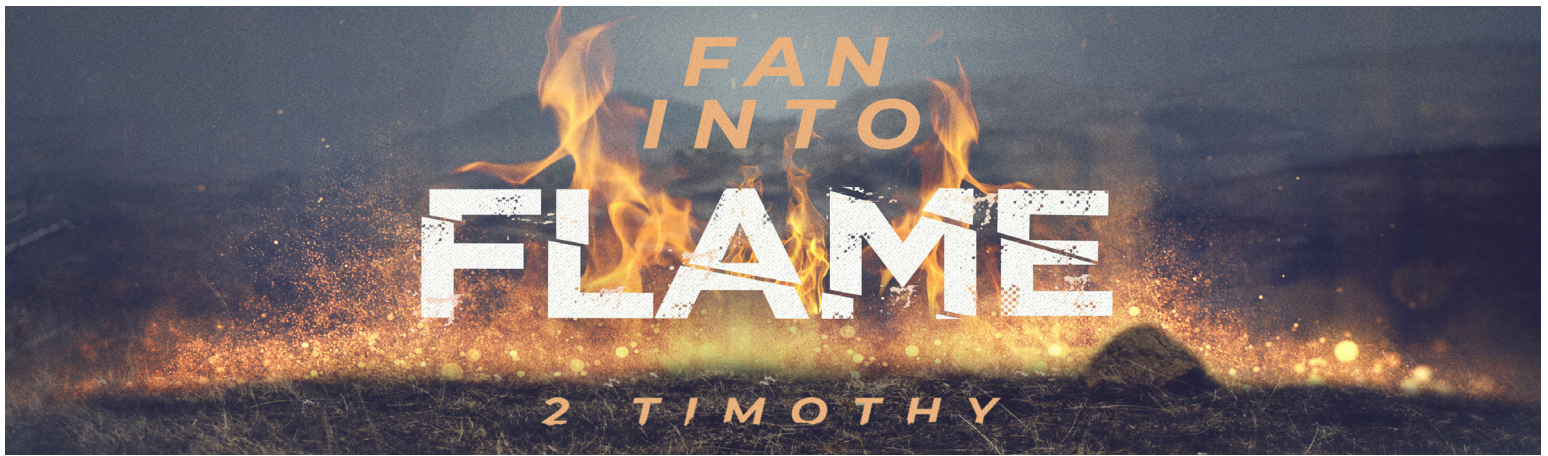




## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Way of Life

*2 Timothy 3:1-13*

1. Please read **2 Timothy 3:1-5** - But mark this: **There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup>People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,<sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.**

What immediately catches your eye as you read this scripture?

In what ways does this scripture speak to relevant issues in our world today?

Be honest, which of these 18 descriptions is at times true of you?

2. Reflecting on this passage I said, "all those in Christ are called to fight against selfishness and viewing life through a self-focused lens." Do you personally need to fight against viewing life through a self-focused lens?

Tell a story about a recent time when you successfully or unsuccessfully fought against your own selfishness.

How do you think one's perspective changes from self-focused to Christ focused?

3. Verses one through five highlight 18 descriptions of how people will behave in the last days. In 2 Timothy chapter three Paul also describes people who, in his day had lost authentic faith in Christ and were compromised. He describes them in verse 13. **Timothy 3:13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.** These false teachers Paul calls imposters. The Greek word Paul uses here refers to a performer in a circus specifically one who wears a mask. So, we understand there were and are people who actively hide who they are with the intention of deceiving people. We also know that all of us are tempted to hide behind a mask. To hide the places that we think others will disapprove of and make ourselves more acceptable and likeable. Tell a story of a time that you made the brave decision to take off your mask and reveal a painful truth. What was the result?

I believe, genuine growth in Christ begins when we take off our mask and get real with ourselves and with the people God has provided to help us grow. Do you agree? Who are the people in your life that God has provided to help you grow? Do you feel comfortable being open and transparent with them?

4. In 2 Timothy chapter three Paul paints a clear picture of genuine, authentic faith in Christ. **2 Timothy 3:10-11 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,<sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.** What jumps out to you as you read this scripture?

Paul says that Timothy knows his way of life. Authentically living in Christ requires adopting a new way of life. It's not about a three-step plan or a few small changes, its about fundamentally changing your way of life. Do you agree? As you think back over what you know about Paul, what do you think are some elements of his way of life?

5. When I think about a Christian way of life I think about pace, purpose, and priority. In the sermon I said, genuine faith in Christ requires us to examine our pace of life, refine our purpose in life, and place love as the priority of our life. How do you feel about the pace of your life? Do you feel rushed and like you don't have enough time to pursue God?

Paul demonstrates clear purpose; his purpose is to share Christ with the gentiles and motivate leaders like Timothy for the next generation to carry on his mission. Do you live with purpose? How would you articulate your purpose?

Do you agree that the highest priority is love? Jesus said **John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."** What do you think it looks like to have loving others as a priority in your life? Be honest is it a priority for you?