

A Grandmother, A Mother & A Son

2 Timothy 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **ILLUSTRATION:** One day four ministers stood talking and, as so often happens, the conversation soon drifted to shop talk. "I prefer the **King James Version** of Scripture," said one, "for its eloquent use of the English language." A second minister gave forth that no Bible could match the **New American Standard** for its faithfulness to the original Greek and Hebrew text. "That may well be," said the third, "but I prefer the **New International Version** for its contemporary language and easy readability." There was a thoughtful period of silence, and then the fourth minister said, "I like **my mother's translation** best." It was with some surprise that the others said: "We didn't know that your mother had translated the Bible." "Yes, she did," he replied. "She translated it into her daily life, and it was through her translation that I came to faith."
- B. **Happy Mother's Day!** Mothers of faith have changed the course of history.
1. The mother of Moses spared the great deliverer's life.
 2. The mother of Samuel dedicated him to the Lord before he was born.
 3. Then there is Lois & Eunice the grandmother and mother of Timothy
- C. **2 Timothy 1:5** - "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." Three generations of great and strong faith are mentioned in this one verse.
1. **Lois** - The mother of Eunice and the grandmother of Timothy.
 2. **Eunice** - The daughter of Lois and the mother of Timothy.
 3. **Timothy** - The son of Eunice and the grandson of Lois.
- D. Paul inspiringly speaks of this threesome in the context of **genuine faith**.
1. Paul mentions Timothy as co-sender of **six** of his letters.
 2. He also spoke highly of Timothy in his letter to the Philippians.
 3. So confident was Paul of Timothy's faith that, in his first letter to Timothy, he called Timothy "my true son in the faith." Timothy became for Paul what Barnabas could not be -- the inheritor of Paul's mission work.
 4. In Paul's final letter to Timothy, written near the end of his life, he speaks without reserve, calling Timothy "my beloved child," for Timothy was truly part of Paul's spiritual lineage, wealth and crown.
- E. We know Timothy's real father was a Greek and his mother a Jewish Christian, but Paul, who seems never to have married, found in Timothy a "spiritual descendant," someone who would carry on the "family name" -- as it were -- someone so identical in faith that the force of his work for Christ

would always complement that of his mentor, teacher and surrogate father: Paul.

1. In essence Paul said: "Timothy, I know your grandmother, and her faith is authentic. It is the same faith I have observed in your mother, and after having watched you all this time I am convinced of your faith also."
2. To describe that faith, Paul used a word which means literally, "without hypocrisy." Lois and Eunice showed Timothy by word and example what it means to live an authentic faith; a faith from which hypocrisy is totally absent, the real thing, genuine, sincere.
3. What higher accolade or greater tribute could be given any mother or grandmother on this Mother's Day than to say: You gave me authentic faith!
4. **Faithful mothers start chain reactions of faith!** . . . Eunice and Lois did.

A MOTHER'S FAITH MAY SPREAD TO HER CHILDREN

- A. We do not know when Lois came to faith and obedience in her life. And while the Bible does not say, it does tell us a number of things.
 1. She did not just have "a faith" . . . She had "the genuine faith."
 2. She shared her faith with her daughter, Eunice. What Eunice saw in her mother she wanted in her life as well.
- B. Mothers . . . What are you doing to win your children to Christ?
 1. Notice I said "win", not 'lose."
 2. We go watch our children, grandchildren, etc. try to win, not try to lose.
 3. We want them to win in life and in eternity. They can't win in eternity without having won with Christ in life.
 4. You cannot spread what you do not have.

A MOTHER'S FAITH MAY SPREAD TO HER GRANDCHILDREN

- A. Eunice gave birth to Timothy.
 1. Undoubtedly Lois and Eunice had high hopes for Timothy at his birth.
 2. The meaning of the name Eunice gave to her son meant "honoring God." In hindsight that was indeed a preview of coming attractions.)
- B. How would these two women, this mother and grandmother, reach young Timothy?
 1. Thy did so by demonstrating genuine faith in their lives.
 - a. They believed it.
 - b. They talked it.
 - c. They lived it . . . Demonstrated it faithfully.
 - d. They did so by their prayers . . . examples . . . and teaching.
 2. Mothers, take note! Grandmothers, take note! Scripture is God's powerful tool to influence children's lives for good when parents and grandparents

do the teaching!

3. Brethren, this is how we reach those we love for Christ.

C. Frederick Dunkle Jr. has pointed out "that of the **69** kings of France only three were really loved by their subjects and that these were the only ones reared by their mothers instead of by tutors or guardians. Whatever ability most of us have to make others love us is largely due to the love our mothers put in and around our lives."

D. Grandparents are special people to grandchildren.

A MOTHER'S FAITH MAY SPREAD TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

A. Timothy became Paul's fellow-laborer in ministry.

1. Paul's letters to Timothy still help spread the gospel of Christ throughout the world, do they not?

2. Timothy's name is still mentioned **24** times in the New Testament, is it not?

3. Timothy's name is still etched on the pages of **12** of the **27** New Testament books, is it not?

4. Timothy's record of preaching in Berea, Corinth, Macedonia, Ephesus, and Rome, etc. still bear record of his faith, does it not?

5. Timothy having been imprisoned for the work he was doing for Christ (Philemon 1; Hebrews 12:23) still bears testimony of the genuineness of his faith, does it not?

B. Through Timothy's life, Lois is still spreading the faith today.

1. What a thrilling thought for every mother and grandmother.

2. A Christian mother's influence is unlimited.

CONCLUSION:

A. What part did your mother play in your salvation?

B. Paul was an answer to Lois and Eunice's prayer in taking Timothy into ministry and increasing and building on the faith that had already been established in him. If your children are not faithful Christians, I know you must be concerned. As long as there is breath within them, there is hope . . . Never give up on trying to bring them to faithfulness. Some suggestions might be helpful.

1. If you are a **MOTHER** or a **GRANDMOTHER**, here is what you can do that will make a difference in the life of your children and grandchildren:

a. Sit down and write each of your grandchildren a letter.

b. Tell them in great detail why you have put your trust in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ.

c. Tell them why it is important for them to have a right relationship with the Lord.

d. Tell them the expectations you have of them for both here and eternity.

- d. Tell them the passage of scripture which has been most meaningful for your life -- and tell them why.
 - e. Let them know you are praying for them and their salvation
 - 2. If you are **A SON OR DAUGHTER** and your mother still lives, go beyond sending a Mother's Day card or flowers. Write a letter -- handwritten -- a long one, telling your mother about your faith and the part she played in bringing you to that faith. Tell her how you thank God for her having given you the gift of faith.
 - 3. **IF YOUR MOTHER HAS ALREADY JOINED THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US**, go to God in prayer, thanking Him for all the good that was in your mother. Commend her spirit to His continual care. Thank God for all that has been done on her behalf.
- C. Washington Irving, writing about mothers, said: "A father may turn his back on his child; brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies; husbands may desert their wives and wives their husbands. But a mother's love endures through all; in good repute, in bad repute, in the face of the world's condemnation, a mother still loves on, and still hopes that her child may turn from his evil ways, and repent; still she remembers the infant smiles that once filled her bosom with rapture, the merry laugh, the joyful shout of ... childhood, the opening promise of youth; and she can never be brought to think (her child) all unworthy."
- D. Mothers have a remarkable ability to change the world through their children. Love her . . . Cherish her . . . Care for her . . .
- 1. Love her **VERBALLY**
 - 2. Love her **PHYSICALLY**
 - 3. Love her **PATIENTLY**
 - 4. Love her **ATTENTIVELY**
 - 5. Love her **GRATEFULLY**
 - 6. Love her **GENEROUSLY**
 - 7. Love her **HONORABLY**
- E. Mothers, grandmothers, etc. . . . Never give up on trying to lead your children to Christ! While breath remains both in you and them, there is hope.
- F. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**