

Being Enriched by Faith 2 Timothy 1: 5-10

Today is a special day for us; it is the day set aside to honor our mothers. A mother holds a very important position within the family. In fact, she often is the most influential member of the family. A mother's love and care shapes and molds the lives of children. Most here today would probably agree that much of what we hold dear in life, the morals and values we possess, were instilled in us by our mothers.

Our text today was written by the Apostle Paul to his son in the faith, the young preacher Timothy. This is the second letter Paul wrote to Timothy. After a brief greeting, Paul offers instruction for the young preacher concerning his faith. Paul knew Timothy's family and he recognized the impact his mother and grandmother had on his life. They had instilled faith in Timothy that would serve him well in ministry.

I can relate to this passage of Scripture. My life has been greatly influenced by many people, but none have had a greater impact than my mother and grandmother. Their careful instruction and unwavering faith helped instill faith in me at a time when I desperately needed stability in my life. I am sure many of you can relate to these verses as well.

There is no doubt that Timothy and countless others have been impacted significantly through faith. If you have those who made an investment in your life, you ought to be thankful. Faith is essential to maintaining a prosperous Christian life. I want to consider the [aspects](#) of faith Paul speaks of as we think on: [Being Enriched by Faith](#).

I. The Evidence of Faith (5) – [When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.](#)

Although Timothy may not have realized the potential he possessed, Paul realized faith was evident in his life. Notice:

A. The Identification (5a) – [When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee.](#) As Paul thought of Timothy and prayed for him, he was reminded of the unfeigned faith he possessed. This wasn't something Timothy had to strive to obtain; it was already present in his life. There may have been times when it appeared weak; as Timothy faced doubts and fears, but faith was there.

- Paul described Timothy's faith as being [unfeigned](#). This reveals faith that is "*sincere, without hypocrisy, genuine, real, and true.*" Timothy possessed real faith! His wasn't something for show before others without depth or substance. Timothy possessed genuine faith in the Lord that would carry him through great difficulty. He may not have realized what he had, but Paul knew Timothy had been the recipient of something very special.

B. The Inspiration (5b) – [which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice](#). Paul also recognized Timothy's life had been greatly impacted by his mother and grandmother. They too possessed faith that was real and genuine, and passed that faith along to Timothy. His grandmother shared her faith with his mother. When Timothy was born into the family, his life was enriched by being exposed to the sincere faith of his mother and grandmother. They possessed the same faith and were consistent in sharing that with Timothy.

- This presents a great challenge and encouragement to us as well. Timothy's grandmother had not failed to instill faith in her daughter. That impacted her to instill faith in her son. The chain was not broken. Faith was consistently passed down through the generations. Timothy may not have realized it yet, but he now possessed a great responsibility to pass the faith he had received on to the next generation.

- As far as I know, this is the only time these two ladies are mentioned in Scripture. We have no record of any other contribution they made. There is no record of their employment or other endeavors. However, what we do know is encouraging. If they accomplished nothing else of significant value, they helped shape a young man who would be used mightily of God to spread the Gospel. Every soul that was saved under Timothy's preaching would be fruit added to their account. You may be here today and feel as if your life is not significant because you are a stay-at-home mom. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, you have one of the greatest responsibilities known to man. Take advantage of such a tremendous opportunity and instill the faith of Christ in your children!

C. The Manifestation (5c) – [and I am persuaded that in thee also](#). Paul had witnessed enough in the life of Timothy to know he too possessed the faith of his mother and grandmother. It didn't have to be spoken of, although he likely shared it; Timothy's faith was evident for others to see. Faith had been instilled in Timothy and it was evident due to the outward manifestation.

- Making an investment in others is never a wasted effort. They may not always behave or respond the way we desire, but they will recall what we have shared. I am sure Timothy was like most young boys. He disappointed his mother at times. He engaged in activities he shouldn't have, but faith endured and shaped his life!

II. The Obedience in Faith (6) – [Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands](#). Paul consistently prayed for Timothy and sought to encourage his faith. He reveals two aspects that are essential in obedience to faith. Consider:

A. The Participation (6a) – [Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God](#) Timothy was challenged to [stir up the gift of God](#). This required participation on his part. This has the idea of "*restirring or rekindling*." In those times when the flame of faith grew dim due to

adversity and doubt, Timothy need to reach deep within and rekindle his passion for the Lord and the ministry. He would not be effective in ministry if his faith and passion were lacking. He had to constantly be aware of his spiritual condition, always staying near the Lord.

- I am thankful for the investment of others and the faith that has been instilled in me, but their investment and faith is never sufficient for my spiritual walk. I have a personal responsibility to maintain the fire of faith and passion for the Lord. It would be tragic to allow such an investment to grow cold and eventually be extinguished.

B. The Preparation (6b) – *which is in thee by the putting on of my hands*. Paul speaks of the ordination of Timothy for ministry involving the laying on of hands by Paul. He had been set aside for the work of the ministry and God would equip him to be successful in ministry. He had been given everything he needed to proclaim the Gospel and serve the church. There would never be a time when he wasn't expected to be faithful to his calling. He had been chosen of the Lord and Paul urged obedience in the faith to fulfill his calling.

- I know everyone doesn't hold an ordained office within the church, but every believer has received spiritual gifts for service unto the Lord. In His divine wisdom, God placed those specific gifts within each of us and He has enabled us to be effective in using those gifts to glorify Him, encourage the believers, and evangelize the lost. We are prepared of the Lord, but we must be willing to exercise the gifts we have received in faithful obedience!

III. The Confidence through Faith (7-10) – Paul also knew times of doubt and discouragement would come to Timothy. There would be times when his faith would be tested. In these times he needed to remain confident through faith. Such confidence depends on:

A. A Divine Authority (7a) – *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear*; Paul reminds Timothy of the source of his faith. It was given of God to enable him in the work of the ministry. Although gifts vary among believers, God never gives one a spirit of fear. When Timothy faced doubt, fear, and discouragement, he must remember those were not of God. He wanted him to stand firm in faith, resting in the power and authority of the Lord.

- We all deal with fear, doubt, and discouragement as well, but we too need to be reminded these are not of God. He has not called us to cower in fear before the adversary. He has called us to rest in His finished work, depending solely upon Him for strength and wisdom!

B. A Divine Availability (7b) – *but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*. The spirit of fear is not of God. He provides power, love, and a sound mind to equip us for the work of ministry. The power of God overcomes fear. The love of God allows us to love others in spite of their actions or

acceptance. The enemy would have us despise them, with no thought or care for their spiritual need, but God provides the love we need to seek them out in an effort to reach them for Christ. God also provides a sound mind for the believer. This had the idea of “*self-control, keeping one’s feelings and emotions in check.*” Fear and rejection create emotions that hinder our work for the Lord. God provides the ability to keep our emotions in check and continue in the work. Timothy would need to understand and embrace this, as we will also.

C. A Devoted Approach (8) – *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.* Trouble and difficulty would confront Timothy as he sought to minister for the Lord. In those trying times, Paul challenged him to embrace the Lord and his faith in Him, rather than being ashamed. Certainly Timothy’s life would not resemble that of the world; and he would be ridiculed for that, but he must continue in the faith even though others denied it. Paul challenged him to stand firm in the faith, even in the face of persecution. He would be asked to endure affliction for the Gospel, and he needed to be ready and willing to do so.

- These challenges are scary. They are contrary to our human nature, but we too must be willing to stand. We have been entrusted with the faith. Generations before us have championed the cause of Christ, even while enduring intense persecution and affliction. We may be called to endure the same, and if we are, we must be willing to endure for the cause of Christ and those who have yet to come to faith in Him. If we abandon the faith, who will share the Gospel?

D. A Definite Assurance (9-10) – *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*^[10] *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* Paul reminded Timothy of the worthiness of the cause and the power he possessed through faith in Christ. He had received a holy calling from the Lord unto salvation. He had been delivered from the bondage and condemnation of sin. Christ had risen triumphant in resurrection life and provided eternal life for all who believe in Him. Timothy was not preaching a myth or fable. His faith was not in vain. He could rest in the promises of God and provision of Christ. There was nothing he could ever face or endure that would separate him from the love and provision he enjoyed in Christ.

- Trials will come and our faith will be tested. There will be times when it seems as if our faith has grown cold and needs to be stirred up within us. The world will never embrace or understand us. Opposition and difficulty will abound, but we have a hope that exceeds every burden we might endure. We have been bought with a price. Our blessed Lord offered Himself as the atonement for our sin. He rose again from the dead, securing eternal life for all who believe. What could we possibly face that He can’t equip us to handle? Surely such love and sacrifice deserves our complete devotion. Assurance of our faith and hope in Christ will enable us to overcome whatever obstacle we may face. Look to Jesus and trust in His finished work! It is enough!

Conclusion: What began in the heart and life of Timothy's grandmother Lois was passed on to his mother, Eunice. She in turn passed it on to Timothy and he was blessed to experience the faith of both lived out before him. He possessed that same genuine and sincere faith. Although it would be put to the test on numerous occasions, he possessed all he needed to endure victorious.

If someone has made such an investment in you, you have been blessed beyond measure. My question is: what have you done with that investment? Are you using it for the glory of God and the work of ministry? Are you seeking to pass it on to the coming generation, making an investment in their lives? If not, you should. That is what the Lord expects and deserves!

Maybe you are here and you can't claim a godly heritage. Maybe you had no one in your immediate family who consistently shared their faith and sought to instill godly principles in your life. You maybe have missed what others have experienced, but all of that can change today. If you are unsaved, why not respond to the call of the Gospel and be saved today? You can begin a legacy of faith in your family that can be cherished and passed on to future generations!