

Talkin' 'bout My Generation

May 29-June 4, 2022

Zakk Rohrlack, *Student Pastor*

MAIN POINT

A parent should model Christ in front of his or her kids and mentor them toward Christlikeness and faith in Him.

INTRODUCTION

What is your favorite memory of a moment with your mother or father?

What would you say is the most important thing your mother or father ever taught you? How has it impacted your life?

Parents have two primary responsibilities: to model who Christ is and to mentor their children in regard to who Christ is and strengthening their faith in Him.

Does that make the task of parenting seem more or less daunting to you?

Parents are integral to the Christian home and the raising up of the next generation of Christians. In many cases it's through the work of parents that God brings children to salvation. Timothy knew the importance of a mother who raised him up in the Lord, and Paul reminded Timothy of that upbringing in his second letter to Timothy.

UNDERSTANDING

Paul knew he had little time before his own execution, so he wrote a very personal letter to Timothy, full of intensity, love, and concern. He encouraged Timothy to be faithful in his trust of Christ, to act with boldness rather than submit to his natural timidity, and to associate confidently with the suffering apostle and Christ. Paul knew Timothy must assume enormous responsibilities in the mission of the church, and he wanted him to be fearless and obedient in preserving and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

READ [2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7](#)

What do verses 2-4 tell us about Paul and Timothy's relationship?

Who did Timothy first learn about Christ from? Who set an example for him in how to follow Christ when he was young (v. 5)?

What does that tell us about the potential influence of parents on the lives of their children?

What do you think it means to "fan into flame the gift of God"? What does that mean with reference to our relationships with others, especially the children in our lives?

In this letter, Paul wanted to continue discipling Timothy, a ministry Lois and Eunice had started long before Paul had visited their city. Paul began to build on their work of exhorting Timothy. Paul was reminding Timothy that it was time to add fuel and fan the coals of his ministry into an open flame by recalling the passion he had felt at his ordination into ministry.

and the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life. God's desire for His people is to demonstrate a strong, enduring lifestyle of faith, even if that genuine faith resembles glowing coals hidden beneath the ashes of long-past victories. Paul's challenge should encourage us to take seriously the influence we have over the people in our lives and to look for ways to actively point them to Christ.

READ [2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17](#).

What did Paul challenge Timothy to continue in? Why?

Where did Timothy receive his knowledge and love of Scripture?

What things do you think Eunice and Lois taught Timothy about the Scriptures?

What practical steps might Timothy have taken to respond to Paul's challenge?

In his encouragement to Timothy, Paul instructed him to hold firmly to what he had learned in Scripture, which he had studied since he was young. The task which God had for Paul and Timothy was rooted in the authority of the Scriptures. Because the Bible is our primary tool for growing as Jesus' disciples, it is crucial that we believe the Word of God is totally accurate, free of error, and inspired by God Himself.

Verse 16 teaches us that all Scripture is God-breathed. What does this imply?

Why is the divine inspiration of Scripture important?

Paul reminded Timothy that Scripture instructs Christians on how to believe, grow, and serve the Christian community. Paul appealed to Timothy concerning the inspiration and usefulness of Scripture in daily life. He first noted to Timothy that Scripture is inspired by God. The complete contents bear God's stamp of approval.

Read verses 14-17 and highlight each area of the Bible's usefulness Paul mentions. What words emphasize the importance of studying Scripture?

The Bible is a guide that teaches us how to grow in our faith, share our faith and how to live as disciples. It's profitable for teaching, so it's profitable for learning. Rebuking and correcting also make it useful for prevention—there's no need to be rebuked or corrected if you never did something in the first place. "Training in righteousness" points us to Christ; we can't be righteous apart from Him. The Bible, when actively read, provides us all we need to mature in our faith, a process that God designed to happen in the community of His church.

APPLICATION

How are you reflecting God's image and His characteristics daily in your home or place of work? How do these texts influence the way you approach leading your family or others you have influence over?

How are you helping your children, family, and friends to discover more of who Christ is and His plans for their lives? What in your life might be preventing you from doing this more?

Read [1 Peter 4:10](#). When we walk into our homes, into the world, what are we to do?

What are some things we can do to remind ourselves to take an active role in the faith?

journeys of our family members and friends?

How might focusing on the gospel help you overcome your greatest fears about parenting or mentoring others?

PRAYER

Thank God for our mothers and the legacy left behind for us. Pray that we would faithfully model for our children, extended family, coworkers...even someone you bump into at the grocery store, what it looks like to follow Christ passionately. For those who aren't parents, pray that we would be faithful models and mentors to the people closest to us.

COMMENTARY

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

1:1-2. Paul always saw himself first as a servant or an apostle of Christ Jesus. Apostle means literally "sent one." The early church recognized as apostles those leaders with a special call who had seen the resurrected Christ. Paul was always eager to establish his apostleship, not because he desired adoration or special privilege, but because he wanted others to recognize that his authority came not from self-appointment, nor from man's selection but by God's personal choice: by the will of God. It is possible that, with death so imminent, Paul became more cognizant of the eternal life into which he would enter. Certainly he understood this promise of life that is in Christ Jesus as experiential to some degree in this present world. But with his approaching execution, he must also have felt the anticipation of seeing Jesus and entering fully into the promise. He must have been aware of standing on the threshold to a blissful existence. With no expectation that he would be released from prison again, he wrote to Timothy, his dear son. This attests to more than spiritual kinship; it announces an intimate and emotional bond. Their love for each other increased over time as they stood together in difficulty and worked in ministry. Paul thought about this young man, now separated from him by distance and prison, and considered him with the affection of a father toward a son. With these emotions, Paul offered to Timothy grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1:3. Paul began with thanksgiving. It is important, however, to sift through all the clauses of the sentence in order to arrive at the object of his thankfulness. Paul, at the end of life's journey, offered thanks for this young man of faith. In the middle of his thanksgiving, Paul inserted a personal tribute to his heritage of faith. He probably did this to establish a parallel between himself and Timothy. Later he directed Timothy to consider his own upbringing. Paul thanked God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience. No one could convict Paul of pandering to public opinion, faddish philosophies, or personal ambition. He served God and no other. The God he served was the same one to whom his ancestors were committed. He drew the line of his faith through previous generations. Paul had not denied his Hebrew heritage by following Jesus Christ; he had fulfilled it ([Acts 13:16-33](#)). This he did with a clear conscience, one that was healthy and not diseased by the misinterpretation of Scripture or the hardening of his heart through sin.

1:4. Paul inserted a very personal word to Timothy, one of deep affection. Paul thought back on the last time they saw each other: recalling your tears, I long to see you. Whatever the cause of the tears, it seems Timothy had a sensitive and tender disposition. This tenderness in Timothy evoked from Paul a greater desire to see the young man. Like a parent for a child, Paul sensed in Timothy a vulnerability, and he wanted to strengthen him through God—he wanted to see him. But Paul also knew that this relationship was not one-sided. Seeing Timothy would benefit him as well: he would be filled with joy. This joy is a delight that breaks

the bonds of circumstances, centering itself in the person of Christ and his people.

1:5. Paul returned to the subject of spiritual heritage as he thought about Timothy: I have been reminded of your sincere faith. He had watched Timothy and worked beside him for years. In Timothy, Paul recognized a genuine faith, one adhering to the teachings of Christ and the apostles, which in turn produced righteous behavior. Proper belief and proper actions are components of sincere faith. Paul realized that genuine faith had been modeled for Timothy through his family. It was evident in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice. Though true faith cannot be inherited, it can be demonstrated in convincing ways within the context of a family. Even so, each person must entrust himself personally to Jesus Christ. True faith is individually claimed. Timothy's father was Greek. His mother and grandmother, however, were Jewish ([Acts 16:1](#)). Apparently they had trained Timothy in reading and memorizing Old Testament texts because Paul later remarked how Timothy had from childhood known the holy Scriptures ([2 Timothy 3:15](#)). This had proved a good foundation as he developed into faith in Christ. The genuine faith Paul had noted in Timothy's mother and grandmother, he was convinced now lived in Timothy.

1:6. Having established Timothy's heritage of belief in God and confirmed his conviction that Timothy shared in this genuine faith, Paul issued a command. The reason Paul could remind Timothy of God's gift was because Timothy was an authentic believer. The gift of God, which is in you was probably the Holy Spirit. Every genuine believer receives this gift from God. This is why Paul told Timothy that he was persuaded of his sincere faith. Timothy had this powerful gift within him, enabling him to perform all that God required. Even so, Timothy must fan into flame the Spirit's power. This is a present-tense verb. It might better be translated "keep fanning." It was not that the Spirit's flame was weak or needed to be alive by human effort but that the Spirit only works in cooperation with those who desire his enablement. We keep fanning the flame by keeping "in step with the Spirit" ([Galatians 5:25](#)), by disciplining ourselves in godliness to produce the fruit which is his nature ([Galatians 5:22](#)).

1:7. Having confirmed that Timothy possessed this great gift of God's grace, his own Spirit, Paul pointed Timothy toward the boldness that should belong to every believer: For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. Timothy, many interpreters surmise, was a man of quiet disposition—a retiring, timid individual who had been thrust into a leadership role for which he had no predilection. The battle against the false teachers was strenuous, leaving Timothy weary, perhaps even questioning what he was doing. It is possible that he was overwhelmed by these circumstances. But Paul countered our natural tendencies and excuses by directing us to consider this great gift which we all possess—the Spirit of God. Our natural abilities can only supplement what God calls us to do. The important consideration in all of life's challenges and duties is to remember that God's Spirit resides within us. He is the giver of power, love, and self-discipline. Power is simply enablement to do what God requires. We are never asked to do anything beyond what God gives strength and ability to accomplish. Love is expressed first to God, then to others. It is the distinguishing quality of Christians, this unnatural love, and it comes only as we allow the life of God's Spirit to live through us. Self-discipline denotes careful, sensible thinking. It is the ability to think clearly with the wisdom and understanding that God imparts. Fear is a driving force in society today. It is the main subject of the evening news, the underlying premise of advertising and marketing. Fear often spawns confused thinking, irrationalities, and misunderstandings. Thoughts and speculations swirl in our mind when fear enters. This is why Christ calls us to healthy, orderly thought processes. Perhaps we can look at life and realize our need for God's power. We need God's strength in our daily living, to endure and make wise choices, to live in patience, producing goodness ([Colossians 1:9-14](#)).