

THE FIRE OF JESUS BURNING IN THE EARTH

Bertie Brits

January 29, 2017

GREETINGS in the wonderful name of Jesus. It is such a blessing for me to come to you! It's an honor to come to you and bring you the radical Gospel of Grace, the message of God's power to bring life to people who are dying, the message of God's saving grace where He embraces us with His goodness and His love and His kindness. He comes with great generosity and shares His life with us.

PRAYER: Father, thank You so much that I can sit here today and bring Your Gospel to people all over the world. What an honor to minister Your Truth that Your people can hear the Truth and be born from the Truth. Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You speak to my heart in such a powerful way that I can see and explain and declare how high, how wide, how deep and how long the love of God is and that every person will be impacted with Your life. Amen! Glory to God

Today we are going to talk about the fire of Jesus burning in the earth. We are going to talk about the scripture where Paul said to Timothy to fan the flame of the gift that he has received. Now, there have been many teachings on that passage but I'm going to teach that in the light of Jesus and what He said in **Luke 12: 49-50** where he talks about the baptism that he had to be baptized with and the fire that had to be set ablaze in the earth. This message is going to impact you greatly.

COMMUNION About a week and a half ago I had a short message where I spoke about reading your Bible and how we read our Bible. I want to just use that again as we do this Communion. When we read our Bible we must make sure that we don't read Bible but that we read the Word of God. That is very important because the Word of God is the message of Jesus Christ and what He has come to do.

2Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to (That's a very important word!) the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus

Isn't that absolutely awesome! It talks about the promise of life that there is in Christ Jesus. Paul comes and he says that there is a promise of life. There is a promise of life that Jesus Christ brings to us and he says that his whole ministry is according to that promise of life. That is what it is all about. He saw Jesus raised from the dead. He saw Jesus, met with Jesus on the road to Damascus and he realized that there is life right there. There was a promise of life from before time in Christ Jesus and in no other way! Then he had a ministry which was all based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of life. That is what Paul's whole ministry was all about.

When we come and we look at Communion, we look at the death of Jesus. We look at the resurrection of Jesus. We look at His obedience and what do we see? We see that God promises us life! That is what He promises us. He comes and He's promised us life. He promised us eternal life to save us as humans as a whole and not to save us from our bodies but to save us as humans, to save the spirit, to save the soul and preserve spirit, soul and body eternally with eternal life. That is what it is all about.

So, when we take the bread and we break the bread, we celebrate the death of the old man. When we drink the blood, it is the blood of the New Covenant so when we see the blood of Jesus we see that there is a new covenant.

We don't stand in a covenant of death but we stand in a covenant of life wherein God comes and He brings His promise to the earth. When God said to Adam and Eve, "If you eat of this tree, you will surely die", what happened was man entered into a death. He entered into what God had told him what would happen should he eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God ended that when He became flesh and He died as a man that was born of a woman, born under the Law, who had the passions that we have in our bodies, yet without sin and died. He died that man away and brought a brand new man and now we celebrate that eternal life.

So, when we take the bread and we break the bread, we are not just thinking of the death of Jesus. But we are thinking of His body that was broken and what it implies, what it means. It means and it talks about the end of the old but it spells the promise of eternal life. Glory to God!

Then the blood of Jesus, which is the blood of the New Covenant, so the Old is passed away and we celebrate the death of the Old and the promise of the New.

I want to say to you, "In the blood of Jesus and in the body of Jesus, I declare you innocent. I declare you holy. I declare you righteous. I declare every lie that the Law and the Law System and the penalty Substitution System, where you feel that you stand guilty before God and God had to punish and all those things. I want to declare to you that all of that is washed away and you stand before Him in the hope of eternal life. You are righteous unto eternal life. He has come and His blood has cleansed our minds from a guilty conscience! That's what Paul said. We can stand with a pure conscience before Him. Pure, there, means seeing perfectly, seeing as you ought to see, a pure conscience before Him! Glory to God!

We celebrate the innocence that we have in Jesus and the hope of eternal life! Let us use this Communion together and celebrate what God has done for us. Amen

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Today we are going to be talking about fanning the flame of the gift of God which was in the heart of Timothy, fanning those coals into flame. What does that mean and how does all of that work? We're going to talk about the fire of God burning in the earth today. So many times we are afraid of fire. We think of the judgment of God and we are so afraid. So today I am going to talk about that fire in the life of Timothy and it is really going to bless you.

I will start off by reading a passage that I spoke on last week as well. I will speak a little bit more on that.

Luke 12:

49 I've come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already ablaze!

50 I have a baptism to be baptized with, and what stress I am under until it's completed!

51 Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth? Not at all, I tell you, but rather division!

52 From now on, five people in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.

53 They will be divided father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

54 Then Jesus told the crowds, "When you see a cloud coming in from the west, you immediately say, 'There's going to be a storm,' and that's what happens.

55 When you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and so it is.

56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky, yet you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

That is so, so powerful! It talks about something that is actually so beautiful! You know, Jesus comes and He says that there is a fire that is supposed to come to this earth and He will be the One that sets it ablaze. He will be the One to set it on fire. That fire will burn in throughout the earth and it will bring a division. You know, we preach the Gospel of peace but Jesus Christ clearly said that there will be division when it comes to the Gospel. And the reason I want to talk about this is that I want to encourage you in your heart and I want to stir that flame inside you. I want to stir that gift inside you because so many times we find that there is something pure that burns in our heart and I want to tell you that which is pure that is burning in your heart will come forth out of you and it will be like a fire and that fire will consume what is not of God. That is what will take place and Jesus said that He wants to set something on fire. He wants to set the earth on fire. The text actually says that He wants to set the whole earth on fire.

What is this fire and how does the fire work? Jesus connected that fire with His death. Let us read it again and see what that scripture says.

Luke 12:

49 I've come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already ablaze!

50 I have a baptism to be baptized with, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

He says that He has a baptism that He needs to be baptized with. This baptism that He needs to be baptized with has something to do with a fire. When He gets baptized with this baptism, it will start a fire in the earth that will bring division and it will bring fighting. Jesus even likens it here to a storm. He said, "You see a cloud and you know there is going to be a storm. You see that the wind blows in a certain way and you say that the day will be hot. In the very same way, Jesus said that He wishes that He could set this fire ablaze and it has something to do with His death and that fire will bring division among people. Now, who of us wants division! Nobody wants division. The Muslims, and I have listened to many debates between Muslims and Christians. This is one of the scriptures they use to say that Christianity is not a religion of peace. They say, "How can it be a religion of peace if it brings division between people.

But what Jesus was talking about here was He was coming and burning up the Law System and He was coming through His death and His resurrection. He would come and bring forth a doctrine and He would bring forth a truth about Christianity that states that we don't need to be saved by our works and that God has promised eternal life to us. We don't have to follow Greek philosophy nor do we have to follow Jewish traditions of the Law of, "Eat not, touch not, handle not!" and all the people would do is say, "I simple believe upon the Lord." That would cause arguments and fights among people because one will say, "You must do it!" and the other will say, "You don't have to do it!" It's like the teaching of tithing and sowing and reaping! When Jesus came and He died and rose again and He showed the love of the Father, what happened? He revealed the truth about how the Father provides for us and now there will be some people who will believe that and they will be set free. Others will simply not believe that and they will say that they don't.

The heart of Jesus wasn't that there would be division. He knew that there would be division and He was saying it in a way that people would know that when truth comes and they see the division that there will be, that they will not be dismayed. They will not be at a place where they say, "What am I doing wrong because I am not accepted and I am not loved?" I want to say this especially to people who love to talk to others and share the Gospel with people. You find that people will look at you strangely and look at you wondering what you are talking about. Then they will distance themselves from you and you will not be welcome. There will be a division. I especially also want to talk to preachers who go to a church and they maybe preach the Gospel or they put the message out there and you are accused of bringing division. You are accused of breaking the place up, causing division. You are accused of stirring. I am not talking about people who willfully go to make trouble. I'm not talking about that. I am talking about people, who with a pure motive, go and preach the Gospel and share the message of Grace and then, all of a sudden, fighting starts through that.

I've see it in my own life where I would come and preach and people would hear the Gospel and then take it to their church. Then that church will go through some turmoil because the fire is coming into that church, the fire of the love of God, the fire of the grace of God, the fire where God burns up works righteousness, the fire where God burns up man's ability to try and be righteous before God. He burns up all of that. He has come to destroy and burn up motives that are not pure and all those kind of things.

And as He comes, He comes to burn that up by bringing the Gospel, the true message, where it is about God. It's about His kingdom. It's about His love and where He is the One who brings forth righteousness, where He is the One who brings forth holiness, where the will of a man and the ego of man doesn't have any place, where the size of a church, or the amount of money you have or those kind of things simply mean absolutely nothing where Jesus is simply everything. When that comes in you can find that there are some who really don't want that fire. They would not want that and there would come a division. But I want to say to you that if you get persecuted for this message or even not persecuted, sometimes we say that we are persecuted for righteousness but it isn't even persecution. It's just people being upset and then rejecting us and not showing affection towards us because of what we preach. I want to say to you that the Gospel will bring forth something like that. It is not because God is angry. You must realize that it is a fire that is purifying the earth. It is getting away all flesh. It is getting away all motives and everything that is not from God. We have heard that in the old. We've heard that in the past from the Law teaching where there is a fire burning and God is shaking the house and everybody who doesn't live right God is going to point them out and you are going to feel judged. You need to live right because the judgment of God is coming against you!

I'm not talking about that. What I'm saying is that if people believe the lie for a very long time and their whole life is built on the lie and the truth comes in, you will find that there are some people who will say, "Let me embrace the truth." The truth will burn up all the lies and the truth will bring forth a new life. It's like a field. In South Africa we have a certain flowers here called fynbos. They are not in many places in the world except maybe in South Australia there is a little but it is actually just in this area in the Western Cape. When the fire comes and burns everything away then you find new plants coming forth and that's also the way the seeds spread. In the very same way, God has come to end the Old and when He comes with a message of His acceptance, the message of His love, His message of how you don't have to do anything to get Him to do something for you, when He comes with that message it burns up the Old System.

I taught about the vengeance of God where I explained that in depth. Now I don't want to go deep into that but I want to talk to you about Timothy but I want to lay this foundation. So be encouraged if you are a preacher going about preaching the Gospel of Grace and you're preaching with a pure motive born from the Gospel of Grace, a motive that is born from Grace and not a motive that is born from the Law. I have seen it so many times and I am thinking in the light of preachers here so just make it applicable to any area you are in but in the light of preachers, so many times their motives are not pure. We are preaching for money. We are preaching for some ego thing or we want a big ministry or we are chasing after certain things because the motive is not pure. It is so deeply rooted in us that we think that most of it is pure but it is not pure. The Gospel, the true message of love, will want to set you free from that so that the ministry and what you do can be from a pure heart where you really just love people and where you are not trying to do anything but that. It's like in our Web Church we have a program that we are going to begin for people just to help them have fellowship. We will make this known to you and explain to you how it works. What we said in our Web Pastors' meeting is we are not going to do that to get everybody in our Web Church who is on our Web page, into groups or anything like that. We are not going to do it for that purpose. The reason why we are going to do that is if there are people of a need for that, that they can have somewhere where they can go. If there is no need for it in other people's lives, that's fine. It is just for those who have a need for that and just serving people. What a blessing to have the Gospel, the true message, bring forth the life of God in us so that we can live pure lives, where we can experience the life of God in us where it is not about anything hidden, where there are no hidden motives or impure motives or any of those things but where the fire of the Gospel of Jesus Christ comes and burns away all works righteousness and all the fruit of the flesh so that we can have the life of God and what He has, effortlessly, pain free!

Earlier this week I made a message where I said that we are only going to have the real thing and nothing else! That is what this is all about. We want the real Gospel. We want the real deal. We want what God has planned for us from before time. That is what we want. We don't want anything fake. We want the true, true message.

Let me just read this quickly once more: *Luke 12:*

54 Then Jesus told the crowds, "When you see a cloud coming in from the west, you immediately say, 'There's going to be a storm,' and that's what happens.

55 When you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and so it is.

So let us, also, determine, not just the seasons, the physical seasons, but let us see what day we are in. Jesus said that it is a day where He wishes to kindle a fire and that fire is the fire of the life of God where His life burns up all death and where He brings life and immortality and peace and joy as a free gift. He burns up all of man's understanding of how to get to that by his works. He burns up everything that is not pure and He brings forth His life effortlessly. You see, we've chased after purity by our own works and that is not what God planned for us. He has come to bring forth His quality of life free from our works in what Jesus Christ has come to do for us.

2 Timothy 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of you in my prayers night and day;

4 Greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy;

5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that it is in you also.

6 Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands.

7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8 Be not you therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be you partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 (And this is the key verse:) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

That is a long piece of scripture that I have read but let me explain what the Apostle Paul is saying there. He comes and speaks to Timothy which, by Church history, it was told that he was still a teenager, a young man. Paul came and he said to Timothy, "When I think of you, I am so happy. Number 1, I come to you in the hope of life, with the Gospel of God's life." As verse 1 says: ***Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus....*** So he says that he is preaching to him according to the promise of life. So, God promised life. What is this promise of life? I am going to say something that is going to be like this storm and we need to hear this and hear this and go study it out for yourself. Make a study of scripture if you want to but make sure you read the Word of God though. There's a promise of life. If there's a promise of life, it means that there is not life. In that life he is talking about eternal life, immortality given towards man.

When God comes, He gives us immortality which is also called eternal life. Eternal life brings forth immortality in the body. It means a life that is eternal. That means that people who don't believe in Him, people without Jesus, don't have eternal life. It means they will not live forever. We are not just talking about the body here. Remember what we said in last Sunday's Service. We also talked about the soul of Jesus that went into Hades, the place of the dead. The Bible also clearly says that the soul that sins shall die. The Bible says that the soul and the body can be destroyed in hell. So, when we look at this, we are saying something very radical and that is that man, by birth, is not inherently immortal. We would say that our bodies are not immortal but I want to say to you that man is not immortal inherently by birth but that Jesus Christ promised us eternal life.

The whole message of the Apostle Paul, the whole Gospel is about what he says here. He says, ***I Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.*** He said, "My whole message is according to or is orientated from this: God promised us life in the resurrection of Jesus. You might say, "That is just unnecessary information and why do we need to talk about that? That is just going to cause unnecessary turmoil and fighting. I want to say to you what I just said that Jesus said: Jesus said, "I come to bring a fire and how I wish that it is burning although it will bring division but what it is going to bring is the peaceful fruit of righteousness. It's going to bring My people into truth and it is going to destroy lies from their hearts so that they can actually experience what it is not to have a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind. That word, sound mind, if you study it out in the original, it is actually means a mind that is restored or a mind that is set back to the original or it means a mind that is saved. So what he says is that the Spirit of God will save your mind. The Spirit of God will bring forth love in you. The Spirit of God will take away fear... fear of people, fear of what people will say or think or even fear of death. It will take away all fear. That is what the Spirit of God will do.

Now, when we talk about the Spirit of God, what was in the mind of Paul, when he talked about the Spirit of God, Paul comes and he knows that the Spirit of God is called the Spirit of Life and that this Spirit will quicken, or make alive, our mortal bodies. So, when Paul talks in the Bible about the gifts of the Spirit or the Holy Spirit, or when he talks about the Spirit that is not a Spirit of fear, he is talking about and what he has in his mind, is the message of the resurrection. You can say, "Bertie, I don't fully agree with that." Let me just read this passage to you again. It is very simple! ***I Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.*** Paul says that his ministry is according to the promise of life. That means everything that he thinks of is according to this very great love of God which was mentioned by John when he said, "For God so loved the world, that the world would not perish, that those who believe, will not perish but have eternal life. Those who have eternal life, they will be raised up in the last day and their bodies will be made immortal for they have that Spirit that can bring their body into eternal life. Eternal existence will speak to our hearts where we can realize where it actually is.

When Jesus Christ died, He said, "I have a baptism that I need to be baptized with and it is a painful thing for me to think that I'm going to go through death but there will be a resurrection for Me and that will be the kindling of a fire. John said that he baptizes with water but Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He will baptize us with the Spirit of life which Paul was talking about here. We can actually say it this way: Paul, I am an apostle, according to the Spirit of life, the promise of life. That is what my whole ministry is about and I've come to you, Timothy. I've come to strengthen you and I've come to encourage you because I know that in your grandmother there was a pure faith and in your mother was a pure faith. I remember your tears. I remember who you are. I remember what is in my heart towards you and I remember what I saw in you. I saw that pure faith where you serve God with a clean conscience, where there is no hidden motive, where there is no agendas in ministry. It is just pure. You are the kind of person that you stand for the truth and if something is true and it's the life of God, I don't care but that is the truth and I will have that truth and minister that truth, in love, to people."

You know, Christians aren't trouble makers as in willfully going in to make trouble, but the truth you believe, in certain context, when it is preached, it will cause trouble. It's not because the truth is troublesome but because unbelief in that truth is a troubling thing. It can look like trouble but it's actually the truth coming in wanting to bring true freedom. You find the truth of God's love, the truth of Grace, only brings trouble in the circles where Grace is not accepted, where truth is not accepted.

When we read on we can see that Paul says that he serves God in a pure conscience. Let me just explain that word, "pure" conscience. The word, conscience, was never used in the Old Testament. It was not a word that they were thinking of. They were not walking in a consciousness, like a pure conscience kind of a thing. It is a word that comes from Greek philosophy. It comes from the Greek people where they walked in a consciousness, or they were conscious of, that they were evil and all matter was evil. They were conscious of their evil bodies all the time but Paul comes and he says that he serves God with a pure conscience. That means that he is conscious of how pure he is. He is not having that consciousness of "I am always evil and I need to try and conquer this evil by my good works." He says, "I am not conscious of that. What my conscience is telling me is that I am pure. I am perfect. I see exactly what I need to see."

That word, pure, there means to see perfectly. So Paul says, "The consciousness where I serve the Lord is from seeing the perfect plan of God which was from the beginning." What was it? Paul said, "I am serving the Lord and my whole ministry is about this life." So what Paul is saying is, "There was a promise of life from the beginning and God has come and has taken dust from the earth and he has made this dust alive and He will preserve this life forever. He had a promise that He would do that and that was God's plan and that is what God has come and accomplished in Jesus. He's conquered death. He's abolished death. He has ended sin and He has come now and brought life and immortality to life through the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that is what I am mindful of and that is what I know." He says, "What I am conscious of is that God, by His Spirit, brings forth the fruit of the Spirit in me that God ends and He judges and rules against sin in the flesh. He is the one who condemns what kills me. He is the one who condemns what destroys. I am conscious of that and I am conscious that He will grant me eternal life which means that since we are not born inherently with eternal life, but that eternal life is a gift, I am now mindful of that and I see His perfect plan from beginning to end which causes me to rest from all my works for I know what He will bring forth. That is what it means to serve God with a pure conscience. You cannot have a pure conscience aside from the finished work of Jesus. It is impossible! You will always be conscious of your shortcomings. You will always be conscious of sins and all those kind of things. But a pure conscience is not to be Law minded but to be cross and resurrection and eternal life minded. That is what he is saying.

Listen to what Paul is doing. He is seeing that Timothy is going through a hard time because there is persecution and there are people who are against him. He looked at the Apostle Paul, as his “father in the Lord” being in jail all the time, being beaten all the time. Now imagine my son, who is in the University, and his dad is in jail every now and then because he is preaching the Gospel. I mean it is something that can cause you to be ashamed. It is like, “My dad is in the news again, He's being locked up again. Some people are saying that he is causing trouble again,. People are against my dad.” It would not be easy for him. That is what the Apostle Paul is addressing here.

He is saying to Timothy, in verse 5: ***When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith*** (the pure faith that is in you, it talks about pure motive faith) ***that is in you,*** (It talks about a revelation of what Christ has done in the heart, the belief) ***which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that it is in you also.***

6 Wherefore I put you in remembrance (Of what? Of this faith because if you can remember the original faith, what will happen is ***that you stir up*** (and fan into flame) ***the gift of God*** (Gift there in the Greek means, a grace ability of God which was given to) ***you by the putting on of my hands.***

What is he saying? He is saying to Timothy, “Listen, I see the true persuasion was in your grandmother and the true faith was in your mother and I know that true faith is in you. I want to remind you of this faith because if I bring this to your remembrance, what will happen is it will fan into flame the grace that was upon you when I laid my hands upon you.” In those times what they did, and you can read it in Acts 13:3 as well, people came and laid hands upon Paul and then they sent them to preach the Gospel. In other words what happened was, they prayed for them and then that fire of the Gospel from there went to burn wherever he went. He burnt up Judaism and he burned up the false religions of the Greek philosophers. He burnt up the heathen false gods and he burnt all of that up and what it brought forth was life and immortality and joy and peace, freedom from works righteousness. A message which is so powerful that it can actually satisfy the flesh with eternal life and bring to death the works of the flesh and mortify the works of the flesh, see it as dead. It can bring people to a place where they can love and have peace and have joy and have righteousness and really care for one another because it takes away everything that will destroy people. That is what it brings forth.

He said to Timothy, “Listen you know you are in a place where you have threatenings around you. You are in a place where there is difficulty around you and I want to remind you of the pure faith that I believe is inside you and that will stir up this gift that was upon you.” Paul was not saying to Timothy, “Become radical and stir up those gifts!” That is not what he was saying. He was not saying to Timothy, “ Listen, pull up your socks and start to preach!” That's not what he was saying. Listen to the purity of the Apostle Paul's heart here. He was saying to him, “I remember the pure faith in you and I want to remind you of that pure faith.“ What is that pure faith? He just started talking in verse 1. 'My whole apostleship is about the message of life.’ That is what he believed was pure faith. The Apostle Paul believed it was The faith and he believed in The faith and he said, “I saw The faith in your heart and I want to remind you of that because if you can have the message of the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, that promises us eternal life, inside your heart, that will bring forth in you the message that will burn again like a fire and it will kindle that fire. Those coals will come and will bring fire again, flame up, this message which will burn with love, which will burn away that which cannot produce love in people, which is the Law, works righteousness. God is burning away false doctrine because He wants His Church to exist forever because His kingdom advances forever. There is no end to His reign. There is not end to His rule!

Paul goes on:

6 Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands.

7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

He says, "I am reminding you of the original faith and I trust the original faith is in you and I want to bring it to remembrance and that is how you, by being reminded of this, will have this fire burning in your life again. This message of the resurrection and of life and of the Spirit that will quicken our mortal bodies and bring life to us, which is a message that we don't bear the fruit by our works but where God brings forth the fruit by His Spirit of life, by the promise of life, where the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit that creates, is in us, that Spirit is not timid. It cannot bring forth timidity in people but a boldness. One of the meanings of the word, timid, there means to be of unbelief, or weak faith. He says, "I want to remind you of the truth. I want to remind you of what was in your heart because that will stir up a fire." It will burn away all in your area because the context there was the fire of evangelism and the fire of spreading the Gospel and speaking the Truth and not being afraid. He says, "That fire will start to burn in you and it will not just burn in you. It will burn in your area. It will burn in your ministry, it will burn through you. That fire that Jesus says, "I so wish to kindle" was His death and resurrection. That was the fire that burned in the early Church. That fire burned so much that they threatened the people and they would kill the apostles if they preached that message. What a useless threat! They were threatening people who were preaching immortality. They were threatening people whose God can raise them from the dead. They were threatening people who have raised the dead. That's who they were threatening. Their threats have no power against the message of life. And those apostles went and continued to preach because of the persuasion, the pure faith, in the heart.

Let me put it this way. I have met with many people. I have looked in my own life and I'm not pointing a judgmental finger, but all people's faith is not pure or unfeigned, a faith where the truth is seen. I remember in my own life and I can testify from my own life, my faith has not always been pure. In other words, I believed in the Lord and I preached the Gospel, not always for pure motives. I didn't even know that my motive wasn't pure. I saw it later on as the Lord delivered me and set me free. There was a time, especially in the early times of my ministry, where I would preach and pray for the sick, where I would so greatly testify of every miracle because it was actually a victory for me because I got another one healed. It was just a difficult life. Then I would go and pray for the sick and your ministry would become an evangelism/healing ministry and wherever you go you were always under the pressure to perform miracles. You would see a lot of miracles but you would be under the pressure to perform that.

Is it okay if I just speak honestly and the truth and just the way it is and just have pure faith and just be honest and say how things are? There was a time when you would preach and I would preach in the early times when I was still under the Law, especially under the Law, you would preach having an offering in mind. I told one preacher that I don't have Church Services in our local church during December. We close down for the whole month. He said, "So how do you pay your bills?" Now, listen, I am not pointing a finger and saying, "You bad pastor!" I'm not saying that. I am testifying of what I also have been part of. That is still a Law based faith. It is not a pure faith. It is not a faith that is born from the real finished work of Jesus where our identity is in the finished work. Paul said to Timothy, "I have seen in your Grandmother and in your mother and I believe it is in you. I see this pure thing. I see you are the kind of person that if it is true, you will say it. If it is true, it doesn't matter what, you will stand for that truth."

And then he comes and says, "I want to remind you of that true faith. I want to remind you that I am an apostle according to the promise of life. I want to remind you of this faith because this Spirit will bring the fire to burn again, fanning the flame, the fire of..."

Let me read verse 6 again: ***Wherefore I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God,*** (The gift of God means grace enablement.) ***which is in you by the putting on of my hands.*** So he says, "I have laid my hands upon you when I sent you to preach the Gospel. I've sent you as a minister of the Gospel because of the true belief that was in your heart. I felt that you believed the truth." It was so pure to the Apostle Paul that he said, "You must go and preach this and I send you to preach this Gospel. I want to remind you of this true faith. I want you to again have that preaching and going and setting ablaze the place where the Gospel, the fire of Jesus Christ which is the message of the resurrection. I want you to be reminded of this True faith which is the message of God's love of how He took away the sin of the whole world, of how we are included in Jesus, of how we stand pure and holy before Him, of how He's loved us from the beginning of time and before time. How He's dreamt our lives, how He sees us as His dwelling place, how He sees us as His own kind, as His own being, how we are in the image and likeness of God, the very dwelling place of God, how we are the heaven of God, where you can know all of that, where He conquered your death. When you believe that, when you believe in His resurrection and the Spirit of life, when you are reminded of that, I want to remind you of that and then I want to see this gift of preaching the Gospel where I've sent you to preach, where that goes and where the fire that Jesus kindled, burns in your area and your life."

He wasn't saying to Timothy, "Out of nothing, take up your commitment and serve the Lord." He was not saying that. He was causing life in Timothy by reminding him. Listen to what he says, what this Spirit brings forth:

7 For God has not given us spirit of resurrection that brings forth fear; but it brings forth strong belief, strong power, and also it is a Spirit that brings forth love and saves our minds.

That word, power, there, is the word, dunamis which simply means to have something manifest from existence, from your very being. That is what he is saying. He is saying, "Listen we don't have a spirit where we are trying to obey from the outside. We are having a Spirit where we are looking at God and we are looking at what He has come and brings eternal life to us. He is bringing eternal life to us and that will, from our existence and from our being, we will have life again. That is what it means. Amen! Isn't that good! Glory to God!"

When we look at this life, I just find that Christ has come to bring forth the resurrection life in us. He's come to bring forth a life in us where it is His Spirit strengthening our faith, His Spirit bringing forth a life that comes from existence. We exist as people that love and is kind and all those kind of things. That is what that Spirit brings forth, amen.

For the crux of what I want to say here, he says:

9 Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10 But (this Grace) is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light...

So what he is saying is he is defining Grace. That is what he is doing.

He is saying, "Listen. We have been saved according to the purpose of God where we live by Grace and this Grace was now manifested through the appearing of Jesus when He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light." So what is the Grace of God? The Grace of God is God's influence on man where He influences us to have eternal life and conquer all sin and all death by His influence through His death and resurrection. That is the Grace of God. So he comes and he says, "I want this Grace gift to be stirred up in you so that you will not be afraid of what people say about you because this Grace gift that is stirred up in you is stirred up as you are reminded of the original faith, the true persuasion of the death and resurrection of Jesus where He showed forth Grace and that Grace was to conquer death and to conquer sin by the very doing of God. That is Grace.

People, Grace is not defined in the shallowness of God saying, "Well, I won't look at your sin anymore because I punished Jesus!" That is not Grace! That is a man - made way of just explaining God is good. That can bring some form of joy but if you are preaching the Gospel of Grace, you are preaching the message, the true Gospel of Grace is the message of life, the message of immortality, where God takes people who aren't inherently immortal and grants that dust that He made alive. He says, "I will preserve your life eternally. It was My plan from the beginning that you will have eternal life through the Messiah, through Christ, the Son of God, through God's doing and not your own and that life was brought into manifestation by Jesus.

In conclusion, the message of life is a fire that burns that can cause a lot of turmoil. The message of life is really going to cause havoc in the circles where the Gospel was preached as, "Who wants to go to heaven?" and not preached as, "Who wants to live eternally?" It will cause absolute havoc. It will be a fire that burns but I want to say to those who hear this message and feel that they can be persecuted by that, I don't want to go and say, "Go and preach boldly." I'm not saying that. I'm saying to you that I am going to preach a message that is going to remind you of pure faith and that will stir up a spirit inside you that will burn away all fear and bring boldness. It will save your minds to think the thoughts of God and bring forth the life of God. You will also have the life of God inside you not inside the parameters of beholding an external commandment where you just obey laws but you will have it from your very being. That is what you will have. You will have it from your very being. You will exist as a person who has the life of God. That is what it will be. It will not be you chasing life. It will not be you chasing good works. You will exist as a person of love. You will exist as a person of kindness and goodness and peace. Glory to God! Isn't that absolutely beautiful!

Know this: there is nothing wrong with the Gospel of the life that there is in Jesus Christ, as a fee gift if we experience that some folk are against us when we say that and when we are called names and when people are against us. Paul, the Apostle, says, "It is for this Gospel that I am persecuted. Then he says, "Come and let's take part in the sufferings of Christ for this truth." I am not saying, 'Let's have a martyr spirit here but when we are witnesses, what are we witnesses of? I think that will be a good verse to end this with. *Acts 1:*

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they came into the city, these men went to the upstairs room where they had been staying: Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 With one mind, all of them kept devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women (including Mary the mother of Jesus) and his brothers. 15 At that time, Peter got up among the brothers (there were about 120 people present) and said, 16 "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the voice of David about Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus, 17 because he was one of our number and was appointed to share in this ministry."

It talks about the beginning of Jesus' baptism until the day John was to perform this.

22 beginning when he was baptized by John until the day he was taken up from us. Therefore, someone like this Somebody who was with Jesus... they were looking for a new person, a new apostle, to testify here. They are saying, "Let's look for somebody who was at the baptism of Jesus and also walked with us for three years, but wasn't acknowledged as an apostle and let's take him to replace Judas. Listen to what he says there: ***Therefore, someone like this must become a witness with us to his resurrection.*** ”

He says, "Let us get another witness for the Gospel." What is a witness? A witness is somebody who testifies of the resurrection of Jesus. That is a witness. If we say that we are a Christian and a witness, what are you witnessing about? A witness is not somebody who preaches and says, "Who wants to go to heaven?" that is not a witness. A witness is somebody who says, "I'm a witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and I am testifying of the resurrection power of Jesus which came. I am serving this, preaching this, because this is what happened. This is the truth of what was recorded in the bible and accurately documented. I am preaching this resurrection and I am here in the hope of me being resurrected. This spirit of life, that is on the earth has been poured out on all flesh, can also quicken your mortal body. If you believe on this truth, when you believe on this truth, this Spirit of life, this fire, enters you, burns away your death in the here and now. It burns away your sin and the power of sin in your life and you will have eternal life and immortality. That is a witness. That is a witness of the Gospel. That is a Christian. That is what it is all about.

So the Apostle Paul comes and he says and Jesus says, "I so wish that the whole earth would be ablaze with this fire. I so wish that the whole earth would be ablaze with the message of life and I have to go through a death and that will enkindle the fire and will start to burn in Jerusalem and it will be burning all over the world and will burn away all unrighteousness. It will burn away all death!

I want to say this to you: God is not to come and take the Church away from the earth. He's not going to do that. He has, in Jesus, come and brought forth His kingdom in the earth. His kingdom is manifested in the earth and we are declaring the kingdom that God has brought forth in the earth. His Spirit is burning away unrighteousness from the earth. The last thing His Spirit will do and the last enemy that will be conquered is death and the only thing that will be alive on the earth is life and people who are flooded with the life of God. All death and all misery and everything shall be removed by this Spirit of life which we have access to through the preaching of the Gospel and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen!

My message to you is, "Church, let us not be afraid but let us be flooded with power by being reminded of the True faith. For this spirit of life, this message of the Spirit of resurrection, shall bring forth in us, will take away all timidness or fear. It will produce in us a life from existence, the existence of God where God will exist inside us and we will not do good works but we will exist as people who are born from God and having His life free from our works. It will bring forth soundness of mind. In the Greek it means to save your mind where you can only think the thoughts of God. Glory to God! Isn't that absolutely powerful!

So, let us not be afraid to go through the sufferings of Christ meaning not that we suffer so that we can be saved but the persecution and those things we will go through for preaching the truth. Jesus said, "If they hear Me, they will hear you and if they reject Me, they will reject you for no one is greater than his master." Glory to God! Amen!

I trust that you are encouraged with this for the time to come knowing there is a radical message going out that is contrary to traditional way of looking at things but where we can see the life of God. We are not going to settle for anything less but the authentic life of God for we want to live by the power of God. We want to live by the power of God. We have a Spirit of power. That power means dunamis. We want to live by existence and not outside commandments and will power, trying to live a good life every day but being born from God. Amen