

Women of Influence

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15; 1 Timothy 2:15

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A. The Heart (2 Timothy 1:5):

1. For I am mindful – Paul is making a conscious effort to remember what the Lord had instilled in Timothy, which was recognized by the elders (1 Tim. 4:14) and by those whom Timothy first served (Acts 16:1-3). This is central to Paul's desire to encourage Timothy amid the difficult circumstances he is facing (2 Tim. 2:14-26; 3:1-9, 12-13). Paul remembers this because of Timothy's commendation and the faithful manner in which he served alongside Paul.
 - a) Timothy's father was a Gentile and probably an unbeliever; hence no mention of him is made here. According to this verse, Paul seems to attribute Timothy's conversion to his mother and grandmother (cf. 2 Tim. 3:15). References to Timothy as Paul's son in the faith (cf. 1:2; 2:1; 1 Tim. 1:2) could therefore probably be understood to mean a mentor-protégé relationship.[\[1\]](#)
2. Sincere faith – Paul recognized that Timothy's deep conviction and steadfast commitment were genuine, without any pretense. This authenticity stemmed from Timothy's heartfelt confidence in the truth of God's Word. His convictions developed amidst extensive teaching about the scriptures, arising from sincere belief rather than external influence.
 - a) Paul did not think that Timothy's tears were evidence of failure or insincerity. Paul was sure that Timothy's faith was genuine, and that this faith would see him through in spite of the troubles he was facing. Apparently Lois, Timothy's grandmother, was the first one in the family won to Christ; then his mother, Eunice, was converted. Timothy's father was a Greek (Acts 16:1), so Eunice had not practiced the orthodox Jewish faith. However, Timothy's mother and grandmother had seen to it that he was taught the

Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15); and this was great preparation for the hearing of the Gospel. [2]

3. Sincere faith – Timothy’s love for the Word and willingness to live it were inspired by more than just teaching; it was a Word lived before him. The love of his mother and grandmother helped the Word find its way into his heart, giving Timothy a passionate desire to live for the Lord God. This is why his faith is sincere.
4. Dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice - What Paul saw in Timothy was the presence of the Holy Spirit empowering him to exercise his faith in the same manner it did for his mother and grandmother. Timothy existed before he became a pastor and must now continue by the power of the Holy Spirit. This would only remain consistent when Timothy functions with a deep conviction in God’s Word. This ignites a powerful transformation that persistently directs (2 Tim. 1:6-9) what he needs to do each day.
 - a) “Dwelt in” is *enoikeō* (ἐνοικεω), “to dwell in,” metaphorically, “to dwell in one and influence him for good.” The word *oikos* (οἶκος) means “a home,” and *oikeoμ* means “to live at home.” The supernatural faith resident in Timothy was at home in him in the sense that it held free sway over his life. [3]
 - b) In the Hebrew family, the mother occupied a higher position than that enjoyed by women in many other nations. The mother's duties were primarily domestic, but her family and Hebrew society held her in high regard.
 - c) The Psalmist depicts deepest grief as that of one who mourneth for his mother <Ps 35:14>.
 - d) Jewish Scripture education began by the age of five or six, although this education always emphasized memorization and recitation more than reading skills.
5. I am sure – Paul is completely persuaded that what was instilled into Timothy, so that he teaches and lives a life fully surrendered to the Lord, is still within him.

B. The Will (2 Timothy 3:14-15):

1. Continue in the things you have learned – Paul commands Timothy, especially since he knew what Timothy was taught, to remain steadfast in the knowledge he acquired from his mother and grandmother. He commands Timothy to make it a habit not to deviate from not just the knowledge but also the understanding of the scriptures that the Lord blessed him to experience.
 - a) Timothy had learned from Paul (vs. 10-11), as well as from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5). Before their conversion to Christianity, Lois and Eunice had faithfully instructed young Timothy in "the sacred writings." After accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they became instruments in God's hands, working alongside Paul to help Timothy recognize Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises.
2. Continue in the things you have learn – The basis for our faith must reside on our commitment to continually remain students of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15; Phil. 1:9-11).
3. Convince - Timothy must decide once and for all to be totally persuaded to remain committed to what he has been taught. This conviction would move him to cling to every aspect of the knowledge, regardless of what he encountered. Remaining sober-minded is critical for experiencing a transformed life in which the Holy Spirit's influence is greater than the desires of the flesh. (1 Peter 1:13-16).
 - a) These things had come from two sources, which Paul set side by side as of equal importance: his own testimony, and the Holy Scriptures, which at that time of course consisted of the Old Testament. Timothy's complete confidence in both sources would be enough to prevent any slippage in his commitment to the truth. Again these verses seem to imply that Timothy's salvation occurred prior to his acquaintance with Paul (cf. 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2, 5; Acts 16:1). The Scriptures bring salvation only when one places his faith in Christ Jesus.[\[4\]](#)
4. Knowing from whom – The knowledge provided by his mother and grandmother came not only from what they taught him, but also from his daily experiences being around them. Through these experiences, Timothy developed a complete understanding of the divine word of God.

5. Knowing from whom – Transformative teaching begins with a true understanding of God’s Word. However, without observable application, we do not create an appetite in others to desire deeper spiritual growth (Matt. 28:20; “*teaching them to observe.....*”; Hebr. 13:7-8). As a result, the home and the church become places of coming and going rather than places of coming and growing.

6. You have learned - Timothy directed his mind to all that had been taught to him, especially because it came from his mother and grandmother. Their influence led him to grow in knowledge and made it his practice to apply daily what he was learning to his life.

7. Childhood (normally at five, for Timothy it was at infancy) – Timothy’s mother and grandmother started teaching him from this time he was an infant.
 - a) From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures: Jewish boys typically began formal study of the OT at around five years old. However, Timothy’s mother and grandmother taught him at home even before he reached that age.
 - b) A Jewish boy formally began to study the OT when he was five years old. His mother and grandmother taught Timothy at home even before he reached this age.
 - c) The Jewish parents' duty was to teach their children the law when in their fifth year.
 - d) Note the expression “*from infancy.*” Literally Paul says, “*from an infant.*” In some passages the word used in the original refers to an unborn child (Luke 1:41, 44); elsewhere simply to a very small child, a baby or infant (Luke 2:12,16; 18:15; Acts 7:19; 1 Peter 2:2).

8. Know the sacred writing – Through the influence of his mother and grandmother, Timothy developed a complete understanding of all that was taught in the Old Testament. As his understanding increased, he became skilled in interpreting the Law, which helped make him an effective teacher (2 Tim. 2:14-15). This is why he stood out among others in Acts 16:1-3, and why Paul could tell him to remain committed to sound teaching (2 Tim. 4:1-3). Timothy became highly skilled in the Scriptures.
 - a) “The holy scriptures” is *hiera grammata* (ἱερα γραμματα), referring here to the Old Testament scriptures which Timothy was taught. The word *gramma* (γραμμα) means, “that which has been written, any writing, a document, a record.” The word

“scripture” comes from the Latin *scriptura* and means “anything written.” The author has retained this word in preference to the word “writing,” since it has by usage come to signify the Word of God. Josephus used the above expression of the sacred writings of the Old Testament. [5]

b) It was definitely true that from early childhood until the very moment when Paul wrote these words, Timothy had been continually growing in his knowledge of the Old Testament. Therefore, he was to remain firm in the faith and continue clinging to what he had learned so thoroughly and had become fully persuaded of in his heart.

9. Which are able – The Old Testament becoming a pattern for Timothy’s life provided him with everything he needed to live a spiritually empowered life. This foundation enabled Timothy to develop an insightful and comprehensive approach to interpreting the Word of God.
 10. To give you wisdom – Learning and experiencing the true meaning of Scripture was not merely an academic for Timothy. It provided him with spiritual influence that enabled him to live insightfully and skillfully – not only in interpreting the Scriptures, but also in apply them to life.
 11. To give you wisdom – What our children need is for the Word to lead them to wisdom, so that they can make spiritually informed and insightful decisions in every moment of the day.
 12. Salvation – Because Timothy grew in the knowledge, understanding, and skillful application of God’s Word, he was able to “*work out his deliverance from any sinful characteristics* (2 Tim. 2:20-26) *in fear and trembling.*” (Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:20-23) As a result, Paul told him that his development could become such a powerful testimony that, through his teaching and lifestyle, he could help others experience the work out of their salvation (1 Tim. 4:11-16). In the same way, we, too can become “*salt and light to the world.*” (Matt. 5:13-16)
- a) The Bible also helps give us the assurance of our salvation (see 1 John 5:9–13). Then the Bible becomes our spiritual food to nourish us that we might grow in grace and serve Christ. It is our sword for fighting Satan and overcoming temptation. [6]

13. Through faith – Experiencing deliverance from the flesh occurs when we willfully decide to obey the Word of God with a deep conviction that His Word is true. This is where a believer trust God’s Word with all their heart, and this trust produces an ongoing transformation. Progressively, we come more under the influence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:9-13) than the flesh allowing us to be freed from the bondage of the flesh (Romans 7:14-25; Gal. 5:16-25). This deliverance empowered by the Holy Spirit is our salvation (Titus 3:4-8) to eventually becoming drunk in the Spirit (Eph. 5:15-18). This process is generated by a complete surrender to the Lord God.

14. Through faith – The more we consistently teach and live out our convictions from God’s Word, like Lois and Eunice did, the more we encourage our children to work out their salvation in a meaningful and practical way. This enhances their potential to develop godly characters. As they grow spiritually, they are increasingly equipped to experience steady, sustained development in their walk with God. Their faith deepens to the point where ungodly friendships are more easily recognized and set aside, distorted or harmful influences are rejected, and a clearer sense of purpose and discipline is formed in the fabric of their lives.

[1] Litfin, A. D. (1985). [2 Timothy](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 750). Victor Books.

[2] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 240–241). Victor Books.

[3] Wuest, K. S. 1997, c1984. *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* . Eerdmans: Grand Rapids

[4] Litfin, A. D. (1985). [2 Timothy](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 757). Victor Books.

[5] Wuest, K. S. 1997, c1984. *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* . Eerdmans: Grand Rapids

[6] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 252). Victor Books.