

The Apostolic Ministry of Mothers

I. I want to look at Timothy and see what made him the great man that he was... a true 'son' to Paul?

A. Paul encountered Timothy ready and pre-configured for success

1. Too often we focus on Timothy as such a great 'son' to Paul, but we do not look at the processes that enabled Paul to mentor, disciple, and bring him into his prophetic purpose and ministry

a. No doubt God brought Paul into Timothy's life to release and activate a powerful call on his life, but the work done prior to Paul's work cannot be ignored

2. In fact, Paul actually gives us the reason why Timothy was destined to succeed in his call

a. **2 Timothy 1.2-6**

b. Paul calls Timothy his beloved son, he gives thanks for Timothy regularly in his prayers, and longs to see Timothy so he could be filled with joy

(1) Clearly Timothy is someone for whom Paul has great hopes and dreams in the Lord

c. What is in Paul's mind as he pours out his thoughts to Timothy?

(1) **Verse 5:** "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."

d. Paul's work in Timothy's life was built upon the foundation laid by two generations of mothers!

(1) They laid a foundation of 'sincere faith' in Timothy

(a) 'Unfeigned' or 'genuine', 'not hypocritical'

e. Notice Verse 6: "For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands"

(1) **"For this reason"** – because of the awesome foundation laying apostolic work of 2 mothers!

(2) Paul had imparted to Timothy a spiritual gift, and now Paul is able to exhort him to purpose-filled use of it 'for this reason'!

II. Success in kingdom life is directly connected to the level of accurate foundation building that mothers do in the early life of a child

A. Moses is a powerful example of this apostolic work

1. **Hebrews 11.23-24**

- a. Notice that when Moses grew up, even though he had been raised and trained in Pharaoh's house and schools, 'refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter'—Why?
2. Moses' foundational identity came, not from Pharaoh's daughter, but from his own mother who devised a way to lay a foundation before he went off to live in the house of Pharaoh's daughter!

a. **Exodus 1.22-3.9**

3. We are not told how long Jochebed (Moses' mother) 'nursed' Moses, but it was long enough lay a foundation that stayed with him and enabled God to call him into his destiny

a. **Exodus 2.10-11**

B. Solomon is another example of the apostolic grace and power of Mothers

1. **Proverbs 31.1-9**

- a. Without getting into the details of what was taught to King Lemuel by his mother, suffice it to say that it was massive foundational issues for his future
- b. His father was not silent by any means, but the roles of Father and Mother, while unified in purpose, seem to be distinct in function

(1) **Proverbs 6.20**

(2) **Proverbs 29.15**

2. **Proverbs 31.10-31** is included in what Solomon was taught by his mother, and is an acrostic that was probably one of the means to teach a child the Hebrew alphabet

- a. Verses 10 through 31 (22 verses) begin with each letter of the alphabet

C. This is what got Timothy started on his path to greatness under the 'fathering' of the apostle Paul—an apostolically compatible foundation laid by two mom's

1. **2 Timothy 3:13-15**

- a. Paul exhorts Timothy to "continue in the things that he has learned and become convinced of", that is Paul's work in his life
 - b. But then he also says 'from childhood' Timothy had know the 'sacred writings/Bible' which is able to give him success into the future!
2. I am convinced that the greatest thing that a Mother can give to a family is not a second income, but God-designed capacity to teach a child a foundational understanding of Scriptures which lead to Kingdom success!
- a. I am aware of the implications of that statement, but we must start our prioritization of time, money, resource, etc., from an accurate understanding of the God-designed power and role of a Mother
 - b. The greatest thing we can give our Mothers is the opportunity and support to do just that both in their own children's lives and the lives of our corporate children!