Message Notes: 2 Timothy 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 6:13
by Amber Harris and Frank Ramirez

We are the ones walking with God into the future, strong and courageous, but we are not walking by ourselves. In a world full of trolls and haters who might tear us down if we believe them, there are so many who want us to succeed. Maybe they're not on social media, but their prayers and their belief in us matters more.

We all come from somewhere, and we all have someone who has inspired us. For some of us it may be family. For others it may be church family, or teachers, or mentors. The Apostle Paul commends young Timothy and reminds him that he has had the benefit of a wonderful mother and grandmother to teach him the basics of life and living. Paul continues, reminding Timothy we must go forward with courage because “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”

Let us remember as we go forward that this is what the real church looks like. It's bigger than us. It's bigger than just our congregation. It's all of us here. We are the ones who are going to make the church what God wants us to be. We are not the church of the future. We are the church right now!

Incorporating 2 Corinthians 16:13 -- Paul's reminder is to keep alert and stand firm in our faith. That means despite quickly changing technology and instant communication of hatred and fear, we have something solid to stand on that does not change and gives us a better perspective -- the love of family and/or church (keep in mind that everyone's home situation is different), our love for each other, but most of all, God's love for us. We are defined by God's love, not someone else's hatred. Be strong! Be Courageous!