



Wednesday Prayer

17th Sunday after Pentecost – Rekindle the gift

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Many scholars question whether this letter was written by Paul to Timothy. In any case, the writer means to mentor a less experienced worker who was facing false teachings and struggling in his responsibilities, to encourage him to continue the ministry of Jesus. We all experience times of flagging in our faith and this writer reminds us that we are not to neglect this precious gift that God has given us, but to rekindle it, embrace it and exemplify God's power and love in all that we do.

Martin Luther said, "The whole being of the Christian is faith and love. Faith brings a person to God. Love brings a person to people." A spirit of cowardice can turn a person inward to focus on their own comforts and desires instead of reaching out to meet the needs of others. But when the gift of faith is rekindled, "a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline" brings the disciple to people in need, to continue the ministry that Jesus began.

To persevere in fighting exploitation and sex trafficking, we need the power of God that comes to us as the free gift of faith. Even when we feel like our faith is the size of a mustard seed, we know nothing is impossible with God. We kindle the flame of this power through persistently connecting with God through prayer, worship, and Bible study, then living out God's love in welcoming and caring for vulnerable children and youth, educating our fellow disciples, and advocating to end this and other injustices we see in our world.

God of power and love, hear our prayers, enflame our hearts with faith and confidence in you, and embolden our actions so that those who are held in injustice are freed to live the lives you intend for them. Amen.

Written by Kay Kinkel, MSW, LICSW, a Behavioral Health Professional with LSS, a member of the Cherish All Children Advisory Board, and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Shakopee, MN.



If you'd like to rekindle your church's work with Cherish All Children, please reach out to get started! Many congregations are re-engaging this fall with youth or adult education. Bring our [Safe and Healthy Relationships Youth Guide](#) to your congregation or reach out for an adult or youth presentation at info@cherishallchildren.org.