

Duck Hill, Mississippi,

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GIFT OF GOD
IN US
II. Tim. 1:1-6

Paul the great apottle is talking here to a young preacher, but his talk applies to those that are not preachers just as well. He speaks of a gift which is in Timothy (and of course of a gift which is in both you and me. The gift in Tim., ^{o-ther (should not abbreviate)} perhaps, was not the same as the one in you and the gift in you is not the same as the one in me. But all of us have a gift, a divine gift, for it is a gift of God. Then what is this gift? Is there a definition that will suit for the gift in every one of us? Yes, it is that thing in us, which if developed, will make us of use to God.

Then is it possible for us to stir up this gift within us? Yes, for God is so kind to us that he never calls on us for those things that are impossible for us to do. So if this be true the great lesson of development is placed before us. And this is a great thought for "development" is a word which carries with it a wonderful meaning wherever you place it. Look at our own nation before the whites came here it was void and without form. But when our fathers began to till its soil, tear open its hills and mountains, and dot its surface with schools and churches the value of development began to be seen and was kept in process until to-day it stands as the greatest nation ^{Why?} because of development. When God gave us this land he desired and expected it to be improved. And now friends, he has given into our care and keeping something much more valuable than lands. Yea, he has given us bodies, minds, and spirits and wants, expects, and demands us to "stir" them up i.e. develop them.

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Why is it necessary to develop the body? why it makes us stronger and more able to do efficient work for his glory. And so it is with the mind and soul. Why is it a duty to develop our bodies? Because these whole beings which we call ours are in fact not our own but have been bought with a price. He has bought them three times—that is by creation, preservation, and redemption. Then we are justified in saying that if we do not improve ourselves we rob God. Let's illustrate: if with a well developed body we are able to do five units of work and yet we sit down and disipate so that we can do only three units we have robbed God of two units of work, and to rob God is sin and sin is the thing which sends us to hell. Therefore it behooves us to stir up the gift of God that is in us.

We now come to the place where we can see more clearly what the gift in us is, for Paul tells us in the next verse that God has not given us a spirit of fear but ⁽¹⁾ of a strength or power, and ⁽²⁾ of love, and of ⁽³⁾ a sound mind. Then there stands the character before you after the God given gifts have been stirred up. A powerful being having power over Satan and hell, and power to win souls to God by the noble life. A being of love, one that looks well after himself, his fellow men, and the welfare of God's kingdom. A sound being, one with a sound and a broad mind, knowing how to look at and how to overcome the great problems of life. Do not sacrifice one part of your body for the development of the others.

Now as to some of the things which hinder the very best development of the body. (1) The habbit of drink. This habbit is very destructive to the entire being, serving to burn up the vitality and to wreck the nerves. Do not pour liquid fire into your system to destroy the usefulness of your being.

Develop these three points, the Victor's sermon on this text

M. E. Church, South

DUCK HILL, MISSISSIPPI

JAMES D. WROTEN, PASTOR

-:3:-

Duck Hill, Mississippi,

Shakespeare spoke well along this line when he said, "O God why will men place an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains?" *Is this your friend's quotation?*

(2) Reading bad books which do nothing more than fire the passion of both sex for low and base things.

(3) Making resolutions and breaking them.

(4) Holding evil thoughts in our minds.

(we have not given the discussion on these points as it seems unnecessary)

Then as a closing word *let us ask* let's don't look for the easy things of life, but throw ourselves into the path of duty, thereby becoming strong and efficient in the work of the Lord. Let's look at life from the standpoint of the poet when he said, "I slept and dreamed that life was beauty



I woke and found that life was duty!"

A Sermon on

II. Tim. 1:6

By

J. D. Wroten

Duck Hill

Miss.

Very good.

89