

2 Timothy 1

Verse by Verse

My Beloved Child

Introduction

Greeting
1:1-2

Sincere Faith
1:3-7

Not Ashamed
1:8-14

All ...
Turned Away
1:15-18

Conclusions

St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)



Introduction

Reviewing 1 Timothy

- Paul wrote **1 Timothy** after leaving Timothy in Ephesus, while he himself moved on to ministry in Macedonia.
- There were serious issues in the Ephesian church, but Paul believed Timothy was up for the task.

Previewing 2 Timothy

- Since that time, Paul has been rearrested.
- From a Roman prison, we will now be reading the last recorded words we have from the apostle.
- They are written to his most trusted associate and true child in the faith. These words are something of a pep talk.
- While Paul is nearing the end of his race, Timothy still has a long way to go.

What's in
2 Timothy 1?

From William
James

Key Verses

What's in 2 Timothy 1?

- Paul begins this letter to Timothy by reminding him of some of the basic principles needed in a life of faithful service
- There was a long, difficult road ahead for Timothy and Paul wanted him to be fully prepared.
- In particular there are **four commands** he gives his assistant:
 - 1. Fan into flame the gift that is in you.**
 - 2. Do not be ashamed.**
 - 3. Follow the pattern of sound words.**
 - 4. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you.**

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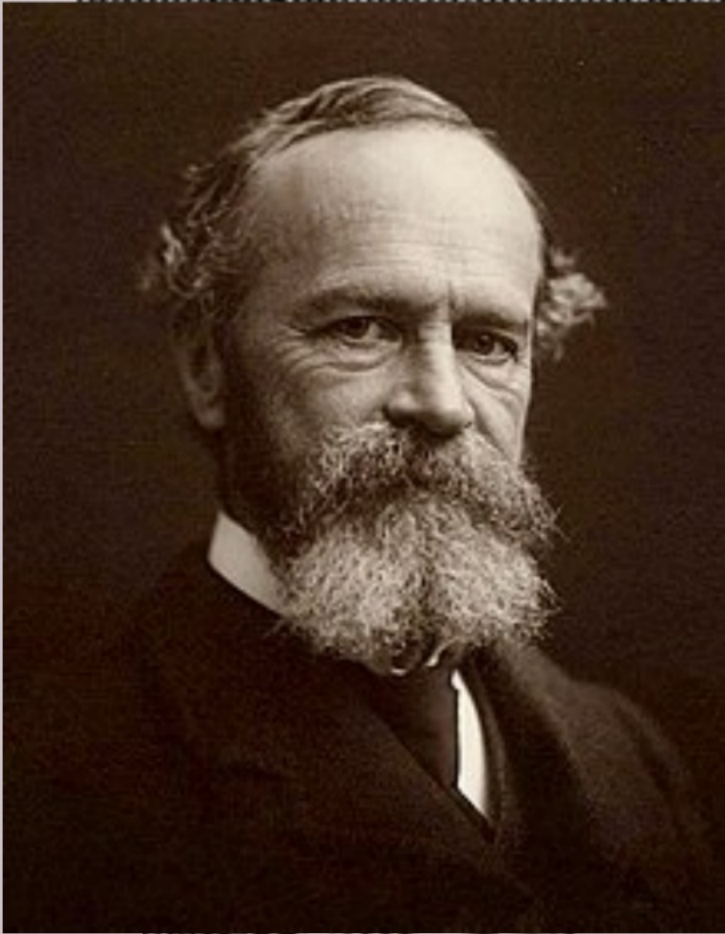
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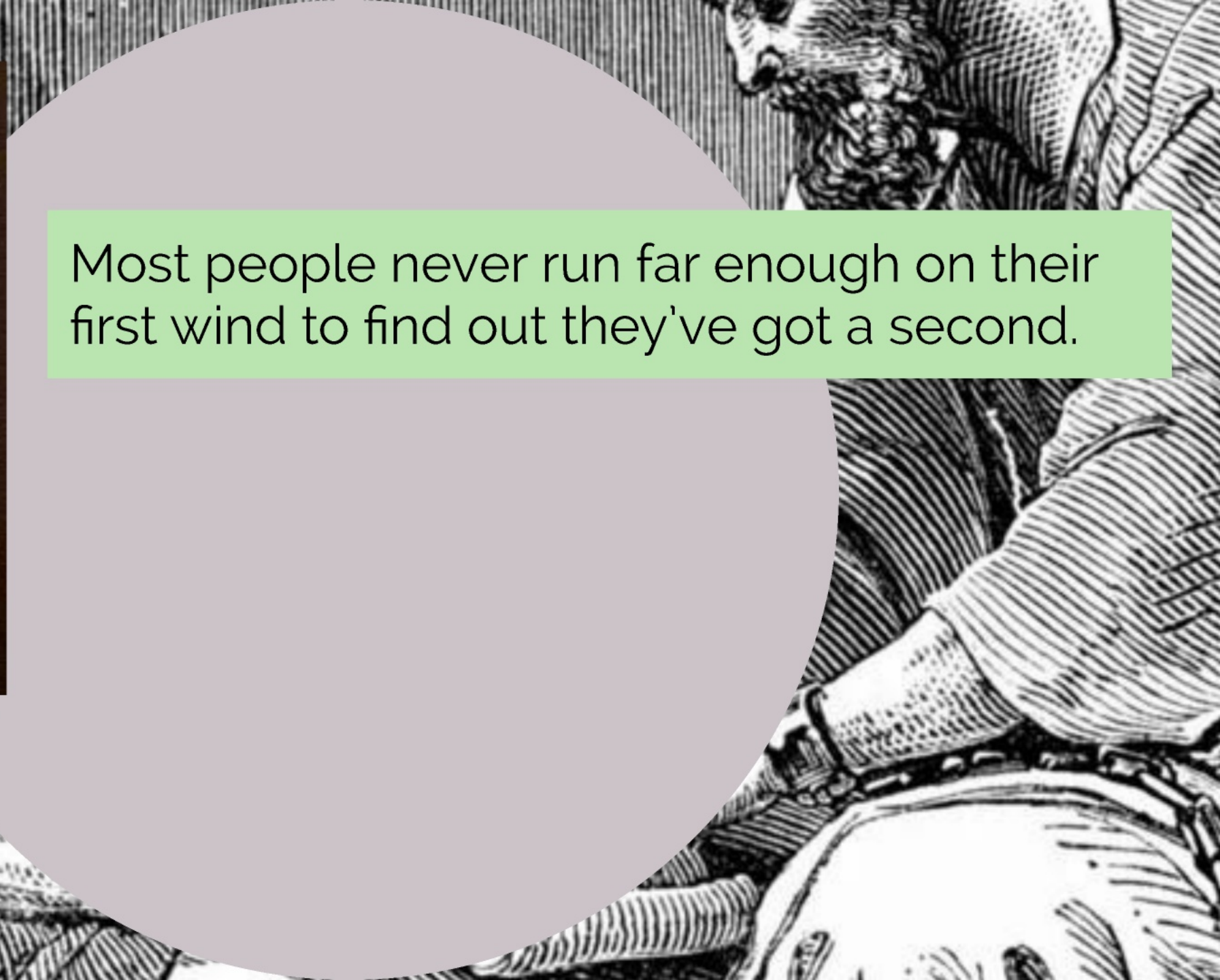
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William James
(1842 - 1910)
(American Philosopher)

Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they've got a second.



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Key Verses in the Letter: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

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2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

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Greeting 1:1-2

- **1:1** As usual, Paul identified himself as an **apostle**.
- He was personally appointed by Jesus Christ to represent him among the nations.
- **1:2** He calls Timothy his **beloved child** in the faith.
- Timothy came to faith in Christ under the ministry of Paul. Then Paul had essentially raised him in the faith.
- **Grace, mercy and peace** To Timothy, Paul adds **mercy** to his usual words of greeting.
- We can define that as "God's goodness toward those in misery and distress." (Grudem)

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Sincere Faith 1:3-7

- **1:3** Paul saw his faith as a logical follow-through of the beliefs of ancient Judaism.
- His Christianity was not an innovation, but the true continuation of the ancient faith.
- **1:4** Timothy, who he hopes to see again, also comes from a family of believers - at least on his mother's side.
- **1:5-6** Paul encourages him to keep his faith active - which would prove it is real.

Constant
Prayer

Sincere
Faith

Rekindle
the Gift

Key Verse

Constant Prayer

- **1:3** Paul remembered Timothy in his prayers night and day.
- He was in prison at this time and must have been praying even more than usual.
- **Jot down the names of at least two people that you should be praying for regularly.**
- **Then do me a favor and make it three. Add me to that list.**



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Sincere Faith

- **1:5 sincere faith** = literally “**un-hypocritical faith**”.
- The faith of Timothy and family was the real thing.
- There was no hidden agenda or selfish motive attached to it
- This is a great example of faith being passed down from one generation to another.
- There may not be a sure-fire trick to influencing family members for Christ – especially our kids.
- Lack of hypocrisy is as good a place as any to start.



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Rekindle the Gift

- **1:6 fan into flame** = one word in the Greek, something like "**rekindle** or "**reignite**" a fire that is going down.
- God gave Timothy a very specific gift.
- We don't know what it was - perhaps something in teaching or evangelism.
- Paul simply encouraged him to use it.
- We have to use our spiritual gifts too.
- Try different things until you find something that works well for you.
- Then do that again. And again. And again.

Four
Commands

Four Commands

1. Fan into flame the gift that is in you.
2. Do not be ashamed.
3. Follow the pattern of sound words.
4. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

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2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear [cowardice, timidity - only used here] **but of power and love and self-control.**

- We should never be intimidated regarding our faith.
- God has given us everything we need to serve Him well:
 - Supernatural **power** or ability.
 - His own self-sacrificing, others-centered **love**
 - A sound mind, **self-control** or self-discipline



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Not Ashamed 1:8-14

- Paul did not view his suffering as a hindrance to his ministry.
- He believed that God was working out His plans in the midst of – and perhaps even by means of – his difficult circumstances.
- He knew that Jesus had given him a particular calling - and that Jesus was worthy to be trusted and obeyed.
- Paul was now passing his baton to Timothy and it would be Timothy's job to deliver this precise message to the next generation of believers.

Timothy's
Situation

From John
Stott

Four
Commands

Timothy's Situation

Not
Ashamed

- In the midst of severe persecution self-preservation can become a high priority.
- Picture the circumstances of Timothy:
 - The faith he had committed his life to was unpopular among the elite classes of the empire.
 - His Savior was killed as a common criminal.
 - His mentor Paul was presently in prison and awaiting execution.
- It is no small assignment to **not be ashamed** in all of this.

Not Ashamed

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

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John Stott (1921 - 2011)

It is the undeserved freeness of the gospel which offends. The 'natural' or unregenerate man hates to have to admit the gravity of his sin and guilt, his complete helplessness to save himself, the indispensable necessity of God's grace and Christ's sinbearing death to save him, and therefore his inescapable indebtedness to the cross.

- John Stott , in *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus: The Life of the Local Church*



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All ... Turned Away 1:15-18

Onesiphorus

- **1:15-18** We sometimes imagine that the early church was full of very spiritual people.
- We can stereotype them as people who always remained faithful to God and one another in the face of adversity.
- The truth is many did not.
- **Phygelus** and **Hermogenes** are examples of those who distanced themselves from Paul when things began looking difficult.
- Apparently **all who are in Asia** (the Roman province) did the same - and this was the place Paul spent the longest time.
- One notable exception was **Onesiphorus**.

Onesiphorus

- He was often an encouragement to Paul
- He was not ashamed of the arrests and imprisonment that Paul endured for the sake of the gospel.
- He went out of his way to encourage Paul when he was in Rome.
- This was typical of him back in Ephesus.
- **Think of one or more people** who need encouragement - perhaps in their ministries.
- **Jot down their names.** They can be missionaries, old friends, someone you haven't contacted in a long time.
- **Now write down something you can do** to encourage them.



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- Life is guaranteed to give us difficulties.
- The temptation will be to take the easy way out.
- But a life worth living is never a life of ease.
- Nobody wins the game by giving up.
- Paul remained faithful to his calling even though it ultimately cost him his life.
- If Timothy was to finish well, he would need to give 100% - not hold anything back.
- You and I are going to have to do the same.
- Just remember we do not do it alone.

From Tony
Evans

Four
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Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

It was important for Timothy to gain right perspective in the face of the stresses and strains, demands and disappointments of ministry. Paul wanted to encourage him by his own testimony of having fought the good fight and finished his own race (4:7). Paul didn't throw in the towel when things got tough; he chose the right battles to fight and he won them. He desired Timothy do the same.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator

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A Final Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

- Thank you for the faithful example of Paul and his encouragement to Timothy to always remain faithful to the end.
- Help us also to stay faithful in prayer, to use our gifts, to hold onto the truth that you have revealed to us.
- When we see others who need encouragement or are tempted to fall away, remind us to encourage them.
- And let us be among those who, like Paul, finish the race and fight the good fight to the very end.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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