

## The Attributes of a Great Mother

### (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

One of the closet people to the Apostle Paul was a young man by the name of Timothy (2 Timothy 1:2). Paul met Timothy while preaching in Lystra. By this time Timothy had developed a reputation of being a young man of integrity and influence (Acts 16:1-2). Paul immediately took a liking to Timothy and asked him to travel with him preaching the gospel.

Paul told the brethren in Philippi that Timothy was trustworthy, caring and a hard worker (Philippians 2:19-22). How did Timothy develop these characteristics?

Timothy became a great man of faith in large part because of the upbringing he received from his mother Eunice. From her life we learn that a great mother possesses at least four important attributes.

- I. She instills in children \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. See 2 Timothy 3:14-15.
    1. When Paul mentions the sacred writings, he is talking about the scriptures (specifically the writings of the Old Testament).
    2. From the time Timothy was child his mother taught him God's word (2 Timothy 1:3-5).
  - B. Like Eunice, a great mother gives her children consistent teaching from the Bible from a young age.
  
- II. She instills in her children a sincere \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. Timothy certainly had this in his life (2 Timothy 1:5).
    1. When Paul says Timothy had a sincere faith, he literally means his faith was non-hypocritical.
    2. Timothy's faith was gained from the right source (Romans 10:17).
    3. Timothy developed this by watching his mother (Titus 2:3-5).
  - B. Like Eunice, a great mother doesn't just teach her children the truth, but lives it in front of them every day!
  
- III. She instills in her children a desire to \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. Timothy was from the same city where Paul was stoned and left to die (Acts 14:19).
    1. And yet, Timothy still accepted an invitation to travel with Paul preaching (2 Timothy 3:10-11).
    2. This kind of commitment to serve in the kingdom could not have been easily developed unless it was first encouraged at home.
  - B. Like Eunice, a great mother encourages her children to be active in the work of God.
  
- IV. She is willing to do these things \_\_\_\_\_ is she has to.**
  - A. This is not to say that Timothy's father was not a good man and father. But it is pretty obvious that he left no spiritual mark on his son (Acts 16:1).
  - B. It has never been God's will for a mother to raise the children to serve God by herself (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 20-21). But sometimes that's how it is. If you grew up in a situation like Timothy, thank God that you have a mother like Eunice!