

## ASHAMED

“Therefore (oun) do not be ashamed (me epaischunomai / **a.p.subj**) [encouragement] of the testimony (to marturion) of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but (alla) [alternative] join with me in suffering (sugkakopatheo / a.a.impv.2ps) [command] for the gospel according to (kata+acc of n&s) the power (dunamis) (2Tim.1:7) of God.” (2Tim.1:8)

Notice that 2 Tim.1:8 opens with the inferential conjunction (oun) [therefore]. It is referring to the need for Timothy to correct his spirit of timidity. When Timothy corrects timidity, it will correct his problem with feeling ashamed for not being part of undeserved suffering and hardship of others like Paul.

Epaischunomai (ashamed) has the intensive preposition form of (epi) added to the word for shame (aischuno). Epaischunomai is an intensive or emotional piling on to feeling of shame and unworthiness.

Notice the difference between what Paul commands and what he encourages. Paul **encourages** Timothy – “do not be ashamed (subj)” but **commands** Timothy - to join with me in suffering (impv.) for the gospel.”

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Timothy’s problem of ASHAMED.</b>
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### **1. Last week, we studied Timothy’s OMCD spirit of timidity (pneuma deilia) (2Tim.1:7).**

Timothy’s feeling of being ashamed is connected with his spirit of timidity.

Timothy couldn’t stand conflict whether indirect (others) or direct (him). He would become overwhelmed by a need to evade, avoid, flee, withdraw or shut down as soon as possible.

Paul was presently in major conflict as he sat in a Roman prison on death row suffering for the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is indirect or long-distance stress for Timothy. However he reacts the same way but it is slower than direct (face to face).

### **2. Ashamed is associated with the conscience and emotions of the soul (1 Thess.5:23).**

The soul consists of self-consciousness, conscience, mentality, volition, and emotion in both males and females (Gen.1:26-27; 1 Cor.11:7).

Remember that conscience works off right lobe of mentality beliefs regarding right and wrong, good and evil, worthy and unworthy, inferior and superior poles.

Remember that emotion is a responder to the conscience and its polar conflicts.

When emotion becomes stress (anxiety), it can result in guilt, regret, remorse, internal rebuke and humiliation.

Psychology has identified and tagged the milder cases as neurosis and the severe cases as psychosis. . In the parable of the guest, the word shame (aischuno) is used as an example of the milder form in (Luke 14:7-9). In Matt.27:1-3, Judas Iscariot is an example of the severe form (suicide).

**3. Paul is encouraging Timothy because putting off OMCD timidity and putting on NMDV power, love, and sound mind is progressive and not a one-time action (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).**

Paul is saying to Timothy, “keep working on putting off timidity and ashamed and putting on a spirit of power, love, and sound mind until you reach that place in your life when you react to conflict only with NMDV thinking.”

Presently Timothy is ashamed of his anxiety and guilt and shame towards his attitude of “better Paul than me” regarding Paul’s undeserved suffering: “But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.” (1 Pet.4:16)

“Therefore, let those who also suffer according to the will of God **entrust** their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is **right**.” (1 Pet.4:19)

“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” (Phil.1:29-30)

**4. The emotional stress (anxiety) of the guilt and shame produced in Timothy a feeling of being ashamed of his attitude towards Paul’s undeserved suffering.**

Remember that emotion is a responder to volition acting on one pole or another of conscience. If volition acts upon the right thing based on the word of God, it produces joy – “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance, and let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

If volition acts upon the wrong thing, it produces shame and ashamed (Timothy’s OMCD).

**5. Paul’s NMDV solution to Timothy’s OMCD problem of timidity-ashamed is given by a threefold encouragement.**

- First encouragement            Don’t be ashamed (subj / OMCD).
- Second encouragement        Join with me in suffering for the gospel (command).
- Third encouragement          Suffer with me according to the **power** of God (2Tim.1:7 / NMDV).

Paul is encouraging the lasting change of transformation in Timothy’s life by putting off OMCD and by putting on NMDV – “And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the **will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom.12:2).

- Notice that Paul did not attack Timothy’s person only his behavior.
- Paul did not attack Timothy’s behavior without explaining how to correct it by God’s grace operating assets – “suffer according to the power of God.”
- Paul did not encourage change without divine purpose in mind – “join with me in suffering for the gospel (undeserved suffering).” “For **I am not ashamed** of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)

“For this reason I also suffer these things, **but I am not ashamed**; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” (2Tim.1:12)