

Reflections - Happy 34 Years in Ministry

SERMON HANDOUT for May 4, 2025



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

PEOPLE'S CHARACTER AND THEIR GARDENS BOTH REFLECT THE AMOUNT OF WEEDING THAT HAS BEEN DONE DURING THE GROWING SEASON!

"PEOPLE"

2 Timothy 1:7 TLB

Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

INTRODUCTION

Song: *People* by Jonathan McReynolds (<https://youtu.be/WDtw1fGuCbY>).

Church would a great place... if it weren't for **People**!

- Issues
- Preferences
- Biases
- Expectations
- Needs

But there will be no "Church" without People!!!

When it comes to our spiritual journey, we often focus on the people who are either believers or not. We kind of decide on those who will encourage us in the things we do and try to stay away from those who do not.

But I believe:

- the people we really don't look out for,
- the people who are often the cause of many in church falling away or backsliding,
- are those who call themselves believers or are "spiritual" as Paul mentions but are NOT!

Paul calls them "Carnal"

- † 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 NKJV
- † Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

Three things God gives us from this text that will help us deal with People, no matter where they are spiritually.

WE NEED TO APPLY:

1) GOD'S _____ - 2 Timothy 1:7a TLB

- **NKJV** - *"God has not given us a spirit of fear..." — which leaves out the fear of what... which is good, because HE would not have us be afraid of anything...*
 - **Spirit:** *Is Paul referring to the charisma - "χάρισμα" (gift) of v. 6; and broadening the discussion and talking about the "Spirit" who imparts the not only the χάρισμα but referring to the "pneuma" ("spirit") that God has placed in "us" — which imparts in us: a way of thinking, attitude, disposition.*
 - **FEAR:** *"delia"- which means a state of fear because of a lack of courage or moral strength—'cowardice, timidity.'*
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2) GOD'S _____ - 2 Timothy 1:7b TLB

- **NKJV** - *"God has not given us a spirit of fear..." — which leaves out the fear of what... which is good, because HE would not have us be afraid of anything...*
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3) GOD'S _____ - 2 Timothy 1:7c TLB

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, *Passing the Generation Blessing*, Chapter 8, "Go To War"

"Wrestling against flesh and blood is a strategy of the enemy. The devil wants you to stay away from resisting him in the true theater of war. He wants you to waste time bickering and squabbling with people and fighting against your fellow human beings. Because he knows if he can get you fighting the wrong enemy on the wrong battlefield, you'll lose the real battle completely."

NOT WITHSTANDING THEY ARE THE TOOLS, BUT THEY ARE NOT THE SOURCE!!!

- **NKJV** "...and of Love..."
 - **TLB** "...and to love them and enjoy being with them"
 - John 13:34-35 NKJV
 - 1 John 4:7-8 KJV
 - Romans 13:8 KJV
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