

The Sower

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THE FIRST SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

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Stir Up the Gift!

(Inspired by Paul's Letters to Timothy)

Does God have something in mind for you? If so, how can you discover what that might be? Are you distressed or in trouble? If so, what can you do? When you have an important decision to make, how do you know what to do, or what course of action to take? If you have decided that you simply cannot handle another piece of complexity or confusion in your life, what alternative to do you have, other than giving up in defeat? Are you seeking to make yourself a better person? Do you want to develop some gift of the Spirit? Are you just plain disgusted with what's going on in the world or, perhaps, in your own back yard? If so, where can you turn for some genuine and down-to-earth help?

A lot of questions, but they all boil down to this:
What can we do when we need help in life?

I have good news! I have such incredible news that, if you take the time to read on, if you take the time and to do some honest soul-searching, if you take the time to put into **action** that which I share with you, I make this guarantee, and there are no disclaimers or exclusions to worry about:

Your life WILL be changed. You WILL be transformed. The Angel of Death WILL pass over your house. And you WILL experience resurrection of a most amazing kind.

The problems will not go away. The earthly condition will not disappear. Life will not suddenly become a bed of roses. But you **will** be changed, and it can happen in the twinkling of an eye.

So, what's the good news? In **Ecclesiastes**, we are told that there is no new thing under the sun; this is no exception. What I am about to share is as old as the day God breathed the Holy Spirit into our lives and made us living co-creators. It's as amazing, as awesome, and as mystical as the day God said: **Let us make man and woman in our image.**

So, what's the good news? Truth be told, it's not news at all. Rather, it's a simple instruction; a simple request; and it's right under your nose. No gimmick here; no false advertising; no commercial hype. And what's best of all, you don't have to buy anything. But, you **do** have to make an investment. You must invest in **yourself** and you must invest yourself into this message and into the One Who makes it all work.

Just a simple command which will make each one of us better. It will make you a better person. It will make you a better parent, a better worker, a better companion, a better soul mate. It will make you a better medium, a better healing channel, a more compassionate and caring individual.

Ten words; that's it! But, if taken to heart and soul, they can pack a spiritual punch unlike anything else.

Stir up the Gift of God which is in you.

That says it all!

First, it asks us to **move** something; to **activate** something; to **stir** something up within us. It asks us to stop being **complacent** and **comfortable** in our lives, our spirituality, and our religion and to stir something up. For some, that may be difficult; people just don't like to stir things up. You know how it is: stir up the clear waters and they become muddy.

That may be true, but the only way we can **change**; the only way that we can get ourselves **unstuck** is to stir things up. When your car is stuck in the mud, or in a snow bank, what do you do? You get out the shovel and you start digging; you stir things up, hoping to move the muck and mire enough to get the car moving again.

In my yard, I need to plant some grass in certain bare spots. How do I begin? I begin by stirring up the dirt and loosening it up so it can **breathe** and

support **new** life. The same principle applies to life and living.

That's all good and fine for a stuck vehicle or a new lawn. What about a stuck life? What about a stuck career? What about a stuck relationship? What about stuck finances, or a stuck body? What about a stuck Spirit? What about a stuck nation? What about a stuck world?

Here, we are told to stir something **else** up. We are told to stir **the gift of God**. That can be interpreted in two ways. Are we asked to stir up a gift which God has given us, or is God the actual gift which we are asked to stir up? Personally, and knowing what I know about Apostle Paul, I believe that this instruction to Timothy was intentionally a bit unclear in order to see what the early Christian community would do with that little bit of rhetoric. Furthermore, I believe that once we stir up the gift which **is** God, then we automatically stir up the gifts which God gives.

It's as old as the day God breathed life into our Spirits. **First God; then all else falls into place.**

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to assist Timothy in organizing the newly forming Christian community. But the instructions are as meaningful and as pertinent, today, as they were 30 or so years after Christ's resurrection. Then, they were intended to help build the Christian community. Today, they can assist in whatever community we may seek to build. That community may be our specific house of worship; it may be our family; it may be our career; it may be our environment; it may be our group or club; it may be our planetary society; it may be our blessed Mother Earth; it may even be our lives. It matters not; the instructions apply to all.

As great as this is, let us see what follows in Paul's letter to Timothy:

Right after the instruction to stir up the gift of God, Paul writes: ***For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.***

What a statement upon which to contemplate when fear and anxiety overshadow our lives! Our God-given Spirit is **powerful**. We have the **power** to make things happen. We have the **power** to change things around. We have the **power** to set right that which may be wrong. We have the **power** to change wrong mindsets and attitudes. We have the **power** to become whole. We have the **power** to do all this, and so much more! Why? Because, within us is the **gift of God**.

Not one of us was born out of fear and timidity. We are all, every one of us, born in the Spirit of power and strength. And what is the true power of our God-given Spirit? It is **love**: God's love, deeply inscribed within the scrolls of our lives.

Now, we come to the real challenge: what to do with that gift once we dare stir it up.

In *2 Timothy*, chapter 1, verse 8, and chapter 2, verse 15, Paul says: ***Therefore, to do not be ashamed of the testimony of God. Be diligent to present yourself as a workman who does not need to be ashamed.***

Are you proud of your faith? Are you proud to be a Jew; a Muslim, a Buddhist; a Christian; a Spiritualist, etc.? I hope so! Are you proud to be who you are? I hope so!

How often are we stirred by the power of the Spirit within but are afraid or embarrassed to share this with others. The gift of God must be guarded, protected, and it must be defended; but it cannot be locked up. Let us share it with others. **Share** the gift; **pass** it on; be **excited** about it; **witness** God in your life, that others may see that same gift of God in **their** lives.

But, in all of this, care must be exercised. Let us not be boastful in our estimation; for if we are, we are not glorifying God and the Gift of the Spirit; we are glorifying ourselves and our egos.

We are all - every one of us - **workers** within God's Kingdom! Let us **never** be ashamed of that.

Rev. Simeon
Pastor *Emeritus*

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