

## “Faith Of Our Mothers”

**Text:        2 Timothy 1:1-5**

**Intro:**

- ✓ Today, I want to bring honor to all mothers and grandmothers.
- ✓ We see from the Word of God the effects a godly influence of a mother and grandmother can have on a child.
- ✓ In **verse 5** of our passage, the Apostle Paul tells us that Timothy had **unfeigned** faith.
  - o **Unfeigned** means genuine or real faith.
  - o Timothy had this kind of faith due to the testimony and maternal influence of both his grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice.
- ✓ In **Acts 16:1**, we are told that Timothy came from a spiritually broken home.
  - o Timothy’s mother was a believing Jewess.
  - o She had trusted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour.
  - o However, his father was a Greek.
  - o We are not told anything about Timothy’s father’s salvation.
- ✓ We are told that Timothy possessed genuine faith or saving faith.
  - o The godly lives of his grandmother and mother had a lot to do with his spiritual development.
  - o Nowhere in the scriptures is Timothy’s father mentioned attributing to his spiritual development.

- o Therefore, we have to conclude that Timothy's father was not saved.
- ✓ Despite the fact that Timothy came from a spiritually broken home he became a mighty man of God because of the godly upbringing of his mother and grandmother.
- o Many have used the excuse of growing up in a spiritually broken home to live for the devil.
- ✓ First, let us look at what the Word of God has to say about Timothy.
  - o **See 2 Timothy 3:15**
- ✓ Timothy was trained early in the scriptures.
  - o His grandmother and mother made sure that he received a Christian Education.
  - o I can see Timothy as a child bouncing on his mother's <sup>knee</sup>~~lap~~ learning his A B C s.
    - A is for Adam, B is for the Bible, C is for Christ.
  - o Timothy was taught at an early age the wisdom of God instead of the wisdom of this world.
  - o His mother and grandmother set a godly example for him to follow.
  - o It is so important at an early age to get a child into the habit of reading the Bible.
  - o We know that the so very young are so quick to learn and pick up things.

- o We know that they are very good at repeating everything they hear thus embarrassing many a parent.
- o So, Timothy had a good foundation, he was grounded in the scriptures at an early age.
- ✓ Timothy was a dear friend and fellow laborer in Christ with the Apostle Paul.
  - o In fact Paul wrote two epistle to Timothy when he was a young preacher.
  - o In **1 Timothy 1:2**, Paul greets Timothy by saying, **“Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith:...”**
  - o In **2 Timothy 1:2**, Paul greets Timothy by saying, **“To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:...”**
- ✓ Throughout the Book of Acts Timothy is mentioned in conjunction with the Apostle Paul or with other missionaries as they spread the gospel and <sup>started</sup> ~~start~~ New Testament Churches.
- ✓ Timothy was sent by Paul to minister to many of the churches that he had started.
  - o In **I Cor. 4:17**, the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian saints and says, **“For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”**

- o Paul testifies of Timothy to the Corinthians in **1 Cor. 16:10**, when he says, **"...for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do."**
- ✓ Timothy was faithful to the work of the Lord.
  - o The Apostle Paul expresses this in his epistle to the church at Philippi when he says in **Phil. 2:19**, **"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state."**
  - o Timothy even went as far as Colosse in Asia Minor to minister to the saints because in his epistle to the Colossians <sup>Paul</sup> ~~he~~ greets them by saying, **"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."** (Colossians 1:1-2)
- ✓ Paul also sent Timothy to minister to the saints at Thessalonica.
  - o **See 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2.**
- ✓ What we have discovered through examining the Word of God is that Timothy had a tremendous testimony and witness for the Lord.
  - o Timothy's grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice were instrumental in his Christian upbringing and training.
- ✓ What I want us to focus on is the **unfeigned faith** the Apostle Paul called to remembrance in Timothy that first dwelt in his grandmother and then his mother.

- o These two godly women's unfeigned or real faith was responsible for Timothy's great love of the Lord.
- ✓ This **"unfeigned faith"** which Lois and Eunice had is the same kind of faith not only all Christian mothers should have but also all Christians should possess.
- ✓ Let's take a look at that faith.
  - o What kind of faith did these two mothers have?

**I. Lois and Eunice had Saving Faith**

- ✓ We are told in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."**
  - o They had faith in Christ's finished work at the cross of Calvary and not their good works to get them to heaven.
  - o Lois and Eunice had **"repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."**
  - o They knew and believed in their hearts that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures.
  - o They believed the only way to the Father was through the way, the truth, and the life, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - o They knew that when they died they were going to heaven because they had received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

- o I believe because of their constant witness, that we can conclude that Timothy was lead to the Lord at an early age.
- o So, Timothy began building his spiritual house on the right foundation, the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age.

## II. Lois and Eunice had Believing Without Seeing Faith

- ✓ They had the kind of faith as defined in Hebrews 11:1.
  - o **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**
- ✓ Unlike Thomas they believed who Christ was without physically seeing him and were blessed as a result.
  - o Jesus said in **John 20:29, “...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”**
- ✓ These two mothers’ unwavering faith was an example to Timothy.
  - o He saw first hand when trials and adversities came into their lives that regardless of their circumstances they kept trusting God.
  - o Lois and Eunice knew that because they were born of God that they could overcome whatever life threw them.
  - o They knew **“the victory that over cometh the world, even our faith.”**

## III. Lois and Eunice had Faith That Could Quench the Fiery Darts of the devil.

- ✓ As the Bible says in **Ephesians 6:16**, “**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**”
- ✓ Lois and Eunice knew when the devil threw his fiery darts such as-
  - o The dart of doubting their salvation
  - o The dart of “you’re a dirty rotten sinner, God can’t use you”
  - o The dart of pity – “poor me nobody loves me”
  - o The dart of poor health.
  - o The dart of problems on the job.
- ✓ Remember, Eunice’s husband was unsaved and I am sure that Satan threw his fiery darts at the marriage causing arguments and discord.
- ✓ However, despite the devil’s darts both Lois and Eunice knew they could take the shield of faith and quench the fiery darts of the devil.
  - o They knew based on their faith in Christ that they could not lose their salvation.
  - o If they sinned they could claim the promise of **1 John 1:9**, “**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”
  - o They knew “**that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**”
- ✓ Again, this was the testimony and example that Timothy grew up with.

#### **IV. Lois and Eunice had Prayer Answering Faith**

- ✓ They had faith that God answers prayers.
  - They believed what they prayed for would be answered according to God's will.
- ✓ They believed as the Bible says in **Mark 11:24**, **"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."**
- ✓ At an early age Timothy was taught to <sup>pray</sup> with an honest and searching heart for the Lord's will to be done in his life.
- ✓ He was taught to cry out to God in time of need and trouble.
- ✓ Again, it was his grandmother and mother who set the example.
- ✓ They are the ones who established the family altar with prayer and praise.

#### **V. Lois and Eunice had A Faith that was united with Love**

- ✓ Lois's and Eunice's faith was one that had a great love for the lost.
  - I am sure that they were soul winners.
  - I am sure Timothy watched intently as either his mother or grandmother declared the gospel and tried to lead someone to the Lord.
- ✓ Lois and Eunice not only "believed on the name of his Son Jesus Christ" but also loved others enough to tell them how they could have eternal life.
- ✓ Their faith was united with love.



- They kept God's commandment as stated in **1 John 3:23**, "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."
- ✓ Their maternal influence in area of soul winning can be seen in Timothy's life.
  - Timothy went to many different places throughout the world as we saw earlier working the works of the Lord.
  - Timothy was a preacher, teacher, and evangelist.
  - He wanted the whole world to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - This was all because of the testimony and godly example of his grandmother and mother.

**Conclusion:**

- ✓ Christians I think we can all learn from Lois and Eunice.
  - Do you have unfeigned faith.
  - Do you have a prayer answering faith?
  - Do you pray believing?
  - Do you waiver when it comes to the things of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>
  - Do you have believing without seeing faith. <sup>2</sup>
  - Do you walk by faith or by sight. <sup>2</sup>
  - Who is Lord over your life. <sup>2</sup>
  - Are you setting a godly example for others in your family to follow?

- Are there any Timothys in your life that you helped influence for God?
- ✓ My friend if you are here today and do not have saving faith and die without it then you will split hell wide open.
- ✓ Won't you be saved today?
- ✓ Won't you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to save you.
- ✓ The Bible says, "Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."