

Devotional

Rayon Sampson

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline."

For much of my life, I have been uprooted from community and separated from family and friends by travels. At times causing me to feel as if I was alone in this world, or did not belong anywhere or to anyone. Incarceration further exacerbated my displacement and had a negative effect on my self-esteem. I became withdrawn and lacked ambition, and I would function without confidence in various areas of my life.

When I came into Christ I found a new identity and those negative components of my being began to change. 2 Timothy 1:7 became a personal favorite verse of mine as I felt it was directed towards me. It reminded me that I now belonged to someone, that I was no longer alone or separated from family, and as a child of God I have been given power. Also that I could operate in confidence as God did not instill in me the spirit of fear that had imprisoned me for years. As I came to this realization, there was a sense of liberation that came with this inherited power as I was no longer held back by fear.

Sometimes, in order for us to effectively carry out the work of God, we need encouragement or to be reminded of God's gifts as Paul did with Timothy. The things we can do or accomplish are limitless and are a testament to the transformative power of God. Just as Paul believed this to be true for Timothy, it proved to be true for me, and can also be true for all saved by grace.