

BIBLE TEXT | 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

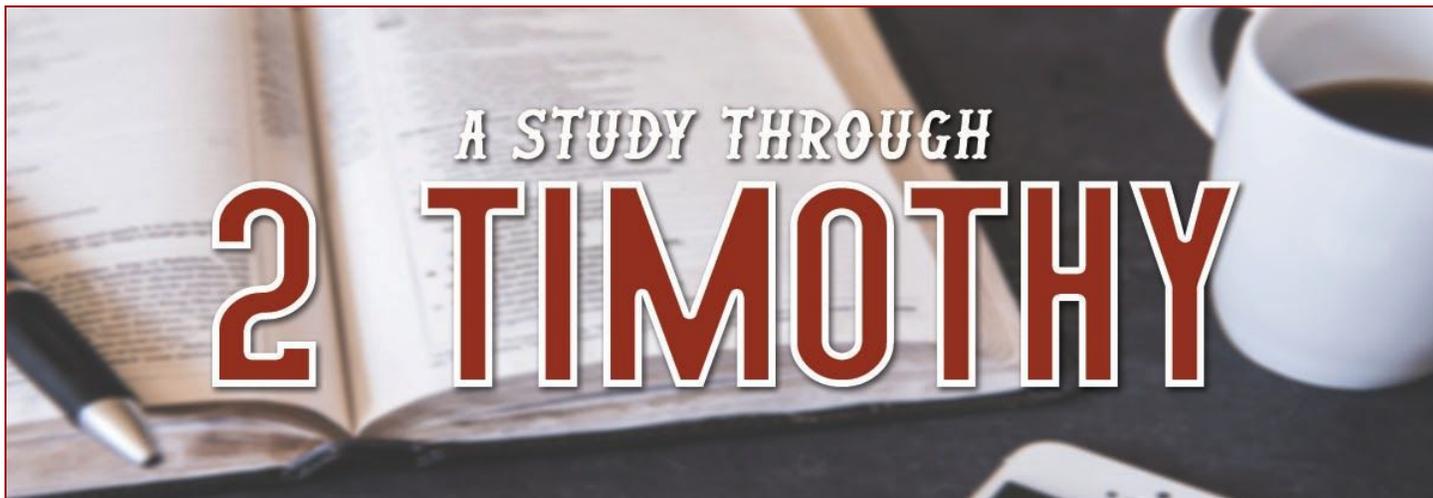
3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. **4** As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. **5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. **6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

DEVOTIONAL FOR 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-7

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2 Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy as Paul is in a dungeon. Paul was awaiting his trial which would end in his death. He was all alone as most everyone had abandoned him and he wished to see Timothy again. However, in these difficult circumstances, Paul sought, first and foremost, to encourage, challenge and disciple Timothy. What faith and steadfast hope one must have to spend, what Paul assuredly knew could be, his last days on this earth ministering to others! These few verses are rich and full of wisdom and exhortations to Timothy and now all believers. Though we could spend weeks looking over each verse, I want to spend time today encouraging you to be steadfast and faithful because not only can and will you create a heritage for the Lord, but the Lord notices!

I remember going to church when I was five years old. My parents didn't bring us or even care that we went. In fact, it was a little old lady from down the road. Mrs. Lois Westbrook, my "Lois" or "Eunice", was in her late 70's. She would drive up to our house in her old 60's model car to pick up a bunch of wild heathen kids, who knew no better! She would patiently wait for us and then take us to church, teach us, love on us, pray for us and often feed us. Once



church was done, we would either go home or to her house. We would sing as she played piano and spend hours talking and playing. Mrs. Westbrook changed my life. She is one of the greatest gifts God ever brought into my life and changed the course of my life forever.

In this scripture, Paul longs to see Timothy, encourages and challenges Timothy, which are all Godly things for us to do for each other. What sticks out to me the most is verse 5. Paul recalls Timothy's faith that was alive first in his grandmother Lois and then in his mother Eunice. Paul even says that the faith they have he is sure is in Timothy. What a testimony! Eunice, Timothy's mother, is mentioned in Acts 16:1, and then in 2 Timothy 3:15 where Paul tells Timothy to remember how from infancy he had learned the Holy Scriptures. The legacy they left was faithfulness to pass on Christ to their children. If you get nothing else from this scripture today, understand that your faithfulness makes a difference to not just a few, but to generations.

Paul, in verse 3, talks about praying night and day for Timothy. In verse 6 & 7, he reminds Timothy to rekindle God's gift, to not walk in fear and that God gives us a power of love and self-control.

How can we be more like Lois and Eunice? We must strive to be faithful each day to God. Pray for your children; teach them the Word, even though the world says not to. Live out of love and self-control so your children will see a sincere faith. Maybe today you say my kids are grown or you don't have any, that shouldn't keep us from being a "mom" or "dad", "grandma" or "grandpa" to someone. Titus 2:1-5 tells us how we should live, pouring out the love of Christ and training those behind us. Your faithfulness changes the world. You may not see it or even know it this side of heaven, but God is faithful and is using your faithfulness to change lives.

Questions:

1. Who has been a "Lois" or "Eunice" in your life? If possible, reach out to them today to encourage and thank them.
2. Who would consider you a "Lois" or "Eunice" in their life? If no one, what is stopping you from being a "Lois" or "Eunice"?
3. Being faithful starts with your walk...your time with the Lord, prayer time, scripture reading, etc. In what ways are you not abiding with Him? What steps can you take to begin to live a life that pours into others?