

# Power, Love, and a Sound Mind

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**Bible Text:** 2 Timothy 1:7

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## **Grace Particular Baptist Church**

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Let us pray.

*Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, how glorious thou art. How excellent is thy name above all this earth. How excellent it is to sit and be given a glimpse, a time to take a selah, to think of, Lord, how glorious thou art above all this earth. Lord, I ask in thy faithfulness that thou would take us away this morning, take us away, Lord, from the sin that so easily besets us. Take us away from the time of season. Take us away from all the things that would cloud our thoughts this day. And, Lord, may you put us at thy feet this morning. Lord, may you be pleased to come with thy power and thy strength and thy anointing upon this hour and the hour that will come, that thou would come into our souls and that thou would reveal who you are to each and everyone of thy children this morning. Lord, I pray for those who are not here this morning thou would be an ever present help to them, that thou would bring comfort to them. Lord, I pray for thy people wherever they would meet this day in thy name, wherever they are throughout this world, whatever trial is in front of them, whatever walk of life they are in that, Lord, thou would come to them powerfully this hour and this time, that thou would bring them unto thee. Lord we ask and pray for thy grace and thy mercy this morning. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Well, we come, again, to this time of year. It is amazing. I have thought about my life, 41 years, and a greater part of it looking forward to this time of year. When I was a young man this time and this season was something that I took great happiness and looked forward to it. I looked forward to the dressing up, to being something that I wasn't. And I looked forward to participating a day.

I have thought about that this week and yesterday my wife and I took a walk in our neighborhood and at least three of the houses had tombstones in the front of them. You would have thought that I lived near a cemetery. And I thought about that and I thought about the world so gravitates to death, how they rejoice in the day of the dead, not just death, but fear.

I remember a time in my life that that was one of the most profitable and happy times of my life, or so I thought. I used to love to go to things that scared me, fearful things, movies, rides, whatever they were. And I know why, now, that was so prevalent. For I

was in darkness. Darkness loves death. Darkness loves fear. Darkness loves to relish in those things where there is no light. And I thought about that yesterday as I walked by those houses and I saw the skeletons and I thought, except for the grace of God there go I.

This week we stand on the eve of the day that the world tomorrow will rejoice in death and fear. Man is so ignorant. He is so ignorant of the finality of death to many, the finality of the season that they believe they live in of the eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. And how true that is for many. And as that last breath leaves their body, then they will be known as they are known, eternity is just a heartbeat away.

I want you to consider this morning a text with me in the second letter to Timothy by the apostle Paul. And I would like our focus this morning to be one verse, one verse that we will talk about a little bit and then we will see how the verse is proceed from that one verse. But it is in 2 Timothy chapter one and it is probably one that you are very familiar with because it is very comforting to the child of God and that is verse seven.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>1</sup>

I am going to take it in two parts. The first part is what the Lord God has not given us. And if we dwell on that a moment, as I said, that is a very comfortable thing, that the Lord God who has gifted everything and given everything to his Son to dispel and to put out all of the gifts to his children, one of those gifts is not this spirit of fear.

James tells us in chapter one verse 17 that:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.”<sup>2</sup>

And that is a true statement. I believe it to be true in my soul, that what the Lord God gives in his gifts are perfect. But we are told here what he doesn't give. He does not give us, the children of God, the spirit of fear.

You know the spirit of fear, don't you? It is a tormenting fear. It is a tormenting thought. And there is so much that we have to be fearful of in this life. And why is it that the word used here is the spirit of fear, little s? Because as a spirit it permeates our soul and it goes down into the dark corners and the recesses of our very soul and our conscience and our mind. It is not a physical thing. It is a searching thing. And that spirit can become very paralyzing. And we have many fears in this life. We fear... the greatest one being death. As I said it is such a strange thing to the child of God to walk in this life today and as much as we are tormented with that fear, on this day or the day tomorrow, we have so many around us that exalt it to a place of high position that death is supposed to be something wonderful, that death is something to be celebrated.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

<sup>2</sup> James 1:17.

And for the child of God that is true, because it is the beginning of eternal life with God. It is the beginning of no sin. It is the beginning of no fear. It is the beginning of no pain. It is the beginning of no interrupted communion with our Lord and Savior.

But that is not the fear we are talking about. Because the Lord... and we say, "Well, wait a minute. There is a good fear. The fear of God is a good fear and that is the fear that the Lord spoke to his prophet Jeremiah in chapter 32 verse 40. He said:

"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."<sup>3</sup>

That is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of the knowledge and the beginning of wisdom.

"...but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."<sup>4</sup>

And that fear has love and the source of it is love.

But this spirit of fear that we are instructed with and we encounter here that Paul, the apostle Paul told Timothy, a young minister, one who will be sent to many places, he exhorts him and to remind him that the spirit of fear is not from God.

I am reminded of that every Sunday morning that the Lord calls me to preach. There is a fear. There is a fear in the nighttime. There is a fear in the morning. There is a fear when I walk through these doors. Sometimes it is a very paralyzing fear. And that fear comes down to this.

Lord, will you be with me? Lord, will you be the mouthpiece today? Because I am fearful it is going to be me. I am fearful I am going to be left to myself. I am fearful that I am going to take this place up here and be left with you for me to tell you how I see life. And that is a fearful thing.

You see, the Lord said to me this morning and in the last few minutes, he hasn't given me that spirit of fear. You see, that comes from my fallen nature. That comes from guilt. That comes from Hebrews two tells us that the spirit of the fear of death comes from Satan. But we are also told in Hebrews two that we have been delivered from that, we have been delivered from that bondage of fear. We have been delivered from that bondage that fear would put us into. And there are so many things to fear, isn't it? We fear afflictions, because we have seen the suffering of those around us who love us, I mean, that we love. And we have seen them suffer under great affliction. And we read reports and we see the newest health things that are out and fear will come over us. And we will see the newest invasion of some kind of insect that is coming or we will see some kind of new strand of a flu and the first thing that comes is this spirit of fear.

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<sup>3</sup> Jeremiah 32:40.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Will I get that? Will that be brought to me? Is that something that is going to come? Because if that comes...

And think about just in the providence of God and how God brings everything into our life each day. Think about how many times that spirit of fear raises its head over what God is bringing in. Think about the... how those events are all ordered and as we walk or we come up to those events, the very first thing in our mind is fear, fearing those events.

I have thought about that last Sunday, a week ago.

Many, as you know, we like to ride together at night some nights. And that was a night that I ended up at the bike path with me and my family and we were the only ones there.

And I said, you know, everybody is like, "Well, let's go home."

I said, "Well, it is a beautiful night. Let's ride. Let's ride."

And it was a beautiful night. But as we were riding and as we are going along, I am out there and it is like, well, you know, I am not out here with a group. And now all of the sudden I am out here with just me and my family and I am the head of this thing. And all of the sudden, now everything that I see that is running up to us, the bikes that are coming to meet us, the dogs on the path, the cars that are stopping next to us. All of the sudden my mind is starting to wonder. What are they doing?

It seized upon me a couple of times. And I had to think. And the Lord had already laid this passage upon my heart and he brought it to me. And he says, "But I haven't given you that. I haven't given you that spirit of fear."

He hasn't given the people of God the spirit of fear to be... to walk around with this kind of torment. And as we line up and as these things come in our life and we go to the doctors or we don't go to the doctors, because these things come into our life and all of the sudden they rise up, but fear comes. Fear comes, as I said earlier, I alluded to earlier, because guilt is where a lot of our fear comes. And you say, "Well, wait a minute. I don't understand that."

Well, when we are faced with the specter or the shadow of death and our class has been talking about that this week, when David wrote that:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..."<sup>5</sup>

And if you follow that 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm you see that it is coming from a soul that is a content soul that has been brought to see that the Lord is a shepherd and of no desire and of being no want of anything.

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<sup>5</sup> Psalm 23:4.

So then when it comes to this valley, when this fear does come—because I am not telling you today that this fear is not going to come. It comes many times. It comes over and over in our life. We are not immune from it.

See, that is the beauty of this passage. It is not that he has not given us the Spirit of fear. It is that he has overruled it with his providence. He has overruled it with his grace. He has overruled it with Romans 8:28 that tells us that all of those things that even bring us fear are for our good. And they bring us to the Lord and they bring us to on our knees and they humble us because a fearful thing. When the Lord reveals to you that you can't save yourself, when the Lord reveals to you that there is stronger than you out there.

And I talked about this to my class earlier this week also, because when you are young you are so vibrant. You think you have your whole life ahead of you. But as you get older and as your body starts to break down, then those fears start to work on you a little more, because you start to worrying and as you look at things and you perceive them with your eyes—which, by the way, is not faith. When you see things with your eyes and you look around at how afflictions affect other people, then you start to bring them home to yourself. And the spirit of fear comes and says, “This could happen to you. This could be worse to you.” And then death, this specter of death is there.

But our shepherd brings us through that. That is the beauty of this passage, that God has not given us this spirit of fear. He hasn't given us this consuming bondage to live under.

And I am going to tell you something. We will be there and we will stay there until the second part of this verse takes place, because we do. We are so fearful people. And when that fear comes, it is a paralyzing fear. But a greater than that fear must come, a greater one than the strong man that holds that fear in his hand that is sitting there tantalizing you with it. A greater one than him comes and he binds that strong man. Because he is stronger than him and he casts them out, because that is when we come, now, to what he has given us.

For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but he has given us three things. And, you know, I thought about that a lot this week. Why these three things? We are going to talk about that. Basically one of them is to me what the Lord has revealed to me is the greatest. And that is the first one.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>6</sup>

Because the love and the sound mind won't come without the power. The reason the power comes first is because it is the preeminent one of these three. The Lord has not given us the spirit of fear, but what he has given us is power. Power for what? Power to overcome that fear. Power to see that fear that is put under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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<sup>6</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

I looked at the Scriptures this week and I brought some of them out that have to do with power and I want to read four of them to you. And all of them, well, three out of the four are from the apostle Paul.

Listen to what Romans 1:16 says.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”<sup>7</sup>

See, the power of God brings that salvation to your soul. The power of God is the power behind the faith, the gift of faith. The power of God is what opens the storehouses of Joseph. The power of God is what disseminates that power and those gifts that Christ opens and he puts them upon his people and he puts them in his people by his power.

See, we are not given that spirit of fear. That doesn't come from our Lord. That is not one of those things that comes out of the storehouses.

Has he ordained it? Yes. Has he overruled it? Yes, by his power.

And, you know that other, that Hebrews two passage tells us, it tells us that all our lifetime we are in subject to this fear and bondage of death. We are subject to it. It is an authority over us. It acts as an authority in our life, that everything that we do, we now have a view of this specter of death. And that is the beauty of Psalm 23, as David says, “I know I will walk in it. I know that I do. Yea, though I walk through that valley, I know there is no way to avoid it.”

It is one of Satan's devices. It is one of his greatest darts. It is one of the terrorizing things that we go through in this life. But the overruling grace of God is the reason for it. It brings us needy and empty to our Savior to be succored.

Oh, the power. You know, I have had some sweet communion this week about the Lord's power, especially in the days of weakness, in the days of trouble. Oh, the Lord's power. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

In 2 Corinthians 13:4 it says:

“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him.”<sup>8</sup>

That means we are going to suffer as he suffered. We are going to be afflicted as he was afflicted.

“..but we shall live with him by the power of God.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Romans 1:16.

<sup>8</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:4.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

We shall live with him by the power of God. Now we understand how we live in this life. How do we live? By the power of God.

You say, “Well, I thought it was by the faith of God.”

It is. But that faith has to come with power. And when it is given from the Father who has all perfect gifts and it is given through the Son and the Son gives that gift of faith and he gives that gift of love and he gives that gift of the sound mind and he gives that gift of hope, it comes with power.

What good would it be if it didn't? Could you imagine being given a gift and not have any way to use it? That is the way we are. What good is the love of Christ if it is not applied by the power of the Holy Ghost. What good is the blood of Christ if it is not applied to our souls? And there are so many empty professors out there and so many that come with these empty feelings and they think that God is just a notional thought and they think that just saying that I believe is enough. And they haven't felt this power.

Have you felt this power? Has this power come to your soul to turn you from darkness, to sustain you every day of your life and to turn you from the spirit of fear?

1 Thessalonians 1:5 says:

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power.”<sup>10</sup>

The gospel, this very blessed book that has been left for the child of God is just that. It is a book. It is a history book. It is nothing without the power of God. It is nothing without the Holy Spirit revealing its pages, revealing the Lord Jesus Christ in it. That is why there is so much error today. That is why there is so many doctrines today. That is why man comes up with so many different ways to get to the Father, because he interprets this book because he has no power. He doesn't have the power of God to reveal the book to him.

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power.”<sup>11</sup>

And then the apostle Peter in 1 Peter chapter one verse five said:

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”<sup>12</sup>

We are kept by the power of God. All of this power that we are talking about now we come to this verse that says we are kept by the power of God. We don't stray by the power of God. We are brought back by the power of God.

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<sup>10</sup> 1 Thessalonians 1:5.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> 1 Peter 1:5.

I tell you. That is a deep thought, to sit and think about how... I mean, listen. When the Lord reveals to you what a sinner you are, you understand when he shines the light on your sin, he shows you what sin you have committed. That is the power of God unto repentance, to bring us to repent. That is the power of God.

But I tell you. I don't know how many of you have thought about how much the power of God has kept you from sinning, how much the power of God... we have talked about the Holy Spirit when the apostle Paul said, "It forbade me to go here. It forbade me to go there."

And what an amazing thing that was the apostle Paul said that he knew that the Holy Spirit forbade him to go to that place. And all he wanted to do was preach the gospel. How do we think that that is something bad? But the Lord forbade him. The Holy Spirit forbade him. Why?

He had somewhere else to go. It wasn't the Lord's purpose for him to go there.

But that is the keeping power of God. He keeps us from sin. He keeps us on that path that we stray from. He brings us back. And if we have any thought of faith or love it is because of his power. His power has absolutely powerful effects. All of the power to believe is from him. The power to love is from him. The power to hope is from him. The power to repent is from him. The power to submit is from him.

You say, "Wow, you paint really a bad picture of humanity and mankind."

I don't paint it. It is painted in these pages. It is revealed in these pages of how great a fall it really was, how great a fall it truly is. And there is no way back from this fall, but though the power of the Son of God, the power of God, the power of the Holy Ghost. What we are, we are such needy and dead creatures until we are made alive by him.

Without the Lord's divine power being put forth we will never experience anything that is divine, anything that is spiritual. So, yes, I understand why this one comes first. I understand why Paul wrote:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear."<sup>13</sup>

I understand why he said, "...but of power," first. Power has got to come. The Lord's power comes because then love is experienced. Power we... what good is our love? What good is creature love? Creature love can't take you in the highest of heavens? Creature love can't forgive. Creature love can't forget. Counterfeit love can't love one another. It only goes so far.

But the power of love. This is what the Lord has given us, the power.

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<sup>13</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

“...but of power, and of love...”<sup>14</sup>

And we think when we put all of these things at variance with fear, the power to subdue that fear, the love to subdue that fear, when we put love up against that fear, the first verse that comes to mind is 1 John 4:18.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.”<sup>15</sup>

This perfect love is this powerful love that comes forth from Christ. It is his love. It is the love that casts out fear, because fear has torment.

“He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”<sup>16</sup>

That is the key part to that verse.

“He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”<sup>17</sup>

And how much... what a blessing it is to be brought to see that, that we can't love to get out of fear. We can't hope to get out of fear. We can't just think good thoughts to get out of fear. And those that are and were paralyzed by this fear, it is because we are not at that moment made perfect in his love. It is not until the power of that love comes that pushes out that fear and that shows us that that fear has torment and then that shows us that it didn't come from him, that God has not given us the spirit of that fear. No, that fear that he brought in that everlasting covenant that we read in Jeremiah earlier, that he put in our hearts was a fear of love, was a fear with love. It was a fear to deter us from walking in a wrong direction. It was a fear of a holy reverence unto the Lord, which, by the way, had to be put into our hearts.

It is not there either.

Oh, notice in verse 1 John 4:18 it is a perfect love. We have already read from James that:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.”<sup>18</sup>

That perfect love must emanate and come through Christ, the dispenser of all gifts. It is his love that we talked about in 1 Corinthians 13.

But not only have we been given power and not only have we been given love, now this one. This one you... of a sound mind.

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> 1 John 4:18.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> James 1:17.

Now let's just talk about a sound mind a minute in carnal things. How about a sound mind in finances? That is a gift of God. How about a sound mind in health? That, too, is a gift of God. A sound mind in the political sphere of where everything is going on in the world and it seems like everything changes every day. It seems like it waxes worse and worse. But to be given a sound mind in that arena that permeates into this life. Those are all wonderful gifts of God. But that is not the sound mind that is talked about here. This is talking about a sound mind spiritually.

Now to be at peace with those things I just mentioned is truly a grace of God. But to be at peace and of a sound mind and not to be persuaded by every doctrine and not to be persuaded by every new idea and not to be persuaded by everything that we read and not to be persuaded by everything that we hear or the newest argument or the newest idea of who God is... See, there is a new age movement. There is a... you know, we have discovered new things about God every day. Really? But that is what the religious world would try to tell us today, that there is something new. There is a more tolerant Lord about sin.

But to not be persuaded and to have a sound mind in the Lord Jesus Christ is the man who built his house upon the rock. It is the one whose foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the one who as all the rains would come and all the false doctrine would come and all the ideas that man has that floods in our minds would come, we are not swayed and we are not moved because we are kept by that power that started these three.

“...but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>19</sup>

Oh, what a glorious gift. The power of a sound mind, to have a sound faith, to have a sound hope that doesn't hope in man, that doesn't hope in circumstances, that doesn't hope in a future event, but to have a sound faith and a sound hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what he has given us. That is what sets apart the child of God. Man hopes in so many circumstances. They hope in, well, if this didn't work out for me, maybe this will work. Maybe if I try this, maybe if this law is past, maybe if this one becomes president. Maybe if this takes place, maybe life will be better.

But the child of God is given this sound mind and that sound mind is a mind at rest. It is a mind at rest and we are going to see that here in a minute.

How, you know, I shudder to say these words, but, you know, the doctrine, the damnable doctrine of free will. You know, it permeates our society today and in everything that we do and the TVs that we turn on, the billboards that we see, the curriculum that we get. There is always a smidgeon of some kind of something we do for God, some kind of will that man puts forth that we have some part in something. And you know and it is subtle, but what a glorious grace it is when the Lord gives us a sound mind and he keeps us from that thought and he keeps us from that dart. He keeps us from that thought that leads to man and he brings our mind and he settles it upon:

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<sup>19</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

“It is finished.”<sup>20</sup>

He settles it at the cross. He settles it at the empty tomb. He settles it on the mount where he ascended into heaven. That is where our sound mind is.

Now I want you to bear with me here for a few moments as we go on from verse seven, because verse seven lays it out for the next few verses.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>21</sup>

Because of that...

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel.”<sup>22</sup>

It is the power to partake in the afflictions. That is what Paul is talking about.

“...be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”<sup>23</sup>

It is the power of God to give us that there is no fear in that affliction, that that affliction is something that the Lord has overruled for your good and that that balm that he puts upon that affliction and that that healing that he puts upon that affliction can only come from him. And I am not just talking about the body. I am talking about the soul, because it is the soul that stands in the most need of healing in the time of affliction, because that is the time where we are under a lot of attack. We are under a lot of guilt. We are under a lot of painstaking examination of why these things take place.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind....but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”<sup>24</sup>

And these afflictions come out of love. And at the end of these afflictions, let's say they don't have an end. What if they are with you to the end of your life here on earth? Believe it or not, they lead to a sound mind. The Lord leads them to him. He leads them to what he has done in them. He leads you to what he has taught you in them. And somehow in some way he leads us to see that they were for good.

But that is not all.

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works.”<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> John 19:30.

<sup>21</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

<sup>22</sup> 2 Timothy 1:8.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

Did you hear that? That is the power to rest. We are not called according to our works.

“...but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”<sup>26</sup>

That is the power to see his grace. That is the power of grace upon us that we stop. We put down our works. We put down that mentality to strive. We put down that mentality to add any cubit to our stature.

And the Lord says, “It is finished and it is all finished in me.” And that is out of love.

And, dear ones, that leads to a sound mind. Oh, the mind of rest is the one that has ceased from its labors, because the one of the head of his body has labored for it in perfect obedience. And he has wrought out a robe of righteousness that there is no way I could add to or diminish for that matter. He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his purpose and grace.

Oh, there is a lot of rest in that. There is a lot of sound mind in that, but it has got to come with his power. It has got to come to your soul with his power.

“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death.”<sup>27</sup>

The power to abolish death.

“...and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”<sup>28</sup>

What manner of love? Behold what manner of love to show us that he has abolished death, that he has put away death, our arch enemy, that he has put away Satan, our arch enemy and he has put away our mind in our flesh, our arch enemy. And he has put and he has cut the cords of this world, our arch enemy. He has abolished death and he has brought life and immortality to life.

Do you remember how we started this, this season of darkness? But for the child of God it is a season of light, because he brings forth life by his power through his life. And when he brings forth the life and he brings forth everlasting life and he brings forth eternal life, then the child of God is brought to have a sound mind.

Wow. When that fear of death is put down, there is a soundness in life of eternal life, a never ending life.

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<sup>25</sup> 2 Timothy 1:9.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> 2 Timothy 1:10.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

“Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed...”<sup>29</sup>

Why, Paul? Why are you not ashamed?

Because of the power, because of the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

You know, we can definitely be ashamed, but not when this power is given.

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded.”<sup>30</sup>

How? How do you have such a sound mind? In all of your life that you have testified in these Scriptures, in the shipwrecks and the snakebites and in the persecutions, in the beatings, in the people trying to take your life, how are you so sound? How do you know who you believe in? Because he is kept. He is kept by the power of the Son of God.

“...and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”<sup>31</sup>

Wow. You mean, the apostle Paul knew that it was all of him? Yes. It is all of him.

And then verse 13 and 14. I will use, this morning, Lord willing by way of benediction.

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.<sup>32</sup>

There is no other way. There is no other way to hold fast the form of sound words. There is no other way to understand what has been said today. There is no other way to be brought to this place of rest away from this spirit of fear.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>33</sup>

For you this day, for you in the next few days, as this world would celebrate death and as it would celebrate fear, may the Lord take you higher than that. May he, indeed, show you and reveal to your soul that he hasn't given you that spirit of fear, but he has given you a much greater power and a much greater love and a sound mind.

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<sup>29</sup> 2 Timothy 1:11-12.

<sup>30</sup> 2 Timothy 1:12.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> 2 Timothy 1:13-14.

<sup>33</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7.

*Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, may thy power come to the words that were spoken and, Lord may you send it to our soul this day to the praise and glory of thee for thy name's sake in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

[music]