

Strength for the Journey - Part two

II Timothy 1: 3-8

As we break into our story today, Paul is writing to Timothy from a dungeon in Rome. He is burdened for Timothy and wants nothing more than to go visit him and help him in his ministry. I am sure that Paul is thinking about all the experiences they shared, and the blessings of God’s work they saw.

As Paul tries to encourage Timothy, we get a sense from this letter that Timothy is having a hard time weathering the storm of ministry. Scripture tells us, “Wherefore, I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands” (verse 6). What a stern reminder to the calling that Timothy had been given by God and carried out by the laying on of hands by Paul. Somehow, Timothy had lost sight of his first priority to his Heavenly Father. There is no doubt that Timothy was dealing with inferior feelings. He was just a young man that was thrown in the mix of a thriving church, and he was probably overwhelmed. There had to be feelings of intimidation because of his lack of experience, and even the fact of his lack of life experiences. Nothing seasons us like the day-to-day issues that we have to deal with. Seasoning takes time, it is a process that can’t be rushed. Most folks can’t com-



JUST A THOUGHT
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prehend all that the pastoral ministry entails because the goal is to make it look easy. The pastor is supposed to put on the happy face every day, which I believe is important. If the pastor is not excited about the Lord’s work, why should the people be? No doubt, Timothy had done the job long enough that he was experiencing the pressure that came with the calling. Along with the pressure, there was fatigue. The Lord never said it would be easy, but the work is His, not ours! There is a tendency to try and shoulder the load of ministry, but that has never been God’s plan (Matthew 11:28-30).

As we continue to read the text, verse seven gives us insight that Timothy could have had issues with fear. Maybe

from the standpoint it may have been a fear of rejection or acceptance, and even possibly of failure. No one wants to fail. A spirit of fear is not from God, but what does come from God? There is a spirit of power and strength (II Timothy 2:1), and there is a spirit of love (I Corinthians 13). The Scripture tells us “love never fails.” God also provides us with a sound mind (II Timothy 2:15). This is accompanied by consistency (James 1:8), and a spirit of discipline. Paul needed to make sure that Timothy was not leading the church with a spirit of fear.

Paul was interested in the spiritual endowment of the Christian church, and Timothy was the man at the helm. The spirit of fear had to be replaced with a spirit of courage. This is not an easy task for a young man, but Paul told them to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11) if they were going to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The spirit of courage must be joined up with the spirit of power (Acts 1:8). Nothing will ever be accomplished in the mere strength of man. We are in a spiritual warfare, and we don’t have the tools in and of ourselves. There must also be a spirit of love. It is easy for the man of God to burnout and become bitter. He

must guard his heart against bad thoughts. A spirit of a sound mind will help erase the hurt and bitterness that many deal with.

As I look at the issues that Paul presented to Timothy, I must realize that these principles fit all our lives. There is a great need for knowledge that only comes from the Word of God, the Bible. The secret to the Christian life is reading God’s Word and then applying it to our lives. It is not old and outdated like some

might have you believe. It is as relevant today as it has ever been. Try it, it will transform your life!

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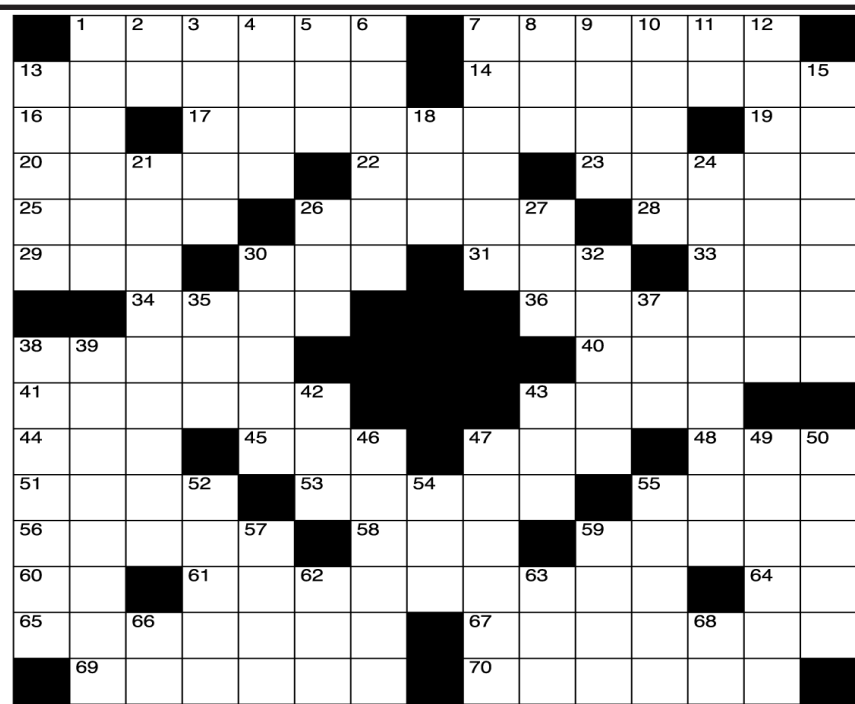
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Large dung beetle

7. Representation of a plan

13. In a fervid way

14. The Book of Psalms

16. Morning

17. Exactly the same

19. About

20. Brown and basmati are two

22. Swiss river

23. Philippine island

25. Expressions of surprise

26. An ant

28. Common Japanese surname

29. Deoxyribonucleic acid

30. Car mechanics group

31. A person’s brother or sister

33. Ancient pharaoh

34. Quantitative fact

36. Vividly colored bird

38. Your home has one

40. Organic compound

41. Section at the end of a book

43. Flat tableland with steep edges

44. Criticize

45. Split pulses

47. Brief trend

48. Cool!

51. Purposes

53. Brews

55. Skin condition

56. Pops

58. American air travel company

59. Minute bug

60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

61. One who rides in your car

64. One of the Gospels

65. City in southern Spain

67. Inquisitive

69. Jean Paul __, author

70. Pop singer Harry
- CLUES DOWN
1. An ape or monkey

2. Chemical element

3. Zodiac sign

4. Removes

5. Brew

6. Nickname

7. Architectural structures

8. Trigonometric function

9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna

10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two

11. Mountain (abbr.)

12. Landscaping practice

13. Capacitance unit

15. Redirect

18. Hat for women

21. In a way, dressed down

24. Granny

26. Feed

27. Endpoint

30. Indian instrument

32. Bleated

35. Cablegram (abbr.)

37. Root mean square (abbr.)

38. Jellyfishes

39. Individual TV installments

42. Talk

43. More (Spanish)

46. Leaseholder

47. Monetary units

49. Hostility

50. Work stations

52. Linguistics giant

54. Female sheep

55. Calendar month

57. Seasoning

59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey

62. Single Lens Reflex

63. A way to remove

66. Virginia

68. Old English

SUDOKU

				9	7		8	6
1			8					4
							5	
		4		3				
	1					6		
	3				4			
			9				3	
2	6				5			
5	7	3				1		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers to puzzles on Page 12

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