

# Rekindling the Flame



Discover how to ignite your  
God-given gifting for His glory!

Berni Dymet

**Life Application Booklet**

# REKINDLING THE FLAME

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**by Berni Dymet**

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LIFE APPLICATION BOOKLET

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**THIS BOOKLET IS OUR  
FREE GIFT TO YOU**

Thank you for your generous  
support in making it freely  
available to others

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# CHAPTER 1

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## Rediscovering Your Gift

Every time I sit down to write a book, I'm excited to see what God will do. Because there's something special when you and I (and countless others) gather around God's Word and allow ourselves to be informed, to be influenced, to be changed and empowered, and uplifted and admonished by the very Word of the Lord, amen? For ...

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*

(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

But on this occasion, in this book – *Rekindling the Flame* – I am especially excited to see what God will do in each one of us.

Because each one of us has something that we're good at; something that we enjoy doing; some God-given gift or ability that we just excel at. But all too often, it's been buried under years of neglect. And so many, many people live their lives without ever living out their God-given dreams.

But what if God never meant for that to happen? What if the monotony, the drudgery, the compelling ordinariness of day-to-day life

was never meant to crowd out the noble plan of God for your life?

Here's what, with all my heart, I believe. I believe that today God wants to remind you and me that He has gifted us, that He does have a royal plan for our lives, that He means to work in us and through us into this lost and hurting world in ways that, right now, we can't even begin to imagine.

I believe with all my heart that He wants us to become all that He's made us to be. Do you believe that too, or not? Do you have a heart to seek after the call that God has placed on your life ... or not? Or are you perhaps uncertain, afraid even, that there mightn't be a call? That perhaps God has forgotten you? That He's decided to leave you on the shelf, as it were? That He's done with you?

NO! Nothing could be further from the truth. I believe – indeed I know – that God wants to rekindle the flame, the passion in your hearts, for being about the business of God; the business that God has left you here on earth for; His business, God's business.

Many, many a Christian loves Jesus and wants to follow Him, but has lost his or her way. Not so much because he or she doesn't love the Lord, but because the way they spend their lives and their resources and their time isn't what God had intended.

Somehow the mundane, the ordinary things of life convince us that they're more important

than following some crazy, cockamamie “call” or “plan” from an unseen God. And somehow, we find comfort and security in the mundane and the ordinary.

But let me ask you ... what if Abraham had stayed home back in Ur, rather than following God to the Promised Land where He could bless him and Sarah with Isaac, from whom ultimately Jesus would be descended?

And what if Moses had refused to go back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh, and rather remained “beyond the wilderness” to tend his father-in-law’s sheep?

And what if David had given up on the anointing of the Prophet Samuel to become King, and fled instead to another land beyond the reach of the murderous Saul?

And what if ... just stop and think about this deeply ... what if Jesus had chosen to remain in that humble carpenter’s shop in Nazareth, carving out a meagre but safe living, because the call of the Cross was far too brutal to contemplate?

Well ... what if?

I’ll tell you what if; the plans of God would not have been fulfilled. The salvation that God meant, all along, to bring into your life and mine would never have happened. You and I would be consigned to an eternity apart from Him. That’s what!



Now, let's bring that powerful truth of the importance of God's call and God's plan down to the level of your life and mine.

There's a reason that the God says this:

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead. (James 2:14-26)*

In other words, what we believe and what we do are meant to be linked. And unless what we believe works its way out into what we do, then our faith is as dead as a dodo. What does that mean in practice? It means that if we believe in something with all our hearts and yet we fail to live it out, then eventually what we believe will start to die.

And that's what's happening for many of those who've set out on this journey of loving Jesus and following Him. Their faith has begun to die because they've lost focus on what they're meant to be doing.

It's interesting how readily that strikes home for so many a Christ-follower. It's interesting how easily we focus on our faith, sing the songs, know what we believe and yet simultaneously forget about living it out in real life, causing us to wonder why something seems to be missing, why our faith seems to be dying, why we feel like a rudderless ship on the ocean being tossed this way and that way.

This is all too common amongst the people of God. And what those who don't know God, who don't believe in Jesus, see when they look back upon their lives – let me put it bluntly – is a hypocrite; someone who says one thing but does another; someone who's living out a disconnect between what they profess to be true and how they behave.

And if you, even to some extent, find yourself uncomfortably in this position, if what we've

been chatting about strikes home in your heart, then this book is definitely for you. Because God by His grace wants to lead you into the calling, into the plan that He has for your life.

Now, when the wise old Apostle Paul wrote his second letter to his young protégé Timothy back there in the first century, it seems that young Tim was having a not altogether dissimilar problem to the one we've just been talking about. Timothy was pastoring a church and, as anyone who's ever tried to do that will tell you, that quite simply is not an easy job. It would be much easier without the people of course, but I guess that then there wouldn't be the point.

And so there are two verses in particular in that letter that really leap out for me in what Paul was saying to Tim.

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6), and ...*

*Guard the good treasure that has been entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. (2 Timothy 1:14)*

It comes back to this concept that each one of us has been given a special gift or ability by God that's been handcrafted deliberately by Him into our DNA; think about that ... by God Himself! And He's done that with a purpose.

In Timothy's case, that gift was preaching and teaching and clearly Tim was finding the going tough (I'm sure many a pastor will relate).

He was facing stiff opposition from all sorts of different people and when things are tough it's so easy to lose focus, is it not? We put our head down and pedal harder and harder, growing more tired, more exhausted, as the days and weeks slip by ... and in that place, it's so easy to forget that God has given each one of us a special gift that He means for us to exercise and to use.

Now listen carefully ... just as was the case for Abraham, for Moses, for David, for Jesus, God's plans and purposes for this world and for the people around us – and indeed for you and me – are intricately linked to the exercising of that special gift or ability that God has given each of us.

Your innate God-given gift is part of God's plan for this world, but it can only play its part if you exercise your gift. If you leave it in the cupboard or on the shelf, if you allow all the other things that claim your time to crowd it out of your life, then you will not be playing your part in God's plans – for your children, for your neighbour, for your difficult boss at work. Get the picture?

Is that really true, you might ask? Do I really have a gift, and is it really important in the scheme of things for me to use it? My answer to that is 'absolutely you do' and 'absolutely it is' – not because I say so, but because God says so.

Let's head off to another of Paul's letters ... indeed, his letter to the Roman Church. I want

to share with you a passage that you may find familiar, but I'm praying that something fresh, something new, will leap off the page for you and into your heart, something that perhaps you'd never seen before despite any familiarity that you may have with it. Have a read to it, Romans chapter 12 beginning at verse 4:

*For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function. So we who are many are one in the body of Christ and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. Prophecy in proportion to faith, ministry in ministering, the teacher in teaching, the exalter in exaltation, the giver in generosity, the leader in diligence, the compassionate in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine and hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another with mutual affection, outdo one another in showing honour, do not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.*  
(Romans 12:4-11)

Now what this is all about here is explaining how we as men, women and children who love Jesus should live together in fellowship and as a community of faith. That's how God changes us, that's how God transforms us – in community, not in isolation; as part of the body, not in dismemberment. Imagine for a moment a virtuoso violinist who plays her heart out to an empty theatre night after night? Doesn't make sense, does it?

And nor does being a Christian in isolation. Your gift, your ability, is meant to benefit the others in the body ... not play to an empty theatre.

And the truly exciting bit, as Paul puts it, is that we're all different. One of you has been put here by God to speak His will into the community of faith – that's what prophecy is all about. Another's been put here to minister, to serve; another to teach; another to exalt or encourage; another to give; another to lead; another to show compassion.

As you look at this list of seven gifts, you come to realise that it's pretty comprehensive and it's the way things are meant to be. But that's not so much the angle at which I want to come toward this particular passage today. I've written a whole book to help people locate their particular motivational gifting, or as we might say today, their personality type. It's called, incidentally, “My Personality GPS” (GPS being a locating device).

But will you please notice with me today what Paul is saying that each of us should do with our different gifts?

The prophet should do what? Prophecy according to his or her faith.

The minister or server should do what? Minister.

The teacher should do what? Teach. The leader should lead diligently. The giver should give generously. The one with compassion should show compassion with cheerfulness.

In other words, God is saying here through Paul, “Would you please live out the gift that I've given you?” Do what God made you to do, do you see that?

It's right there in the text. God is commanding us to be who He made us to be; to live out the gift that He by His sovereign choice wove into our DNA. Elsewhere, speaking more of spiritual gifts, He puts it this way:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ... All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*  
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11)

To whom does God give these gifts, these supernaturally appointed abilities? To Mr or Mrs Super-Christian over yonder? No! *To each one.*

And just in case we're being a bit spiritually thick, He says it again: *to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.* Are you getting this? This means you. This means me.

Why is it that so many Jesus-loving Christians are dissatisfied, unfulfilled, in their faith walk – miserable and unhappy? Because they're not being who God made them to be. They're not living out their God-given gifting.

My two gifts are leadership and teaching. By God's grace, He's called me to head up the ministry of Christianityworks and to preach the Gospel far and wide. And whilst that involves a lot of hard work and many trials along the way, honestly, I don't feel like I work a day in my life.

I have never been so fulfilled as I am today, despite the "stuff" the enemy throws at me day after day. But man, can I tell you, if you asked me to be a chaplain in an aged care facility, I would absolutely shrivel up and die. Not because I don't love older people, but because that's not what I'm gifted to do, nor called to do.

What's your gift? It's that one thing that you love doing. It's that one thing that you can do better than just about anyone else you know. And coming back to Romans 12, look at the exhortation with which Paul finishes off this passage:

*Do not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord.*

Be zealous, be ardent in using your particular gift to serve God. Why are so many of us finding it hard to live out our faith? Why have so many of us lost our passion for the Lord? Why has the flame gone out in so many a Christ-follower's heart?

Because we've stopped living out the gift that God gave us. It's something we all struggle with; Timothy was struggling with it, which is why Paul writes to him to remind him to rekindle the gift of God that is within him through the laying on of Paul's hands.



And friend, today I believe God is reminding me, and God is reminding you, to do the very same. I don't know what your particular circumstances are at this moment, but I will bet a penny to a pound that there are so many things in your life screaming at you that it's not the right time to use your gift, that you've lost it, that you should do something else, that the comfortable job you're in is what you should be doing.

Friend, it is time to get back on focus. It is time to get back on purpose, because God's plan is to bring a lost and hurting world back to Himself and that plan involves you using your special gift to be part of that. It includes your gifts and your abilities. God's plan is to work through the person that He made you to be to share His mighty love with the people in your life.

That, my friend, is the plan.

*Do not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord.*

# LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

## QUESTION 1

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**What are the parts of “business-as-usual” in your life that you feel pressured by? The things that, whilst standing back seem so mundane, on the other hand, seem to be boxing you in?**

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## QUESTION 2

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As you stand back and look at your life, what are the truly important things – the God-things – that are slipping by week by week without getting done?

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# QUESTION 3

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**What's the one thing that you truly enjoy doing? The one thing that you're really good at, that you really find satisfying and fulfilling?**

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## QUESTION 4

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How much of your time do you spend doing that?

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## QUESTION 5

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Read Romans 12:4-11 again. What is God saying to you today?

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# QUESTION 6

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**Now go back to 2 Timothy 1:6 and 14 ... rest in them, pray over them, hear the Lord whispering His purposes into your heart.**

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# CHAPTER 2

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## A Fruitful Life

So, great ... we each have a God-given gift or ability – something that we're able to do better than just about anybody else that we know. Woohoo!

But it's a funny thing ... when we run into opposition and trials in life, the first thing we tend to do is to stop using that gift, to stop living out who God made us to be. Why is that?

I don't know if you've picked this up in your life, but life ain't always easy, have you noticed? We kind of figure to ourselves that it should be – at least it should be – just a tad easier than what it actually is. And yes, there are some great things that happen in life, there really are – but there's always something, some adversity, some obstacle, some difficult person ... something that conspires to take the shine off life.

And that's discouraging. It starts to tear away at the hopes and the dreams that we had for our lives. And let's be honest, we each do have hopes and dreams which, more often than not, are built on the foundation of the gifting that God has woven into our DNA.

I have a dear friend, Keith. In fact Keith and I together wrote that book I mentioned earlier, *My Personality GPS*.



His particular gifting is to be a teacher. Now he doesn't stand up in front of a classroom and lecture ... that's not Keith at all. He's more your life coach – not a self-appointed, franchise owning life coach like those you find on the internet – but a naturally gifted life coach.

People are drawn to him for advice and encouragement, and he helps them understand their own giftings and abilities to get their lives back on track. It's the God-given gift that Keith has, and his hopes and dreams for the rest of his life are built on the foundation of his gifting. It's a part of who he is. He understands that; he knows the stuff he's good at and he absolutely loves doing those things.

But back in the 1980s he suffered a surfing accident. He broke his neck and he was almost killed, firstly by the accident itself and secondly when the rescue helicopter crashed. Still today there are many days when Keith suffers terrible migraine headaches that are totally debilitating. I called him the other day and he sounded like death warmed up. He told me later that he really thought he was going to die that day –the pain was just so bad.

But here's the thing about Keith: The adversity doesn't stop him from living out the special gift of teaching and encouragement that God's given him. The adversity doesn't rob him of the dreams that he has for blessing other people through his God-given gift. In fact, he is just one of the happiest, most positive, most encouraging people I know on this planet ...

despite the terrible pain he suffers some days.

Hold that thought as we circle back to those two pivotal passages from Paul to Timothy:

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6)*

*Guard the good treasure entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. (2 Timothy 1:14)*

Remember, Timothy was struggling amidst the adversity of pastoring a growing church and he was at risk of losing sight of his God-given gifts. So the Apostle Paul writes to him, exhorting him to **rekindle the gift that was within him and to guard the good treasure entrusted to him**. Why? Well, because adversity was tearing away at him and the risk was that, if this continued, the plans that God had for the lives that would be changed through young Tim would not be realised.

And make no mistake, Timothy was facing some serious opposition.

Have a read to what Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 3 beginning at verse 1. He says:

*You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes,*

*haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them! For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly women, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth. As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people, of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith, also oppose the truth. But they will not make much progress, because, as in the case of those two men, their folly will become plain to everyone. (2 Timothy 3:1-9)*

I love the way Paul kicks off his advice to Timothy, because it comes from years of tough experience:

*You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come.*

It seems that Timothy, just like you and me, was not expecting adversity. It's not something we hope for or look forward to, and invariably one of adversity's biggest impacts on us is the element of surprise.

But Paul's saying, "Look young man, this is the reality. This is what's going to happen, so don't be surprised. People are going to come against you" and what a list there is, (obviously Paul has some scars on his back).

*For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power.*

Wow! Do you expect to find those people in your church, or in your family, or in your circle of friends, or in your workplace? Is that what you expect? No! But Paul's stating the blindingly, glimpsingly obvious; they're there – so don't be surprised when you encounter a wolf or two, or ten, dressed in sheep's clothing – people who pretend to be godly on the outside but on the inside aren't living in, aren't believing in, the power of God to change lives, people who pretend to be holier than thou, but in reality are out there to tear you down, because on the inside they deny the power of God.

And it's in this context, in this reality, in the face of such opposition, that Paul speaks this powerful exhortation to Timothy:

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands.*

*Guard the good treasure entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.*

Do you see? Adversity isn't our excuse to give up on doing good. Adversity and criticism and opposition and downright awful people (even

those who pretend to be godly) don't give us an excuse to give up using our God-given gift to love and to bless, and to encourage and to comfort those around us. To the contrary! It's the reality in which we live, it's the reality in which Timothy was operating, it's the reality in which Paul was operating, it's the reality in which you and I operate.

And I believe that in this reality ... in the harsh, cold light of day with people like this around us – not all of them, but some of them ... God is calling you and God is calling me to rekindle the flame, to rekindle the gift that He placed within each one of us when He handcrafted every strand of our DNA, right there in our mother's womb.

And that's what I encourage you to do today through the power of God's Word. Don't give up.

If perhaps the dream of using your God-given gift has grown cold, if you've been pulled off the path that God chose for you before any of your days even existed, if you look at some of these dreadful people who oppose you, or some of the terrible strife and trials that you're facing, if you're thinking to yourself, "Surely God doesn't want me to use my gift in this place? Surely!" ... then hear this!

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands.*

*Guard the good treasure entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.*

Whether, as in Keith's case as he coaches people back onto the path that God has for their life, or as in my case as I use my gift of storytelling to share the good news of Jesus with you and others, or as in your case as you use that special gift that God has given you to bless others ... adversity is not our excuse for giving up on our God-given gift.

No ... it's the trigger to use it more and more to bless others because where there is opposition and adversity, there ... right there in that place ... more love and more grace is what's needed.

Don't give up. Use your gift more and more. I believe that's God's Word for you today.

# LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## QUESTION 1

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What adversities are you facing in your life at the moment? Take some time to think about it. Write a list ... there's often more than one thing.

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## QUESTION 2

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Now look at that list, think about that list, pray about that list. Ask God for His wisdom and insight. How is each of the items, each of the adversities on your list, pulling you off-track, stopping you from using your God-given gift?

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# QUESTION 3

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**Why do you think that is? I mean, think through each of them logically. Why do you allow them to have such power over you?**

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# QUESTION 4

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Put yourself in Timothy's shoes. Read the whole of 2 Timothy 3. As Timothy, facing those tough times, how do you react?

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# QUESTION 5

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What is God saying to you through that chapter? What wisdom, insight, encouragement, power, is the Holy Spirit breathing into your circumstances, your reality?

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# QUESTION 6

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Spend some time in prayer, wrapping your heart around what God is saying to you today.

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# CHAPTER 3

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## A Guide Along the Way

Do you know what I've noticed? It's awfully easy to lose your way in life. We each, as we've seen, have this God-given gift or ability and so we head off into life with our dream for using it. And then the cares of the world take over and we're off on the wrong track. How do we stay focussed? How do we get our lives back on track?

One of the people through whom I have been greatly blessed in my life is my good friend and mentor, Graham Pratt. Graham would be twenty odd years older than I am, I guess. We first met when he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the army, and I was a brash young Captain. We hit it off, and within a few years he and I and a couple of other ex-military sorts were involved as partners in a management and IT consulting firm.

So for almost two decades, I worked alongside Graham and benefited so much from his wisdom and insight. To this day he is seriously one of the wisest men that I have ever met, and much of the wisdom that I'm able to share with you came to me through my friendship with him.

Sadly, mentorship is something of a lost art these days, at least in the western world. Here

I am now in my sixties and as I reflect on life, I realise that none of us can do it all on our own. We need to be surrounded by wisdom from somewhere else. When the going gets tough and when we're tempted to race off in this direction or that, having some wise trusted counsellors close by, well ... you just can't put a price on that. And as we continue our look at rekindling the gift that God has placed within each one of us, I'd really like to chat about that with you some more.

Because when the going gets tough and when we're tempted to pull off the path that God prepared for us to use our God-given gifts for His glory, then right there in that place, we need some good advice.

In the last chapter, you'll recall that we looked at this whole thing of rekindling the gift that lies within, rekindling the flame, rekindling our dreams through the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy, his young protégé. And the thing that Paul talks a lot about was the adversity that Tim was facing.

People who want to stand in our way, people who want to tell us we're not really that gifted, people who'll do absolutely anything to stop us from living out our God-given gifting as a leader or a teacher or an encourager, or however it is that God has made each one of us.

And it's because of this brutal reality that Paul says to Timothy, *“Look, for this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift, the gift of God that*

*is within you through the laying on of my hands.”*  
Because God doesn't want us to stop using the gift that He's given us.

Well, all good in theory ... but when we're in the heat of the battle, when the emotion and the exhaustion and the misinformation, when the fog of war envelops us, how do we stay on track? What do we need to do to maintain the course that the Lord our God has set for us?

Well that's the question that Paul now goes on to answer for Timothy.

*Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:10-17)*



Perhaps that may sound just a tad arrogant:  
*Look at me, I'm your example. Do what you saw me  
doing! Really?*

But in a pre-literate society (which this was) this was one of the main ways of teaching, i.e. by example. And, let me tell you, when I was studying the sort of leadership needed by an army officer back in my military days, that's exactly what they taught too; lead by example. When you think about it, it's the example of others – our parents, teachers, peers, leaders and so on – that influences our behaviour to a great degree.

That is exactly what I was talking about with Graham, the main mentor in my life. And that's what Paul is saying to his protégé, Timothy: “Look Tim I know it's tough, but remember me – remember your mentor, remember the things you saw me doing through the trials and the persecutions – trials and persecutions, by the way, that you too are going to have to travel through at some time. Tim, follow my example.”

And as I look around and look back on my journey, God has put some people like that in my life: Graham of course, whom I mentioned earlier; Phil Littlejohn, the pastor of the first Church I went to when I became a Christian – what a powerful example that humble man has been in my life; my good friend James and several others. These are the people who have acted as guides, as signposts, in my life – keeping me on track to use the giftings that God has entrusted to me.

Are any of those people perfect? Of course they're not, and yet God used them mightily in my life. To tell you the truth, I wouldn't be here with you had He not put them along my path, because I'm sure I would have wandered off in completely the wrong direction. After all, that's what we do, isn't it?

And the second thing that God calls us to use powerfully to stay on course is His Word, the Word of God:

*But as for you, (Paul says to Timothy) continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*

So many people imagine that they can follow Jesus without reading His Word, the Bible, for themselves and I'm sorry if you're one of those people who subscribes to that school, but it is just plain wrong.

God has gone to an enormous amount of trouble to preserve with an unparalleled degree of accuracy the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, so that you and I will what? ... use them as a door stop or an ornament on a bookshelf? No! ... so that you and I will

open them up and read them, and allow God to transform our lives through His wisdom and His counsel and His truth.

We need wisdom from above, and it comes to us when we drink it in from God's Word, the Bible, and it comes to us as it's reflected off other godly men and women right into the dark patch that we may be in right at the moment.

*If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. (James 1:5-8)*

God isn't stingy, doling out a little bit of wisdom here and there, now and then. Instead, he gives to all (ALL!) generously and ungrudgingly when we ask.

The problem is that so often we don't ask. The problem is that so often when a wise guide draws near, we shun their godly wisdom.

The problem is that so many of God's people leave God's Word on a shelf somewhere gathering dust.

What's the matter with us people? Seriously?

If God's Word is indeed a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105), no wonder so many of His people are bumping around in the dark.

You can't even make it through kindergarten on a twenty or thirty minute teaching session once a week, so why do we Christians imagine that we can make it through life based on one short sermon every other Sunday (or less)? ... because we can't.

The Lord our God is so passionate about seeing us rekindle that gift that He's placed within each one of us ... so passionate.

He knows about the adversity. He knows about the temptation for us to turn back and give up. And so He's given us guides and sign posts – godly men and women.

*Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future. (Proverbs 19:20)*

And, above all, He's given us His Word to keep us on His path so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

*Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

Be a man, be a woman, of God's Word. Listen to the godly advice of those around you. They will keep you on track. Through His Word and through those people God will help you become all that He made you to be.

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:6), and*

...

*Guard the good treasure that has been entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. (2 Timothy 1:14)*

# A Final Prayer

Lord God, thank you for your grace and mercy, for your patience in dealing with me as time and time again, I wander off the path; time and time again, I lose focus; time and time again, I forget about the gift that you have placed within me and the call that you have placed on my life.

Lord, I yearn to serve you. I yearn to play the small part in your great plan for this world that you have ordained for me to play.

So Lord, whatever this may mean, whatever this may cost me, whatever sin needs to be burned out of my life, send the fire of your Holy Spirit not just to rekindle the gift that is within me, but to start a raging, unquenchable fire in my heart to serve you in ways that I can't even imagine at the moment.

Your Word calls me not just to believe but to follow, not just to think but to speak and act, not just to observe from a distance but to take up my cross and follow you.

By the fire of your Spirit and the power of your Word, make it so in my life. In the mighty name of Jesus I pray. Amen!

# ABOUT CHRISTIANITYWORKS

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Here at Christianityworks our passion is seeing countless lives transformed one by one, as we share the good news of Jesus through the media around the globe.

It's something that we've been doing since 1957. Of course back then we were known as Back to the Bible, changing our name to Christianityworks in 2001.

Today, the radio and television broadcasts that we produce with the support of friends like you, reach a weekly audience that we conservatively estimate to be over 20 million people in 160 countries.

We believe that as we make innovative use of mass media – radio, television, digital + online and print – God works mightily by His Spirit and His Word, transforming lives.

In fact, its not something that we just believe, it's something that we know.

We receive so many testimonies each month from around the globe, of lives that have been saved, touched and transformed as God works through the ministry of Christianityworks.

Thank you for remembering that Christianityworks is a faith based ministry. We rely on the support of friends like you to reach the lost with the saving love of Jesus.

Your secure, online gift today will make a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

To give, just visit: [christianityworks.com/donate](http://christianityworks.com/donate).

Thank you with all my heart.

Your friend in Jesus,



Berni Dymet



Berni Dymet

## Rekindling the Flame

Discover how to ignite your God-given gifting for His glory!

Each one of us has a special gift from God. An innate ability to do something – one particular thing – better than just about anyone else that we know.

The problem is that the cares of this world, the sheer effort of living life, the trials we face often bury that gift that we have – and the dream that we had to use it in a special way – so deep that we forget that it's even there. All we can see is the day-to-day grind.

In this great new booklet, Berni opens up God's Word to help each one of us to re-discover our gift, to re-ignite it, to go and be who God made us to be.