

## *FEARLESS!*

Have you ever experienced a steady stream of blessings by the Lord in a small amount of time? Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the sheer number of blessings that have come your way? Blessings you've longed for and never imagined occurring with such intensity? Blessings such as new appointments or advancements in the kingdom of God, a promotion on your job, requests from civic leaders to join a commission or committee that works to improve the lives of God's people in local communities, invitations to serve as a member of an Advisory Committee or Director of a Board.

Sometimes, the breadth and depth of the blessings lead you to question your worthiness and you find yourself holding your breath and questioning how quickly the blessings will come to an end? These negative thoughts can subtly leave us feeling paralyzed and insecure placing limitations on spiritual blessings due to our own inaction and a reliance on our own strength. 1 Timothy 1:7 states, "For God did not give us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

There are four things that the Apostle Paul reminds his young mentee, Timothy that is applicable today. **First**, the Lord empowers us to face all challenges and to accomplish His purpose when He equipped us with the power of the Holy Spirit to work in His strength and not ours. The Lord strategically positions his people to demonstrate His love wherever we are planted. **Secondly**, the Lord desires us to place all of our confidence in Him. As we rely on our faith in Christ and exercise Godly wisdom, our capacity to love and to work according to God's plan enables us to contribute to kingdom building. **Thirdly**, a peace invades our soul as we humble ourselves to the mighty hand of God by moving according to His will and according to His way. There is renewed energy and enthusiasm because our desire is to please God and to give Him the praise. **Lastly**, when we align our thoughts with the Lord's thoughts and refrain from considering the things of the world such as age, gender, education, articulation, etc., we make ourselves available to accept the Lord's assignment; and our fearlessness becomes a deep desire to finish the each assignment well.

As we begin 2016, let us enter it fearlessly! Let's place our faith and confidence in Christ with a humble heart and prayer to align our thoughts and our will to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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