

w/b 14th February 2016 Study notes.

Life in the Spirit - The Spirit Equips (preacher – Mike Gilson)

Discovery

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-14.

How does Paul feel towards Timothy?

How does God feel towards us!?

How does he show it?

Consider for a few moments how mighty God is, and marvel at his amazing his love and attention towards people like us - we're so small compared to him, and sometimes so unlovely.

We sang 'God is good' on Sunday. Ask people if they feel he is good all the time. Discuss.

Discussion

How did Paul encourage Timothy to depend on God? (allow some discussion and then steer conversation to v7)

Ask people in your group how like Timothy they feel, and how unlike him.

Have a look at Mat 19:14 (Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.') Little children are basically takers. They don't have any pretence that they have anything significant to offer or can make things work, unlike us, who often try to make life work and think we can make it on our own. God has to sometimes take us to difficult places so we at last we have to admit we're inadequate and need his help.

Why do we need power? Why did God inspire Zechariah in Ch4:6 to say 'Not by might, not by power but by my spirit, says the Lord?'

The Beatles sang "all you need is love". If you're in the mood, sing it!

Why do we need love? If you like, read 1 Corinthians 13 and ruminate on it.

Self-control - why do we need it? Discuss, and then suggest any of the following that haven't been mentioned: it helps us focus on right thinking, acting, leading, kingdom building; helps us model for younger/new believers; prevents our self-centred motives spoiling things; enables us to look back and not regret decisions/actions/example set. NB - even if we can't do this last thing, God is merciful and forgives, though the effects of our wrong actions remain - discuss.

Application

Pray for each other to not be timid or over self-reliant, and to be filled with the Spirit's empowering and with power, love and self-control.