

Monthly Memory Verse November 2012



2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Part I

Read 2Ti 1:7 (KJV)

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The surrender to Christ

I can't tell you how many times I've found myself quoting this verse, either to myself or others. The truth is, most of the time when sharing this verse it brings comfort to the hearer and the reader and I can understand why. If you have a genuine/sincere/real/undisguised faith (2Ti 1:5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee...*) it comes with a true love for Lord Jesus and a deep willingness to serve; there's only but one true desire for a Christian and that is to "serve"! Yes, you want to serve Him [Our Lord Jesus Christ] by serving others! You love him and the desire of his children calls out from deep within the soul "I surrender all, all to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give. I will ever love and trust him, in His presence daily live". Listen to the second chorus: "All to Jesus I sender, Humbly at His feet I bow. Worldly pleasure all forsaken, take me Jesus, take me now. (Author --Judson W. Van de Venter, 1855-1939, Composer -- Winfield S. Weeden, 1847-1908: Notes found on Sermon Index)"

I was going to pull out the word "fear" and tell you how this word deals with the fearfulness of mankind. I was going to explain the "power" of God, manifest through the empowered life of a Christian by the Holy Spirit, and then end our discussion with the "sound mind", the clear thinking, the right thinking that comes by the word of God (the Gospel), the revelation imparted by Lord himself to each one of his children to not only believe but serve!

It's clear to me; my heart is set on the word surrender. That I would surrender to the will of God, the service of God that He may be glorified by all I do. It is in surrender we find life to live his life. Let's say it another way, it's by dying to our way that we can live His [God's] way through Christ.

*"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. Mat 10:38-39"*

Encouragement of Timothy

Paul encourages our beloved Timothy with a history lesson by starting with Paul's forefathers of faith ("*Albert Barnes- 2Ti 1:3 - Paul reckoned among his forefathers the patriarchs and the holy men of former times, as being of the same nation with himself...*") then continues with Timothy's own history of faith within his own home. Paul unveils Timothy's genuine faith first by his grandmother and his mother and confirms Timothy's faith by saying "in you too"! Two times in verse 5 Paul makes direct reference to Timothy's faith being true and an owner of it [owner of the true faith in Jesus Christ].

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2Ti 1:5"

The Apostle Paul on remembrance

Now we must stop ask the question why; why such effort is put forth by the apostle?

We know Paul is very much concern with our brother Timothy because three times in the first chapter he uses the word remembrance focusing on himself or calls Timothy to remember.

You see my friend, it all comes down to this, a faith that doesn't serve is a faith that is dead! A living faith is to be called into remembrance; it is to be active / alive in the mind of the believer. It's to be stirred up, stoked into flames through the gifts God which God has entrusted to you, it is to be shared, lived out with each breath so others may see Jesus alive in you!

The Challenge or the call to service

I don't mean harm but pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, fathers, mothers is the gospel sounding out from you, so others may be more bold to preach the word without fear in this dark world?

("Php 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.")

Hmmm... Does the congregation see the pastor share the gospel to a lost man or woman outside the security of the pulpit, how about the deacon (if they use this office with honor God promises boldness of faith - 1Ti 3:13)? You see, men and women will follow the example put before them and if they are not challenged they will hide too. The truth is if anyone honors God, God will honor them whether some else follows your example or not!

The call to share our faith (The Gospel) unashamedly is to all of us because we each personally have come to know the Lord!

"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 according to the power of God; -2Ti 1:8"

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. Mar 8:38"

Prayer

Lord I pray this again; please start with me: Lord Jesus, have mercy on me a sinner who has sinned against you this day, this week, this month, and this year! Have mercy upon me Lord Jesus, for without you I cannot stand and apart from you I shall surely die. Fill me with boldness to proclaim your truth and walk in it. Help me Lord to not excuse myself from the task you have called me too; that in all things I would glorify you. Forgive our ministers, preacher, teacher, deacons, laymen and all others of faith for not willing publishing your truth. Forgive us, if it be true that we hide behind your church walls and preach only in safe environments. God have mercy us who know your word well, if we should not proclaim it publicly in this dark world to the lost. Help us to follow your example and the examples of your apostles and those whom you wrote about in your word. Amen