

A Mother's Faith **2 Timothy 1:5-7**

5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When ever we hear of a young man committing a terrible crime, people want to talk to their parents to find our why. Some times they will find answers there and sometimes not. But we always suspect that the parents had failed somewhere.

But let a young person do good and achieve great things and few people want to talk to the parents to find out how that happened. Many times God works in the lives of people that seem to have everything stacked against them just so that He can show what He can do.

But God uses people to accomplish His plan and purpose.

God used a two women in the life of the boy Timothy to fashion a champion of the faith. To give him the tools that he needed to work with the greatest church planter that ever existed.

Little did they know what would be the outcome of their efforts. We hardly ever do.

Did you see the acceptance speech of Kevin Durant as he accepted the MVP award this past week. He was raised by a single mother and her mother. Sounds like Timothy doesn't it.

For over 26 minutes he goes through all his team and coaches and friends to give them credit for supporting him as he won this award. The best part that got a standing ovation was when he credited his mother for all she had done and called her the real MVP.

Watch this section with me today.

As parents, we can never do it alone. That is do it right. But with God's help we can. And even single mothers can. That was Timothy's testimony. I think that if Timothy had received the MVP (Most Valuable Preacher) his speech would have be similar. He would have thanked those elders at his home church that helped him in the faith. He would, like Paul have listed his fellow preachers that helped and encouraged him along the way. But when he came to the end of the speech he would have turned to his mother and given her the most credit among humans.

So let us look at this passage this mother's day and learn when it is that mothers can do.

- I. The characteristic of genuine faith.
 - A. Even in Paul's day faith had to be distinguished from fake or non-genuine faith.
 1. a real trueness of faith, which, proceeding from the most inward, most living conviction, stands opposed to all sham and to all outward appearance. Lange, J. P. *A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures*
 2. 2 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV) 15 This you know, that all those in Asia have

turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

3. 2 Timothy 4:10-21 (NKJV) 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come--and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! 19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. 21 Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.
4. You can understand how Paul was so relieved to know that there was one he could count on.

II. You can influence others for faith.

- A. Children do not inherit faith as they do our eyes or other characteristics.
 1. God has no grand children.
 2. Whatever we do our children must come to faith by themselves.
 3. To me this is the greatest error in infant baptism.
 4. The idea that we can do a mechanical thing that brings grace to a persons life.
 5. The Bible says very plainly that fact comes by hearing and hearing of the Word of God.
 6. Although piety can by no means be named a natural inheritance, yet it may be said that, in many families, faith and love are transmitted from parents to children, and that Christian fathers and mothers save not only themselves, but also their households (comp. Acts 16:31). Lange, J. P. *A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures*
 7. Though true faith cannot be inherited, it can be demonstrated in convincing ways within the context of a family. Larson, K. (2000). I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon (Vol. 9, p. 265). Nashville,

TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- B. We can though pass our faith on by our teachings and our actions.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - 2. From a child his mother and grand mother had drilled into him the Old Testament Scriptures.
 - 3. When Paul came along the field work was already done.
 - 4. All Paul had to do was plant the seed and watch the harvest.
- III. Mothers have that responsibility.
 - A. We all have that responsibility.
 - B. But mothers most of all.
 - 1. There is nothing more important to prepare your children for than for faith in Jesus Christ's.
 - 2. You may prepare them for college.
 - 3. You man prepare them for financial success.
 - 4. You may prepare them for marriage.
 - 5. You may prepare them to send them out into the world.
 - 6. But unless you prepare their hearts to receive the Word of God you have failed ETERNALLY.
 - C. Jesus will always be the MVP
 - D. But I think that mothers and fathers can run a close second.

So many, it seems, had opposed or deserted Paul (cf. 1:15; 2:17; 3:1–9, 13; 4:3–4, 10–21) that Timothy’s sincere (anypokritou, “unhypocritical”; cf. 1 Tim. 1:5) faith stood out in bold relief. Paul attributed Timothy’s faith to the influence of his Jewish mother Eunice and grandmother Lois, both of whom were believers (cf. Acts 16:1). Timothy’s father was a Gentile and probably an unbeliever; hence no mention of him is made here. Litfin, A. D. (1985). 2 Timothy. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 750). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

2 Timothy 2:17 (NKJV) 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (NKJV) 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV) 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NKJV) 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.