

The Power of Influence

2 Timothy 1:5

Introduction:

- A. A mother took her young son shopping. After a day in the stores, a clerk handed the little boy a lollipop. "What do you say?" the mother said to the boy. He replied, "Charge it!"
- B. While influence may be something we often overlook, it can be very powerful.
- C. No one can deny the influence of mothers and women in general. Today let's look at the influence of two women who are only mentioned by name one time in the Bible (2 Tim. 1:5).

The Sincere Faith of Timothy

- A. Paul was certain of Timothy's sincere faith because of who his mother and grandmother were
- B. Paul met Timothy on his second missionary Journey (Acts 16:1-3).
 - 1. Timothy was a young man who was already a disciple of Jesus (v. 1; I Tim. 4:12).
 - 2. Timothy was well spoken of by the brethren – he had a good reputation (v. 2).
 - 3. Timothy became a traveling companion and coworker with Paul (v. 3; I Thess. 3:1-2).
- C. Paul testified to Timothy's faithful character (Phil. 2:19-23). Timothy had proven himself as a worker.
- D. Faith doesn't happen by accident. Let's consider what took place in Timothy's life that led to such a sincere faith.

Timothy's Mother Overcame Obstacles

- A. Perhaps Timothy's mom was converted during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14).
- B. She raised Timothy in a mixed home (Acts 16:1) – his father wasn't Jewish or a believer.
- C. We cannot let obstacles hinder our faith (Jn. 16:33).

Timothy's Mother Taught Him from Childhood

- A. Timothy was acquainted with the sacred writings from his childhood (2 Tim. 3:15).
 - 1. God instructed his people to teach their children the Law (Deut. 6:7; 11:19-20).
 - 2. Jewish children began learning the Torah as young as 5 years of age.
- B. The scriptures can make one wise for salvation through faith. This is why we teach our children.
- C. Two things to remember when it comes to teaching our children the scriptures:
 - 1. We must start teaching our children when they are young (Prov. 22:6).
 - 2. Our homes need to be places where the Bible is cherished/respected (Psa. 119:16; 47-48; 97; 127).

Timothy's Mother Modeled Godliness

- A. Paul commanded him to continue (abide, dwell, remain) in what he firmly believed (2 Tim. 3:14).
- B. We need to complement what we teach with how we live (I Cor. 11:1; Matt. 5:16).
- C. What do our kids see from us? Love for the Bible, respects others, service to others, repentance, etc.

Conclusion:

- A. We all have something special to help pass on to the next generation.
- B. What better way to help serve the Lord than by investing in the next generation for the cause of Christ.