

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Missions Conference

These questions are for the **March 1, 2020** sermon, “No Fear.” Please read the sermon passage (2 Timothy 1:6-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS THE DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH OVERCOMES FEAR IN THE NAME OF JESUS, NOTE . . .

1. CHARGE #1: Live in the power of the Spirit that God provides (6)
 - a. God provides power in and through his Spirit (Acts 1:8)
 - b. We must not be afraid to pray for power. Persist in prayer. Linger.
 - c. We cover-up our fear of witnessing with prayerlessness that leads to powerlessness.
2. CHARGE #2: Love people—all people—without fear (7, 1 John 4:18)
 - a. The longer Paul lived, the more he focuses on love. (Consider 1 Corinthians 13)
 - b. Answers and reasons are important, but love is the on ramp for every relationship.
 - c. Don't try to provide more truth than the “bridge” of your relational trust can support.
3. CHARGE #3: Self-discipline helps us see the world right-side-up, from God's perspective (7)
 - a. No matter what the majority, the masses say, this world belongs to God entirely.
 - b. Do not allow religion or dangers or viruses stop you from witnessing!
4. CHARGE #4: Suffering will come to everyone who witnesses for Jesus (1:8, 12, 2:9-10, 3:10-12)
 - a. Earthly suffering is normal. It's not something to try to avoid. It is what we do.
 - b. Heavenly glory will come—faithful witnesses will be ultimately delivered from affliction.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Second and third generation Christians often stop expecting power in witnessing, and this expectation often short-circuits their prayer for power in witnessing. This prayerlessness can result in less focus on discipleship and more criticism of people. How can you persist in prayer BETTER, especially in the area of powerful and effective witnessing?
2. Based on #2, above: We are surrounded by democrats, republicans, the sexually permissive, addicts, liars and newcomers. Which of these groups of people do you struggle most to love? Can you be in relationship with these people without confronting/focusing on what makes you different from them? How does 2 Tim 1:7 address our hearts?
3. Based on #3, above: 25% of Jesus' “witnessing training” for his disciples (Matthew 10) was “What to do” (or ‘Be sure you are right’). 75% was on “Get ready for persecution and rejection.” Every Christian should adopt the mind of Jesus on this topic, namely, that we are called to love the people who live in a world that rejects Jesus and his ambassadors. How does a sound mind on this topic help you overcome fear, apathy, anger and frustration?
4. Based on #4, above: Are we willing to suffer for the name of Jesus? How have you honestly suffered because you witnessed to the power and hope that you have found in Jesus? How have you suffered because you have set out to live a godly life (2 Tim 3:12)? Why is a godly life with suffering better than a (perceived) neutral life with ease?