

## MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

### 2: THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR GIFTING

2 Timothy is Paul's last letter that he dictated during his final imprisonment. Paul writes to a special friend and travelling colleague in ministry. Prisoners were rarely kept any length of time in prison - it was just a holding place until execution took place and for Paul this may have been a few weeks away.

**Jesus frequently used the imagery of seeds** – calling his followers to live productive lives. In Matthew 13.8 we have the parable of the sower; the return is to be at least 30x. What do you feel this says to you about the whole theme of our potential?

As we introduce **the theme of gifting** – share together some of the things you do, or have done in the past that has left you fulfilled and satisfied because you have felt your gifting was being used.

Paul writes about the **Church as being the body of Christ**. The new body of Christ is called to demonstrate his life and declare his word.

Read one of these passages – 1 Corinthians 12.4-11 or Romans 12.3-8.

What do these two passages teach us about Spiritual Gifts and the importance of such gifts being operational in our lives?

Why do you think we have a tendency to struggle with the whole area of our spiritual gifting and fail to fully appreciate the gifting that God has placed within us?

1 Peter 4.10 (CEV) *'Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.'*

#### 1. THE ENDOWMENT FOR MINISTRY v.6

**Gifts are to be discovered and deployed.**

Note the verse in **1 Timothy 4.14** – what do you visualise regarding Timothy when you read this verse?

Talk in your group about the area of Natural Gifts and Spiritual Gifts. What is the difference and where is the overlap that links us into the purposes of God.

**Gifts are to be nourished and nurtured.**

Timothy is to *fan into flame the gift of God...*

What do you feel Paul is referring to in Timothy's life when he talks about fanning something into flame?

In what way does it challenge us all as we read such words from Paul?

Alan quoted John Piper who translated the verse *'Timothy, keep feeding the white hot flame of God's gift.'*

How are we to do this?

Acts 20.24 *I consider that my will be wasted unless I use it to complete my mission and finish the assignment that the Lord Jesus has given me – to tell everyone the Good News of God's grace.(ICB)*

## **2. THE EMPOWERMENT FOR MINISTRY v.7**

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.'*

**Gifts are to be ignited and inspired.**

Note the emphasis in Gordon Fee's translation: '***For when God gave us his Spirit, it was not timidity that we received, but power, love and self-discipline.***'

In what ways can we be gripped by a measure of fear that hinders the release of effective gifting to operate?

We need to know the constant infusion of supernatural equipping – the energising power of the Holy Spirit. Let us be expectant of what God can do in us and through us. Let us harness the power of God and experience the flow of God's love as we live a consistent life fanning the white hot flame to do its work in each of us.

**FOR YOUR OWN NOTES:**