

PRAYER UPDATE

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week

Ethan Pope (age 6) leukemia treatment, LPCH Stanford Day Hospital every 10 days for the next two months. This is his 5th round of chemo pumping four different drugs into his little body. Please continue to pray for the family as they travel to Stanford for morning chemo.

Nina Faith Swain (3 months old) recovering from surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Kathy Holderman recently had two surgeries to alleviate chronic lower back pain however an infection has set in and the spinal stimulator has been removed.

Liz Bishop back in hospital for more testing. Please pray for conclusive results and complete healing.

Emily Beckman (age 13) back at Lucille Packard awaiting a kidney transplant. Please pray for Emily's spirits and that a match can be found soon as her health is declining.

Laurel LeBaron had a small setback but is continuing to recover from emergency gall bladder surgery. Please pray for continued healing and complete restoration.

RECENT SURGERIES OR HOSPITALIZATIONS

Bob Keating

HOME WITH THE LORD

Marilyn Bowman, dearly loved wife of Bob Bowman, went home to be with her Lord on April 22nd. Her service will be held May 10th at the Santa Cruz Elks Club at 11 am.

A complete prayer list is available at the information desk.



POSITIVE CHOICES WHEN LIFE IS NEGATIVE

MAY 3 & 4 // RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

FIVE DISCOURAGING CIRCUMSTANCES PAUL FACED:

1. RELATIONAL _____

"You know that **everyone** in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes." 2 Timothy 1:15

2. THEOLOGICAL _____

"Their teaching will spread like gangrene... They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some." 2 Timothy 2:17-18

3. MORAL _____

"...lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:2-4

4. PERSONAL _____

"When you come, bring the cloak that I left..." 2 Timothy 4:13

5. OVERWHELMING _____

- Timothy: Too young, too timid, too sickly, in a town too tough
- Ephesus: Powerful, intellectual, sophisticated, pagan port city!

FIERCE RESOLVE _____ EASILY DISCOURAGED

FIVE POSITIVE CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE:

1. _____ **WILL WEAKEN YOU; CHOOSE** _____
“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**, in keeping with **the promise of life** that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” 2 Timothy 1:1,2
2. _____ **WILL WEAKEN YOU; CHOOSE** _____
“**I thank God**, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day **I constantly remember you** in my prayers.” 2 Timothy 1:3
3. _____ **WILL WEAKEN YOU; CHOOSE** _____
“Recalling your tears, **I long to see you**, so that I may be filled with joy. 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 1:4,5
Paul reminds Timothy:
· _____ YOU
 (“I remember you in my prayers...” v. 3)
· _____ YOU
 (“I long to see you...” v. 4)
· _____ YOU
 (“...I am persuaded now lives in you also...” v. 5)
4. _____ **CAN PARALYZE YOU; CHOOSE** _____
“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us **power, love** and **self-discipline**.” 2 Timothy 1:6,7

THE BOTTOM LINE:

GOD HAS ALREADY _____ ME ALL I NEED TO LIVE A CONFIDENT, LOVING, DISCIPLINED LIFE. IT'S TIME TO WALK IN THE LIFE I HAVE RECEIVED!

Outline partially adapted from Ray Johnston, *Freedom Project*, Bayside Church

DAILY MEDITATIONS

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

MONDAY: Look back over your notes from the weekend. Which of the five “overwhelming circumstances” do you relate to right now? Where do you fall on the line between “fierce resolve” and “easily discouraged”? Read 1 Timothy 4:9,10. How can this simple saying help you—in any situation? *Ask God to help you put your trust fully in Him!*

TUESDAY: When despair threatens to weaken you, choose hope! Read 2 Timothy 1:1,2. In this introduction Paul mentions three truths that come up again and again in his writings: The sovereign will of God, the promise of life in Christ, and God’s grace and mercy. If you really thoroughly believed these three truths would always prevail, how would that effect your despair and discouragement? *Today thank God for these three things!*

WEDNESDAY: The second choice: Gratitude instead of cynicism. What can make you cynical? Read 2 Timothy 1:3. Paul often starts his letter with expressions of gratitude to God. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2,3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; and 1 Timothy 1:12. What does this show you about Paul? Read Philippians 4:6,7. How does gratitude lead to the peace of God? How can gratitude conquer cynicism? *Make a list of ten things for which you are grateful today and express that to the Lord in prayer all week!*

THURSDAY: The third choice: Relationship instead of isolation. Read 2 Timothy 1:4,5. What do Paul’s comments reveal about how well he knows Lois, Eunice, and Timothy? What are some role models of faith (like Lois and Eunice) you can look to today? Who are some people in need of encouragement (like Timothy) you can write or call today? *Ask God to show you how to encourage others today! Tell others how you are thankful for them.*

FRIDAY: The fourth choice: Action over paralyzing fear. Read 2 Timothy 1:6,7. Paul urges Timothy to “fan into flame” his gift. He also reminds him that God does not give him a spirit of fear. What do these comments suggest about Timothy? Do you need to hear this today too? Specifically, how do you need to act with more power, love, or self-discipline? Who can you encourage with this message today? *Ask God to move in our church with power, love, and self-control.*

SATURDAY: Reread 2 Timothy 1:1-7. What principle or phrase has stuck in your mind from these verses this week/ Why? Ask God to work in the worship services this weekend in great power and love! Thank you.