

## What fire are you stoking?

*“Fan into flame the gift of God”* 2 Timothy 1:6

What are you going to do with the gift God gave you? Paul was writing to Timothy to fan the flame God had put into him. Faith is a gift of God, but God has also given other gifts. These other gifts are listed in Isaiah 11:2-3. They are:



1. Wisdom – Seeing God at work in our lives
2. Understanding – We know how much we need Jesus.
3. Counsel – We know the difference between right and wrong.
4. Power – Courage to do the right thing.
5. Knowledge – We understand that all things come from God.
6. Piety – Reverence for his work and for the Church.
7. Fear of the Lord – Much like a child fears not pleasing his father or mother, it is our desire to please God instead of men.

Have you ever been on a campout and tried to keep a fire going? It takes wind to keep the embers burning. God wants us to take these gifts which are ours through baptism and fan them with the power of his Holy Spirit. This is seen by attending worship, through prayer and devoting all our senses to God.

This flame will be fanned by God's Holy Spirit. To fan something is the same as stoking a fire. To stoke a fire means to make it hotter and stronger. Sometimes he puts us in situations where we have to make a decision. Sometimes he tests us, but we can always be sure to call upon his Holy Spirit to give us what we need to make choices that are pleasing to him. He will always forgive us for the times we have chosen to dampen the flame.

Pastor John Raddatz