


LOOKING UP

September - October 2022



*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

Fan the Flame

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

In his letter to a young pastor named Timothy, Paul wrote, "I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands..." (2 Tim. 1:6) I really like this image that Paul uses of fanning a flame. It's such a relatable picture, because anyone who's either lit a fire or helped to keep one going knows exactly what this means. When the flames are small, you either blow on them gently, or use something to push air into the fire.

And, as the flame slowly grows, you can fan it more vigorously as the fire grows ever bigger and hotter.

But before we talk about what Paul means when he speaks of fanning into flame, "the gift of God, which is in you," let's pause and think about that gift. Just before this, Paul had spoken of serving God, "as did [his] ancestors." Then he mentions how Timothy's faith, "dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice." And these are not just unimportant details. We know that God desires that all

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

Looking Ahead

September 11th

Sunday School Picnic

September 27th

Red Cross Blood Drive

people would be saved (2 Pet. 3:9). He sent His Son into the world to save us from our sins. And the Gospel is the message of this salvation which people may believe and be saved. Yet how does this message of salvation reach people? Well, God spoke directly to some people. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses all heard God's message of salvation first-hand. But for most people the Gospel, which produces faith in those who believe it, is passed along from one person to another.

This is why the fire image that Paul uses is so perfect. One person has faith, and can pass it along to another person. All of us can relate to that, since all of us have come to faith in exactly this way. We heard that we needed to be saved, and that Jesus is our Savior. Our salvation is entirely God's work to the point that He even had to be the one to give us faith to believe.

So then, faith has been kindled in you like a flame...now what? Fan the flame! Put yourself continually and regularly where God's people are. Seek to read and hear His Word and receive the Sacraments through which your faith is built up and strengthened. And you will see that the gift of God, which is faith, is the gift that multiplies and manifests in many different ways. All Christians are given gifts by God so that they are able to glorify Him by being active and vital parts of the Body of Christ. For Timothy, one of the gifts that he'd been given by God was to serve as a pastor. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul speaks at length about the various gifts that God gives to us. Go and read that chapter, which can help you to see ways in which God has gifted you in order for you to glorify Him.

Dear Saints, fan the flame. Believe what God's Word says about you; you are forgiven, you are loved, you are a child of God. And look to His Word, and the way that He's uniquely made and equipped you, to see how you can be a blessing to others.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran Church

2103 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

Church (360) 693-2620
Pastor Jason Salmi (360) 342-7317