

Appreciating A Mother's Influence

"I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you." 2 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)



- What is the best memory you have of your mother?
- In what ways were you influenced by her?

Timothy and the Apostle Paul were close friends and colleagues in ministry. Paul knew Timothy's family well. Some Bible scholars believe that Paul led Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, to Christ when he was doing missionary work in the city of Lystra (Acts 16:1). Paul expressed appreciation for Timothy's mother and grandmother. He also teaches us several principles related to appreciating mothers and their influence on their families.

Central Lesson

Mothers (and Grandmothers) can have a unique eternal influence on their family.

1. Timothy's mother and grandmother **INFLUENCED** him spiritually (2 Tim. 1:5).

"...you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice...."

Parents and other family members have the most significant spiritual influence on a child. If parents don't teach their children to love God and value His Word, the world will teach them to do otherwise.

2. Timothy had the same **KIND** of faith, a "genuine faith," that was in his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).

"...And I know that same faith ("genuine faith") continues strong in you."

The Life Application Study Bible states, "Without trying, we model our values. Parents in particular demonstrate to their children what they consider important and valuable. 'Like father, like son' is not just a well-worn cliché; it is a truth repeated in our homes." (Introduction to 1 Timothy).

3. Teaching the **SCRIPTURES** was one of the most important keys to shaping Timothy's spiritual life (2 Tim. 3:15).

"You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus."

Warren Wiersbe added, "Timothy has been taught the word of God from the time he was a child. Some people are prone to say, well, I needed the Bible when I was younger, but I can do without it now that I am older. How wrong they are! Adults need the guidance of the word far more than children do, because adults face more temptation." (*The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, p.781).

4. Grandmothers (and mothers) should not underestimate their influence on **FUTURE** generations (2 Tim. 1:5).

"...the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."

Sometimes, parents think they are failures with their kids. However, children are influenced even if it is not noticeable *until they grow into adulthood*. Proverbs 22:6 *"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."*

5. Young people can **OVERCOME** the disadvantages of a broken home (2 Tim. 1:5).

"...you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and young our mother, Eunice...."

Timothy's mother was Jewish and a follower of Christ, but his father was assumed to be an unbelieving Greek. His father is not given any credit for influencing Timothy spiritually (Acts 16:1). Bible teacher David Guzik explains:

"So, Timothy's mother and grandmother were believers, but his father was not (at least not at first). In the Roman world, fathers had absolute authority over the family, and since Timothy's father was not a Christian, his home situation was less than ideal (though not necessarily terrible). But his mother and grandmother either led him to Jesus or grounded him in the faith. God wants to use parents and grandparents to pass on an eternal legacy to their children and grandchildren."

6. The spiritual influence of Timothy's mother and grandmother was a source of **STRENGTH** when Timothy faced difficulty as an adult (2 Tim. 1:8).

"...be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News."

Warren Wiersbe writes, "As in his first letter to Timothy, Paul encouraged his beloved colleague to be faithful. As we have learned, Timothy was timid, suffered from physical ailments, and was tempted to let people take advantage of him and not assert his authority as a pastor." (*The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, p.772).

CONCLUSION: Mothers (and Grandmothers) can have a unique eternal influence on their family.

► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.