

Day 1

Marty Miranda

Read

2Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Think

I love a good backyard bonfire! In our family, the kids love to gather wood and sticks around the yard, and peel back the wood to make kindling. Once we have enough wood, we get the fire going and start roasting marshmallows. But every bonfire begins with the smallest of embers. Once you see the ember, you know you need to guard and protect it, or the fire will die out before it even begins.

This is what Paul, a New Testament pastor, wrote in his letter to Timothy. Paul wanted Timothy to know that he had faith and a gift of God in him. That gift was valuable, but also vulnerable; like a small ember ready to die out. So Paul told Timothy to fan into flame the gift God had given him.

Reflect

You have faith, and you have a gift from God. Both of these are valuable, but also vulnerable.

- What things in your life have the potential to stomp out your faith and the gift God has given you?
- What can you do to guard and grow your faith today?

Pray

Jesus, thank you for the gift of God in my life. Help me understand that gift, and to see how valuable my faith is. Turn the embers of my faith into flame, so I can share your gift with others today. In Jesus name, Amen.

Day 2

Dan

Read

Romans 2:13

“For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.”

Think

Never before has humanity had more access to information than right now. We are experts in *knowing* about our friends, pop culture, politics, sports, etc. We train ourselves to be spectators of what is happening around us, and assume a position of inactivity in the world around us. Sometimes we treat God’s word the same way. We are comfortable knowing *about* his word, but are content to keep it from changing us.

Reflect

How do you read the Bible? Is it interesting to you, but not formative for you? We so often feel as if we’re not “getting anything” when we open God’s word, but what if being in God’s word has more to do with being *transformed* than being *informed*? When you read the word this week, focus more on how you are going to change your daily life according to what you read instead of just processing the information. Truth is only truth when it changes us.

Pray

Lord, you tell us that all the secrets of heaven are available to us, and we ask that you show us a deeper glimpse of who you are as your word changes us. We don’t want to just agree with our minds what we read, but we want our lives to reflect the truth you teach us.

Day 3

Whitney Webb

Read

2 Cor. 1:3-4

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

Think

“Who comforts us in all our troubles.” We have a good, good Father that wants nothing more than to sit beside us and hold our hearts when we are sad. We have a humble Savior that modeled a life after God’s own heart and showed us what it looked like to love - to really love. The compassion God calls us to requires action steps, “so that we can comfort those in any trouble.” The love we give should be like dominos, one chase after the next and creating movement, pointing back to the One that started it all.

Reflect

Where have you lacked compassion in the past? Where does God need to step in and reignite the flame? Where do you need God’s comfort in your life? Where do you need to comfort others?

Pray

Heavenly Father, you are a good, good, Father. Thank you for how you have first loved me and shown me compassion. Help me to model a life after the kind of heart you have. Show me how to comfort those in my life that need it right now and please comfort me in my life where I need it right now. Thank you for your comfort. Thank you for your goodness, grace, and love. Amen.

Day 4

Chrissy HCC

Read 1 Colossians 1:11-14 11 *We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, 12 always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. 13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.*

Think Paul wrote out this prayer for a group of Jesus followers he loved very much. He wanted to encourage them to keep following Jesus, keep living a life worth the sacrifice that Jesus gave, and to keep helping people far from God find freedom in Jesus. This is my prayer for you too. Allow Jesus to strengthen you so that you can keep moving forward in what he is calling you to do. To love God and to love others.

Reflect Where are you feeling tired? What are you carrying on your shoulders that seems too heavy for you? What things are you ignoring that Jesus wants to lead you into? Spend some time praying and giving your burdens over to Jesus. He wants to carry them for you and give you true rest.

Pray Jesus, what are you planning for me? How can I live my life in a way that honors your sacrifice? Thank you for leading me in this life. I give you my heavy burdens, my sin and hurts, please carry them for me. Amen

Day 5

Read

Matthew 25:14-30 **14** “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[c] and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents,[d] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ **21** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[e] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ **23** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ **26** But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Think

Similar to the servants here in this parable, we have each been dealt specific hands in this season of coronavirus. Out of an overflow of compassion, God will ask us “how did you steward what I gave you?” What would it look like for us to be faithful stewards wherever God may have us right now? He is not in Heaven right now FREAKING out and trying to come up with some sort of plan. God is sovereign and in control. I love how the song It Is

Well puts it, "let go my soul and trust in him // the waves and wind still know his name." Sometimes we can be so consumed with what God is/isn't giving *to* us that we forget he wants to be a blessing *through* us.

Reflect

- What have you been given in this season- good or bad? How are you going to steward that faithfully?

Pray

"O God, I have tasted thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully aware of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the triune God, I want to want thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me thy glory, I pray thee, so that I may know thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, 'Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.' Then give me grace to rise and follow thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long." - A.W. Tozer