

# 2 Timothy 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** The conjunction "wherefore" connects this exhortation to Timothy's genuine faith—authentic faith must be actively exercised, not passively assumed. The command "stir up" (anazōpyrein, ἀναζωπυρεῖν) literally means "rekindle" or "fan into flame," reviving smoldering embers into blazing fire. This vivid metaphor suggests Timothy's spiritual gift had grown dormant due to opposition, fear, or discouragement. Spiritual gifts require intentional cultivation through use, prayer, and dependence on the Holy Spirit—neglect causes atrophy.

"The gift of God" (charisma tou theou, χάρισμα τοῦ θεοῦ) refers to Timothy's specific ministry gifting, likely pastoral teaching and leadership. This charisma is gracious endowment from God, not natural talent. Every believer receives spiritual gifts for serving the body (1 Corinthians 12:7, Romans 12:6-8). These gifts come from the Holy Spirit but are often imparted through laying on of hands by church leaders.

"By the putting on of my hands" refers to Paul's apostolic recognition and commissioning of Timothy's ministry (Acts 16:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:14). This act symbolized identification, blessing, authorization—not magical transmission but public recognition of God's calling.

## Historical Context

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Laying on of hands had Old Testament precedent: Moses commissioned Joshua (Numbers 27:18-23), sacrificial animals received sins this way (Leviticus 16:21), and patriarchs blessed descendants (Genesis 48:14). Early Christians continued this practice for blessing, healing, receiving the Holy Spirit, and ordaining leaders. Timothy's ordination occurred at Lystra with elders' participation. This public commissioning gave Timothy apostolic authorization crucial for authority in Ephesus where opponents questioned his youth. The need to "rekindle" suggests significant discouragement from persecution, opposition, and Paul's imprisonment.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What spiritual gifts has God given you, and are you fanning them into flame through use and prayer, or have they grown dormant?
2. What fears or discouragements cause you to shrink back from fully using your gifts for Christ's glory?
3. Who are the spiritual authorities who have recognized and commissioned your gifts, and are you faithfully fulfilling that calling?

## Interlinear Text

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διὰ	ὃ	αἰτίαν	ἀναμιμνήσκω	σε	ἀναζωπυρεῖν	τὸ		
Wherefore G1223	which G3739	G156	I put G363	thee G4571	that thou stir up G329	G3588		
χάρισμα	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ὃ	ἐστίν	ἐν	σοὶ	διὰ	τῆς
the gift G5486	G3588	of God G2316	which G3739	is G2076	in G1722	thee G4671	Wherefore G1223	G3588
ἐπιθέσεως	τῶν	χειρῶν	μου					
the putting on G1936	G3588	hands G5495	of my G3450					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 4:14** (Parallel theme): Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19** (Parallel theme): Quench not the Spirit.

**2 Peter 3:1** (Parallel theme): This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

**2 Timothy 4:2** (Parallel theme): Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**2 Peter 1:12** (Parallel theme): Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

**Acts 19:6** (Parallel theme): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

**Exodus 36:2** (Parallel theme): And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

**Exodus 35:26** (Parallel theme): And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

**1 Timothy 4:6** (Parallel theme): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

**Luke 19:13** (Parallel theme): And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

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