

PAUL'S 2nd LETTER TO TIMOTHY
Lesson 2-May 31, 2026

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES

Al Gleason
Guest Teacher

Good morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian church with a worldwide impact. My name is Al Gleason, and I will be teaching today. Thank you, Pastor Rory Clark, for the opportunity to share God's Word. It is always a privilege and an honor when I have the opportunity to teach.

To everyone studying with us today, thank you for tuning in, listening, and allowing God's Word to become a part of your life. Today we continue our study of Paul's final letter—Second Timothy.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON
Fan The Flame

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced Second Timothy by asking ten important questions. We discovered that this letter was written by the Apostle Paul while sitting in a Roman prison awaiting execution. We learned that Timothy was serving as pastor of the church at Ephesus—a city filled with pagan worship, false teaching, immorality, and growing hostility toward Christianity.

Most importantly, we learned that this letter is a handoff. Paul is finishing his race, and Timothy is preparing to run his as full stride. The baton is the Gospel, and the mission is unchanged. The responsibility is enormous, which means we can only do it with God's help. Today we begin studying the actual letter itself.

Before we do, I want you to think about a campfire. Have you ever noticed that a fire rarely goes out all at once? It doesn't usually explode into darkness. Instead, it fades gradually. The flames get smaller and the heat becomes weaker.

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By the time you notice, the light is a lot dimmer, and eventually all that's left are glowing embers. To someone inexperienced, it looks dead. Someone who understands fire knows something different.

They know the fire isn't dead, it's still there and just needs some attention. When you add a little oxygen, fuel and a little stirring and suddenly what looked dead bursts back into life. That's exactly what Paul is addressing in Timothy. Timothy's faith wasn't gone. Ministry had become difficult which may have caused him to doubt his gift and his calling.

As we touch on before the landscape was treacherous. False teachers were everywhere and with Nero's actions, persecution was increasing. To top it off, his spiritual father was sitting in prison awaiting execution. It was a discouraging time for Timothy. Paul had the inside of a great coach, and he knew that the greatest danger wasn't Timothy quitting, but him drifting. Sometimes it's allowing the fire to burn lower and lower until the passion, conviction, and courage that once defined you become little more than embers.

Paul writes this letter to remind Timothy, and us, that God never intended for His people to live on dying embers. He wants a blazing fire. Today we're going to learn how to fan that flame.

One scripture that comes to mind is Revelation 3:2:

REVELATION 3:2

Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

As I mentioned earlier, the fire doesn't go out all at once. It's so gradual at times it's virtually unnoticeable. What seems like all of a sudden (because we weren't paying attention to the fire), we only have embers. That's what Jesus is talking about in Revelation 3:2. There was still something there worth saving, but it needed to be strengthened before it disappeared. Paul is about to give Timothy that same message. Don't let the fire die.

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OPENING SONG INTRODUCTION

As we begin today's lesson, I want you to think about the moments in your life when your faith burned the brightest. Maybe it was when you first believed in Jesus Christ or maybe it was after God answered a prayer. Perhaps it was during a difficult season when you experienced His faithfulness in a powerful way. Whatever that moment was, you were fully engaged. The reality is that life has a way of throwing dirt on our fire. Disappointments, failures, and fear all seem to be hiding around the corner waiting to get you. Before long, we can find ourselves going through the motions while the flame grows smaller.

This next song is a prayer that God would remove the impurities, refine us, and reignite the fire within us. Let's worship together as we enjoy the song "Refiner" by Maverick City Music.

MUSIC

OPENING SONG

Refiner

Maverick City Music & Chandler Moore

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for gathering us together today. Thank You for preserving Your Word across centuries so that we can learn from the lives of faithful men like Paul and Timothy. Father, we acknowledge that there are times when our passion fades and there are times when fear replaces faith. Times when comfort replaces conviction. Sometimes when we become distracted from the calling You have placed on our lives.

Today we ask You to stir us. Fan into flame the gifts You have given us. Strengthen us where we are weak. Encourage us where we are discouraged. Challenge us where we have become comfortable. Help us hear not only what Paul said to Timothy, but what You are saying to us today through these words.

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Open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive, and our minds to understand. Let everything we learn today bring glory to Your Son, Christ.

We ask these things through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name.

Amen.

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Fan The Flame

LESSON PART ONE

As we begin this study, let's remember where Paul is. He's not writing from a comfortable office in Rome with all the desirable comforts there, he's writing from a Roman prison. The man known for planting churches throughout the Roman Empire is now chained like a criminal and his execution is approaching.

According to scripture, many of his former companions have abandoned him. It reminds me of the times that many disciples stop following Jesus when they disagreed with Him, or when times got hard. For the most part, people haven't changed and the enemies' tactics haven't changed so we should be vigilant so that we don't fall victim to the same old trick like many others before us.

Even in this situation, Paul has his focus on Timothy. He's doing all he can to ensure the baton still gets passed.

Let's begin with Second Timothy chapter 1, verse 1:

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

The very first thing Paul does is remind Timothy who he is by identifying himself as an apostle. He says he is an apostle by the will of God. That's important because Paul's authority didn't come from a committee or any man's approval, it came from God. This would have been especially encouraging to Timothy.

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Remember, Timothy struggled with confidence. Paul had already addressed this in First Timothy but it was worth repeating. Timothy was younger than many of the people he led. Some questioned his authority, his leadership, and his experience.

Regardless, Paul wants Timothy to remember something. When God calls you, your confidence comes from Him and through Him, not from the opinions of others. One of the greatest mistakes believers make is waiting until everyone approves before obeying God. If Paul had done that, he never would have become an apostle. If we do that today, we wouldn't get anything done either.

Remember, before his conversion, Paul was public enemy number one for Christians. After his conversion, many Christians were afraid to trust him. The Jews hated him because he preached Christ. The Gentiles opposed him because he challenged idolatry. There was hardly a group that universally applauded Paul because he challenged everyone's way of living one way or another. Yet he kept moving forward because he understood that God's calling is validated by God's approval, not man's.

There is another phrase worth noticing. Paul says: "According to the promise of life in Christ Jesus." Think about that. Paul is sitting in prison awaiting death, yet the first thing on his mind is life. Not death, life. How many of you would be in fear or worried about what's going to happen when you die, instead of getting excited about eternal life you have in Jesus?

Paul had the perspective of a mature believer. Even though the world says death has the final word, Paul says Jesus has the final word. The prison cell says death is coming, but the Gospel says life is coming. Paul is already looking beyond Nero, execution, and the grave. The pressure of the moment was immanent but Paul was not moved. That's faith.

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:2

To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul addresses Timothy as his spiritual son that he has deep affection for. It underscores the role Paul has in Timothy's spiritual growth, and it mirrors when God said Jesus is His beloved son in whom He is well pleased. Paul love for his spiritual son was deep.

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The Gospel moves through relationships. In the beginning God created us so that He could have a relationship with us. After the fall, Jesus walked among us to show us how to have a relationship with Him and the Father, then died so we could be in relationship. While he walked the earth, Jesus invested in the disciples. Following that pattern, Paul invested in Timothy, and Timothy would invest in others. I feel one of the greatest tragedies in modern Christianity is that many believers consume spiritual information but never disciple anyone. Thank God that this is not our situation!

Paul understood that information changes minds and relationships change lives. His relationship with the Lord completely changed his life. Every great athlete can identify someone who believed in them before they believed in themselves. There was a coach, a parent, or a mentor that saw some potential. In an act of faith, invested time, energy and money. They challenged and encouraged, forcing that athlete to develop into a better version of themselves. Eventually, the athlete may get the trophy, but they never get there alone. That's what Paul was for Timothy and what mature believers should become for others.

We serve an omniscient God who knows what it takes to win. In business, the most successful firms have a succession plan in place so the mission of the organization continues to move forward. 2 out of 3 small businesses do not have a succession plan, ultimately leading to their doom. Do you have a Timothy in your life that you are investing in? Who will be stronger because you are taking the time to pour into them? In this race we are running, one day the baton will leave your hand. The question you should ask yourself is, “who am I helping get prepared to receive it?”

Paul also extends three blessings, grace, mercy, and peace. Considering what is going on in the world today, it's easy to recognize that all three of these are a blessing! This order should be noticed. Grace first, God gives us unmerited favor that we don't deserve. Mercy second, because God doesn't give us what we **do** deserve. Peace third, equipping us to live with confidence and stability. Every believer needs all three, especially Timothy and all that he is facing right now.

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

This verse amazes me when I take time to think about it. If anyone had a reason to complain, it was Paul. He's in prison, he's been abandoned and his death sentence

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has been declared. Yet he begins with gratitude with no bitterness or complaints. We live in air conditioned homes, drive in air conditioned cars, park in covered parking areas and walk into air conditioned workplaces, but still choose to complain about the few moments we are exposed to the heat.

Why was Paul able to do that? He knew that your circumstances don't determine your gratitude. The perspective you choose does.

We are about halfway through what we are going to study today so we will pause here. Take a five-minute break.

FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Fan The Flame

OFFERING INTRODUCTION

Paul's circumstances in this letter are remarkable. He's sitting in a Roman prison and his time left on earth is short. When Paul writes to Timothy, he doesn't focus on what he's lost. He focuses on what God is still doing. That's a powerful lesson for all of us. Generosity doesn't come from having excess. It comes from having trust. The world says, "Hold tighter when things are uncertain."

God says, "Trust Me."

Paul understood that everything he had belonged to God anyway. His life, his ministry, his resources, and his future were all in God's hands. As we prepare to give today, let's give with that same confidence. Not focusing on what we are releasing, but on the God who supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Let's welcome Deacon Denny Goodall Jr. with today's offering message.

THE OFFERING

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Dec. Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline.

OFFERING SONG

More Than Anything
Lamar Campbell

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Fan The Flame

LESSON PART TWO

Welcome back!

Before the break, we looked at Paul's greeting to Timothy and saw something that might not jump out at 1st glance. Paul wasn't just writing a letter, but he was investing in protégé one last time. He was preparing the next generation. Now Paul turns his attention to the heart of the issue. He knew that Timothy was gifted and had a calling, but something was happening. The flame wasn't burning like it once did...that's where we pick up the story.

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:3

I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

Paul had a clear conscience. Think about Paul's life for a moment. He was the chief persecutor of Christians. He had killed many and only God knows what else he did before he had a relationship with Jesus, and now he's at a place where he can say he has a clear conscience. Often times we make mistakes that aren't nearly as egregious, we feel guilty and don't have a clear conscience. Because he has a clear conscious, Paul demonstrates that he has truly accepted the work that Christ

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did on the cross otherwise, this will not be possible. Have you truly accepted the work that Christ did for you on the cross? Or are you holding on to all the sins of your past and allowing it to hold you back from being who God created you to be.

On the other side of his life, Paul demonstrates what it means to be faithful. He experienced beatings, tremendous persecution, rejection, and even shipwrecks in the name of Jesus. Still he didn't question what he was doing wrong or if God had left him, he continued to do what God told him to do. All of this shows that Paul wasn't perfect, but he was faithful. This is what God is calling all of us to be. Many people spend their lives, trying to impress others, but as we read here, Paul spent his life trying to please God. At the end of the race, the opinion that matters most is Gods.

One of the greatest gifts a believer can have is a clear conscience. A clear conscious can't be bought, or achieved through success. It comes from knowing your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and trusting in the work that he did on the cross. He knew we couldn't do it on our own so he did it for us and allowed us to be an equal participant in the rewards. This is the only way.

At the end of a season athletes, don't always get the results that they want. They may not achieve the stats that they wanted or the personal record that they were working towards but the athletes that gave it their all are able to have a piece knowing that they did all that they could they don't have regrets or excuses because they left it all out on the field. This is what Paul is describing about his life and what he wants for Timothy.

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:4

Longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

Paul desiring to see Timothy and getting joy from recalling his tears describes how much he misses Timothy and how much ministry is personal. Leadership isn't about the position, but it is about the people.

As a coach, sometimes I remember stats. But the things I remember most are the conversations that I have with the athletes, the breakthroughs that they have and the transformation that I see take place from the beginning of the season to the end. It is a joy to see someone gain a new level of confidence and believing themselves. I believe this is what Paul is experiencing here as he writes to Timothy.

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SECOND TIMOTHY 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

Paul is remembering some of Timothy's history and it shows us how one life impacts another. Timothy has become an important figure in the New Testament church, but it was because of what was poured into him. We know Paul mentor him, but here he acknowledges the impact of his grandmother Lois, and also his mother Eunice they have faith that was imported into Timothy the only thing we know about these ladies is that they gave Timothy a foundation that he needed to be the man the guy called him to be.

How many people's lives we are a Lois or Eunice, and don't even realize it. We underestimate the impact of our faithfulness, thinking that no one is paying attention. We don't always get recognition for what we do, but what we do plant a seed that later produces a harvest. Let's look at first Corinthians chapter 3, verse 6-8:

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:6

I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth..

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:7

So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

This is what Lois and Eunice did. They planted a seed, they watered it and protected a year after year. They may not have had the opportunity to benefit from the work Timothy did, but they had a direct impact on his ability to affect the people he came across in the next generation. According to scripture, we know the God sees especially when we don't, and God will give them their reward.

I think it's important for us as parents and grandparents to realize this. Today we live in a culture where people try to be their children's friend instead of being a parent. They want to be liked more than they want to challenge and mentor. Giving them everything they want right now because of the prevailing forces in culture

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today does not develop kids and give you the results you were desire for them. I truly set them up for failure. They will not remember every toy you bought them on their 7th birthday, but they definitely will remember the time you taught them how to have faith. They will remember whether Christ matter to you or not they will remember whether you lived what you claim to believe. This is the legacy that Timothy's mother and grandmother left behind for him.

Let's look at Second Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:6

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Here is the heart of this entire passage. Paul is telling Timothy to fan his flame and stir his fire. Notice that Paul did not tell Timothy to find a gift. He knows that one is already in him. He doesn't tell him to pray for the gift. Paul knows that Timothy has everything he needs to be successful. He just needs to activate it. We talked about a campfire earlier. It usually doesn't stop burning because the fire just disappears. It goes out because the fire is neglected... no oxygen, no attention and no stirring leads to burnout. This is the same thing that happens to a spiritually.

People don't typically wake up one day and refuse to pray again. It happens gradually. They pray a little less than I did the day before. They read a little less they stop being intentional about where they put their faith. They trust God a little less before long, the fire that burn brightly turns to a few glowing embers. Paul is encouraging Timothy to not let that happen to him.

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline.

The King James version says a sound mind instead of discipline. This is one of my favorite scriptures in the Bible, and it may be one of the most quoted. Fear is arguably the main way the enemy defeats us. It has stopped more people than failure ever has. It is the reason most people are not leading, sharing their faith, or doing whatever God called them to do. The enemy has convinced most people to not even attempt to do things because he tricked them into fearing what would happen if they failed, completely blinding them from the more likely option of

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succeeding at whatever they put their hands to. It is also a direct attack to keep us from receiving what our heavenly father has for us. Consider Hebrews 11:6

HEBREWS 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him..

It is clear that if we want to come to God, we have to do it in faith. It is also clear that it is impossible to please God if we're not in faith, so the enemy tries to keep us fearing. Many of us watch the news. Today there is a 24 hour news cycle, they are always giving you information. But what are they talking about? Murder, death, robbery, or some other tragedy. Every story is designed to put as much fear in you as possible. Everything is dramatized. Every year they personalize the weather like it has a gun walking down the street killing people. "The summer weather has turned deadly..." Every message is designed to instill fear in you that will keep you from being in faith and living the life God desires for you to. The scripture says that God has given us a spirit of power, love, and a disciplined or sound mind. If God did not give us fear it begs the question who does give us fear? Where does it come from? I won't leave you hanging, I tell you. It comes from the who's M.O. is to kill, steal, and destroy. The enemy of God, Satan.

Whenever God calls us to do anything, fear shows up to try to discourage us. Timothy was dealing with it in his situation, which is why Paul directly call it out in this letter to Timothy, just like we deal with it whenever we face when we are challenged to doing something. When Joshua stood at the edge of the promised land, he dealt with fear, but God gave him this charge:

JOSHUA 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

God uses strong language here. He tells Joshua to be strong and courageous not to tremble or be dismayed because he is with him. Through the work of Jesus on the cross, He is always with us and He is commanding us the same way!

God's answer to fear is his presence. He doesn't convince us to be certain or give us any explanations. He just tells us to remember that He is with us. God is with us... and His presence is enough.

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THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

The closing moments of this lesson could be the ten most important minutes of your life. You'll be introduced to the good news concerning how you can spend all eternity in heaven when you close your eyes in this life. We want you to know that...

GOD WANTS YOU!

He Wants You to Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

...and what He wants for you is that you make the most important decision of your life.

God wants a RELATIONSHIP with you! The Lord's half-brother says in James, Chapter 4, Verse 8...

JAMES 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

The enemy of God, Satan wants you to be part of a RELIGION. Religion is Satan's strategy against the human race and it is designed to make you indifferent or antagonistic to God. It works! The Bible describes religion in Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verse 5 as...

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:5

...a superficial form of godliness (a counterfeit to Christianity) ... that denies godliness' divine power...

You have a choice...relationship or religion...what's your choice?

Religion can't get you to heaven! Religions propose that if you don't do everything their "god" expects, the god will be disappointed. Regardless of your

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best efforts to follow religious rituals, the religion does not GUARANTEE you will get to heaven.

In Matthew, Chapter 23, Verse 27 and 28, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself expresses his disdain for religion...

MATTHEW 23:27

“Woe to you (religious) scribes and Pharisees...you hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs...which on the outside appear beautiful...but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

MATTHEW 23:28

“Outwardly you appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness (you are unrighteous unbelievers).”

The Bible is a gift from God that introduces you to the possibility of a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12 describes the power of Scripture...

HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword...and it’s piercing...even as far as the division of soul and spirit...of both joints and marrow...and it is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God’s plan is to teach you the truth about how to have a relationship with Him through the Bible. Satan’s plan is to teach you lies that obscure the truth of the Bible.

What happens when you close your eyes in this life? If you have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, counting on Him to save you, good things happen. If are counting on religion to save you, bad things happen.

The Bible makes it clear that salvation is a gift that we receive through faith. Let read a few scriptures that illustrate this...Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9...

EPHESIANS 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...

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EPHESIANS 2:9

...not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus, Chapter 3, Verse 5...

TITUS 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Romans, Chapter 3, Verses 23 and 24...

ROMANS 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

ROMANS 3:24

...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...

No matter how much work you do, you can't work your way into heaven and be able to brag.

The requirement to get saved is simple. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

ACTS 16:31

They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved by God, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

Romans, Chapter 10, Verses 9 and 10...

ROMANS 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God the Father raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...

ROMANS 10:10

...for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

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It is as simple as making a decision and having faith that God will do the rest. We cannot do it on our own.

When you die it is heaven or the Lake of Fire for all eternity. You get to make the choice where you spend eternity. Relationship or religion? What's your choice?

God wants a relationship with you because He doesn't want ANYONE to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9 says...

SECOND PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise of salvation as some accuse Him of... instead, He is patient toward unbelievers...not wishing for any of you to perish (in the Lake of Fire) ... but for all of you to come to repentance (a change of mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ).

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

CLOSING SONG INTRODUCTION

Timothy's circumstances were difficult. Paul's circumstances were worse. Yet neither man's future was determined by circumstances. It was determined by the God they served. The same God who strengthened Paul. The same God who encouraged Timothy. The same God who carried Lois and Eunice...Is the same God carrying you. If He did it before...He can do it again.

Let's worship together.

MUSIC

CLOSING SONG

Let's Sing the Lord's Praises

Available

Elevation Worship

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

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Heavenly Father...

Thank You for reminding us that the fire doesn't have to die. Thank You for the gifts You've entrusted to us. Thank You for the people who invested in our faith. Help us be faithful stewards of what You've given us. Give us the courage to overcome fear, and the power to obey. Give us a heart that loves to serve. Give us the discipline to stay faithful. May we run our race well, pass the baton faithfully, and leave behind a legacy that points others to Jesus Christ.

...we ask these things through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

GOT BIBLICAL QUESTIONS?

Ask the Pastor
pastor@barahministries.com

WANT US TO PRAY FOR SOMEONE?

Send your request to pastor@barahministries.com

KEEP ON STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD DAILY!

Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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