

A BRIGHT FUTURE: Fan the Flame

As Christian educators, we don't have to look far to see the brokenness of our world. Pain, injustice, and frustration seem to dominate the headlines, and sometimes these struggles spill into our schools. It's easy to feel weighed down, even pulled into the negativity around us. However, God has given us something greater. His Spirit equips us with gifts that lift us above despair and anchor us in hope. Let's look to Scripture for fresh direction and encouragement as we live out our calling.

Read [2 Timothy 1:6-7](#).

Paul wrote 2 Timothy from prison. He knew his time was short and that Timothy faced an enormous responsibility to lead the church. **What did he implore Timothy to do in verse 6?**

Your answer may vary depending on your translation. *Stir up the gift* appears in the KJV, but other translations read "*fan into flames the gift*" (ESV, NIV, NLT), "*keep ablaze the gift*" (HCSB), and "*rekindle the gift*" (CSB, NRSV). Paul urged Timothy to "*stir up*" the gift of God within him, using a word picture of fanning glowing embers back into a strong flame. All believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at salvation along with spiritual gifts meant to build up the body of Christ. For educators, this is a vivid reminder that the gifts God has placed in us are not meant to smolder quietly. They are meant to burn brightly for His glory.

What small step can you take today to "stir up" the gifts God has entrusted to you?

Paul also gave Timothy assurances in verse 7 to anchor him as he stewarded God's gifts. **What were they?**

Human effort isn't enough. The good news is God has equipped us for our calling. He gives us His power when we are weak, His love to deal with those who seem unlovable, and His discipline for the times we lack self-control. When the weight of the world creeps in, remember that we are not called to despair but to hope. The Spirit of God within you is stronger than the negativity around you. Just as Paul urged Timothy to guard the good deposit entrusted to him, you are also entrusted with a sacred calling—to teach, to influence, and to shine Christ's light in dark places.

As you walk into your school each day, hold fast to the gifts God has given you. Let His Spirit empower you with courage, surround you with love, and steady you with self-discipline. In a world desperate for hope, you carry the flame of Christ. Fan it into fire, and let it shine brightly for all to see.

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
[2 Timothy 1:14](#)

Lord, thank You for entrusting me with both Your Word and those You've placed in my care. When I feel weak or timid, remind me that Your Spirit gives me power, love, and self-discipline. Help me to guard the good deposit You've placed in me and to faithfully pass on wisdom, truth, and encouragement to the next generation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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