

## LESSONS FROM EUNICE - JEN GARNETT

### CULTIVATING A GENUINE FAITH

In *2 Timothy 1:5* we read about Paul talking to Timothy about his incredible, genuine faith and how he (Paul) had seen that faith modelled in Timothy's grandmother and mother. Let's read it...

*... "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."*

In reading that one simple verse we can see what an incredible faith Lois and Eunice had – the verse says it was a genuine faith. A faith that was evidenced by their walk matching their talk. This honest, genuine and sincere faith came from them going humbly before God, realising that they could do nothing in this life without God or being connected to Him. *John 15* says that if we are not attached to the vine, we cannot bear fruit. Lois and Eunice had such a beautiful understanding of this and because of it there was an overflow of genuine and sincere faith.

In today's society there is so much pretence and hypocrisy that people are looking for "real". People who want to see others being honest and real. As Christians, when we are well-connected to and rooted in God and live with an overflow of genuine honest faith, we have the ability to show people something that is real...Jesus.

I am reminded of the story about the fig tree. From the distance the fig tree looked amazing, it was full of green leaves and looked really healthy but as Jesus drew closer and inspected it He could see that there wasn't any fruit. It can be the same in our lives – if we allow Jesus to take a closer look and examine our faith will He find fruit there and

if so, will it be genuine and real or will He find us to be like the fig tree, putting on a show that isn't genuine or honest and bears no fruit.

I'd like to encourage us today to allow Jesus close to do that examination because the world we live in is looking for genuine, real faith and people who walk the talk. When others see this in us they will see Jesus.

I also really love the ripple effect of this genuine faith mentioned in *2 Timothy 1:5*. Starting with grandmother Lois it rippled down to her daughter Eunice and then from Eunice it rippled down to Timothy. When we have such a genuine, honest faith it too can have a beautiful ripple effect in the lives of those around us.

So the lives of Lois and Eunice, in one simple verse, have encouraged us to allow Jesus to come and do a closer examination of our faith and spur us on to get well rooted and deeply connected with God so that we can be people who walk the talk with an honest, sincere, rippling faith.

Have a lovely day