on first missionary trip (46AD); (16:1-5) and traveled with Paul on second missionary trip.

**Fan the flame** (6) – Gift of God: (Eph.4: 11; 2 Tim.4: 5) As a young man, Timothy has been ordained and has joined the Pauline missionary team. (1 Tim.4: 12)

**Fight** – Gospel of Jesus Christ: Timothy has spiritually matured to lead mission teams by himself around 62AD, after 16 years of training.

**2. Paul encourages Timothy as a young captain leading troops in the angelic conflict to not give into a “spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” (2 Tim.1:7; 1 Cor.6:10-11; 1 Tim.6:12)**

Even after 16 years of training in missions, the old warrior must encourage the young warrior on the difficulties and problems associated with leadership for missions (2 Tim.2: 1-9).

Paul is attempting to arouse Timothy’s zeal from a leadership position to the work of evangelism in the midst of full scale persecution against it by both the Jewish and Roman governments – “Therefore do not be ashamed

of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.” (1:8, 11-14)

**3. Sometimes the 21<sup>st</sup> century church forgets that the English word for mission is derived from the Latin and not the Greek language. It is not a biblical word but it is a biblical concept.**

For example, we read of Paul’s four missionary trips in the Book of Acts (13-28).

We learn from Paul that Christian missions are organized efforts to spread the gospel of grace salvation and to teach Christian doctrines and to establish grace churches where ever possible (Acts 13:1-4; 14:19-28) Paul’s first missionary trip (13:48-52; 14:21-28).

Paul described one organized mission effort in Rom.16:1-16. Notice that 27 people are listed and 1/3 are women.

The local church must prepare itself in teaching and training and logistical support for missions in order to be effective (Acts 13).

**4. Missions do not have to be oversea. The local church has many doors of opportunities for community missions.**

Every member is a door of opportunity for community missions (YMCA, gyms, apartment complex, civic clubs, retirement centers, athletic groups, school bands and clubs, business luncheon, malls, parks and recreation centers, colleges, classes and dorms, county fair and street parties. **What could you add to this list?**

**5. Every spiritual advancing believer is instructed to do ambassador evangelism (1 Thess.1: 4-5).**

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor.5: 20; 5:18-21; Eph.6: 20)

Full armor of God (Eph.6:10-17) – “And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” (Rom.10:15; Isa.52:7)

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

“But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Tim.4: 5)