

# FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR

## Part 2 • 2 Timothy 1:7

**|** *7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

### Background

Timothy first joined Paul during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:2) and quickly became one of his closest and most trusted ministry partners. After Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment, he left Timothy in the city of Ephesus to deal with the rapid growth of false teaching within the church (1 Tim. 1:3-4). Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy from a cold prison cell in Rome only a few weeks before his death (2 Tim 4:6). Even in the most adverse conditions, Paul encourages Timothy to persevere in preaching the Gospel and ministering to the believers. As persecution and heresy was wreaking havoc in the church at Ephesus, Paul knew Timothy needed courage, more than anything else, to stand for truth in the face of fear.

When fear begins to creep into our hearts during difficult and confusing circumstances, we need to be reminded that God is not the source of chaos and panic. Instead, we need to remember that God is the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2) and the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). The antidote to fearfulness is to lean into His faithfulness. God has prepared us to live with courage in the face of fear because “greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

### Service Notes

- I. God never gives us\_\_\_\_\_.
  - II. God always gives us\_\_\_\_\_.
- Power
  - Love
  - Self Control

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***What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?***

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# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Instructions

*This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.*

## Getting Started

- ▼ Even during these unusual times, what is one encouraging way you have seen God at work in your life and the lives of others this week?

## Talk it Over

- ▼ In what ways does fear often keep us from obeying God and serving others?
- ▼ How would our lives look differently if we lived with a spirit of power, love, and self-control rather than fear?
- ▼ Read Acts 4:31-37. Like the first followers of Jesus we too are empowered by the Spirit to serve others during times of uncertainty. What are some ways we can cultivate an attitude of generosity and sacrifice like the early church?

## Live it Out

- ▼ What is one specific way we can demonstrate God’s love to someone in need this week?

