Stir up the gift within you

6 That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you. II Timothy 1:6a (Amplified Version)

When we first come to God we find ourselves on fire for Him. Everything feels fresh and new and exciting. We feel like we can conquer the World.

We can't wait to read our Bible, we look forward to spending time in prayer. We get excited on Sunday morning when it's time for Church.

But then something happens, the luster and excitement begins to fade. It gets harder to read the Bible, We put off our prayer time, and sleeping in on Sunday sounds better to us than getting up and going to Church.

I shall be anointed with fresh oil. PSALM 92:10b

Fresh Oil...It's normal to feel dry like God is really far away. It's normal for what used to be easy to seem harder to do as time passes.

As Christians one of the hardest lessons we learn is that our Christian Life is not based upon feelings but rather by faith and actions.

(Habakkuk 2:4) "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

(Romans 1:17) "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

(Galations 3:11) "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

(Heb 10:38) "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."
So there are two things we have to remember. The Luster will fade that's normal. And second we must live by faith not by feelings.

I shall be anointed with fresh oil. PSALM 92:10b

Most people take better care of their cars than they do their Spirit man. We'll change are oil every 3,000 miles faithfully so our car runs and operates properly.

We need Spiritual Oil Changes as well. In other words we need to enter into our prayer closet, we need to open our Bibles, we need to spend time worshiping our Father in Heaven.

The hard part is doing this when we don't feel like it. When we would rather be watching TV, or taking a nap, or just about anything else less boring.

That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you. II Timothy 1:6a (Amplified Version)

1. Stir yourself up
2. Rekindle the embers
3. Fan the flame
4. Keep burning

The Presence of God in our life is like a burning fire it needs continual attention to keep it burning strong and bright.

Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19b

The only way we can increase the fire within us to stir the gifts within us is to increase the presence of the Lord upon us. And the only way to do that is to spend time in Gods presence.

When we make a choice and say I will spend time with God today, It is my number one priority. There are times it's dry and you feel anything. There are times your in there praying and you don't think it's making any difference.

That is where we have to remember we live by faith not by feelings. Every time we seek God it does something whether we feel it or not.
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:7

God promises to fill us up when we desire Him and seek Him faithfully.

While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, “Everybody’s looking for you.”

Jesus said, “Let’s go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I’ve come.” He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

Mark 1:35-39 (Message Bible)

Jesus did this every morning. He would get up hours before anyone else and pray for hours. This is how Jesus performed all those miracles, and cast out all those Demons. Jesus was full of God the Father because Jesus spent time with Him.

Then Jesus, full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led in [by] the [Holy] Spirit Luke 4:1 (Amplified Version)

Jesus Prayed and spent time with His Father....As a result Jesus was.

Full of the Holy Ghost
Controlled by the Holy Ghost
Led By the Holy Ghost

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Amplified Version)

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints (the people of God),

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,
18 By having the *eyes of your heart flooded with light*, so that you can *know and understand* the hope to which He has *called you*, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

19 And [so that you can *know and understand*] what is the immeasurable *and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power* in *and for us who believe*, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

20 Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age *and in this world*, but also in the age *and the world which are to come*.

22 And He has put *all things under His feet* and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],

23 Which is *His body, the fullness of Him* Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

This is God's ultimate desire for His Children His Church. That is why God so longs to fellowship with us. So that while we do spend time in His presence God can transform us into the man or woman He has created us to be.

9The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:9 (ESV)

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain...Zechariah 10:1a

In Closing...

Dry times will come. Times when it feels like God is a million miles away. But remember don't let feelings, or lack of feelings move you. We live by faith and by acting in faith. Keep seeking, keep worshiping, keep reading. God will transform us into the person He has created us to be, if we will allow Him to. If we will cooperate with God by entering His presence daily, God Presence will progressively transform us. Step by step, day by day, over time transformation comes.