

“Be the Guardian—Guard What
Has Been Entrusted to You”

“Be the Guardian of the Good Deposit”

“Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” 2 Timothy 1:14 (NIV)

A. The Context

1. Paul’s last Epistle

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.” 2 Timothy 4:6 (NIV)

2. Timothy: A rich, spiritual family background

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

B. The What: The Good Deposit

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

“...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

2. Our deposit of the Deposit

“Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I come back, I could have collected it with interest?”
Luke 19:23 (NIV)

C. The How: Holy Spirit’s Power

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

“God doesn’t want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (The Message)

1. Not by fear

a. It is not from God

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear;”
2 Timothy 1:7a (NIV)

b. It will keep us from using the gifts that God gives.

“You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.”
2 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)

2. But of power

a. We are safe in His hands

The power of God is always there, but it is not always there to remove the difficulty. Sometimes, it is there to see us through the difficulty.

b. Boldness matters

“So, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.” 2 Timothy 1:8

3. Of love

a. The mindset of servicing

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” John 13:3-5 (NIV)

b. The mindset of kindness

“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?” Romans 2:4 (NLT)

“You didn’t think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because He’s such a nice God, He’d let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but He’s not soft. In kindness He takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.” Romans 2:4 (The Message)

4. Of self-discipline (sober mind)

“It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:12 (NIV)

D. The Why: To Persevere

1. Faithfulness matters

“May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because He often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.” 2 Timothy 1:16 (NIV)

2. Hold fast

“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 1:13 (NIV)

E. The Who: Us

1. The ones God called

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2 Timothy 1: 9-10

Fear leaves us motionless and ineffective, therefore, we are given—by the Spirit—power, love, and self-discipline in the name of grace to persevere through trial, and to teach life and immortality to a dying, hurting, and mortal world.