



**Family of Faith
2 Timothy 1:1-7**

Paul – Spiritual Father

Paul was imprisoned in a Rome when he wrote this letter to Timothy about A.D. 67. It was the last New Testament letter he wrote. Although not recorded in Scripture, tradition tells us that soon after writing this letter, Paul was beheaded. The letter is a reminder to Timothy to remain faithful in the face of hardship. It's especially important to preserve and preach the truth in the midst of a culture, community, or church that has strayed from the truth. In his greeting, Paul describes himself as an apostle ("sent one") by God's will and for the sake "of the promise of life in Christ Jesus." (i.e., the gospel). He also calls himself a servant of God like his ancestors. Paul knew who he was and lived his whole life in light of that identity. He gave everything to God and the proclamation of the gospel. He didn't waver from that purpose because he knew who he was. Sometimes we need to remember who we are and live like it. We are sinners saved by grace (Eph 2:1-10), children of the heavenly father (Eph 5:1), joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17), ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20), brothers and sisters of Christ (Hebrews 2:11).

Lois and Eunice – Grandmother and Mother

Lois was Timothy's grandmother and Eunice his mother. We don't know anything about them other than Paul's description of their sincere faith. By implication they were the ones who taught Timothy the Scriptures from the time he was a baby (2 Tim 3:14,15). It's likely that Timothy's father wasn't a believer (Acts 16:1). Thus, from these few verses we learn some important lessons. It's vitally important to teach children the Bible from a young age. A Christian family can be very influential in one coming to faith in Jesus. We can be "parents" and "grandparents" to children and teach them the Scripture and our faith. The current generation of Christians is always responsible for passing our Christian faith to the next generation.

Timothy - Son

Timothy and Paul knew each other for almost 20 years. Timothy was living in Lystra when Paul visited the city on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:6; 16:1). It's unknown whether Paul led Timothy to Christ, but Timothy was well versed in Scripture because of his mother and grandmother. Paul became a spiritual father and mentor to Timothy. That's why Paul addresses him as, "my dearly loved son." Timothy worked with Paul and Silas to bring the good news of Jesus to Europe. Timothy was a co-laborer with Paul (Rom 16:21; 1 Cor 126:10; Phil 2:19-22; 1 Thess 3:2). He was also Paul's faithful representative and messenger (Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17; 2 Cor 1:19; Phil 2:19; 1 Thess 3:2, 6). After Paul's first imprisonment, Paul and Timothy revisited some of the Asian churches. Paul decided to leave Timothy at Ephesus to pastor the church. Timothy may have been timid, or easily persuaded by nature. Paul reminded him who he was and told him to rekindle his gift and live in the power of God instead of fear! Many of us, need to hear the same message!