Stir Up The Gift

(2nd Timothy 1:5-7 KJV)

***5****When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.****6****Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.**7For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Graduation is an exciting time. It’s a time that you have looked forward to for years. How many times have you said, “I can’t wait until I graduate because then I will be able to do what I've always dreamed of doing” Guess what? That has finally arrived. In fact, for the High School graduates—it’s taken you 18 years to get here which means:

* You have been in school now for 2,160 days.
* You have spent 12,960 hours in classes.
* That translates into 777,600 minutes.
* You’ve been around 216 months.
* You have been breathing 936 weeks.
* You’ve been here 157,248 hours.
* You’ve been taking up space 9,434,880 minutes.
* You’ve slept 52,500 hours.
* You’ve watched T.V. 12,173 hours.
* You’ve spent 7,488 hours eating.

If you live the average life span of 70 years, or as the bible says 3 score and 10, you’ll:

* Sleep for 24 Years
* Work for 14 Years
* Play for 8 Years
* Eat for 6 Years
* Drive for 5 Years
* Talk for 4 Years
* Attend School for 3 Years
* Take sick for 3 Years
* and Study and Read for 3 Years

Well I must pause and say, "congratulations" because you’ve come a long way, you’ve achieved a great milestone. You’ve made it through thirteen years of school, which has involved facing some very real challenges. And, as we can all testify in this room, making it through life will include continuous encounters with challenges that we must meet—but the wonderful thing about confronting these numerous challenges is that you can face them with some victories already won.

Here's what I want you to do, just take a moment and think about all of the encounters you have already experienced with success. You graduated from the womb and successfully adjusted to life on the outside. You graduated from infancy and successfully began that first day of kindergarten. You graduated from preadolescence and successfully navigated those teen years. Now you have graduated from high school and some of you college, and now you must travel the road of adulthood and continuation. In other words, this is not the end—your life is just beginning!