

# THE INFLUENCE OF GODLY WOMEN

**2 Timothy 1:1-7** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, v2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. v3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. v4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. v5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. v6 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. v7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. **2 Timothy 3:14-17** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, v15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. v16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, v17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## I. The REALITY of their GODLY LIVES

### 1. They were most likely some of Pauls first converts.

Timothy is mentioned as a disciple in Acts 16:1-3 He (Paul) came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, ... which is Paul's second missionary journey, so his mother most likely became a believer during Paul's first missionary journey in Acts 14:6-7 "they ... fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, v7 where they continued to preach the good news.

### 2. They were CONVERTS from Judaism.

The were believers regardless of the place of women in Jewish religious practices. Women were, by and large, regarded as inferior in Jewish circles. Some Jewish men would pray, "thank God that I am not a gentile a woman or a slave(animal)" Acts 16:1-3 He (Paul) came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, ...

### 3. They were BELIEVERS in an unbeliever's home.

Timothy's father was a practicing Greek. Acts 16:1-3 He (Paul) came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, **but whose father was a Greek.** v2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. v3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, **so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.**

## II. The CHARACTER of their GODLY LIVES

### 1. It was a SINCERE FAITH. - v5 I have been reminded of **your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice**

The word SINCERE in the Greek means-without hypocrisy. John 1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

2. It was a **SECURE FAITH.** - v5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, **now lives in you also.** The word "NOW LIVES" is also translated as "NOW DWELLS". The Greek word does not apply to a transient guest, but only to a settled inhabitant.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**

3. It was a **SHARING FAITH.** - v6 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. v7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. Paul is encouraging Timothy to use his "GIFTS" in the same was as his grandmother and mother. Paul is PERSUADED (convinced) that Timothy's faith is real, largely due to his mother's and grandmother's influence in his life. Timothy's faith and ministry that influenced countless people for Christ began with 2 committed mothers.

## III. The CONTENT of their GODLY LIVES

1. Their lives were **GROUNDED IN GOD'S WORD.** - But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it** The lives of Lois and Eunice was saturated in God's Word. There are mainly two Greek words for gaining knowledge.

Knowledge gained through intimate understanding or knowledge gained through investigative discovery. This is what is referred to here.

2. Their lives were **ENLIGHTENED IN GOD'S WORD.** - v15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** Some books can teach you knowledge, some can entertain you. BUT ONLY GOD'S WORD CAN "MAKE YOU WISE".

3. Their lives were **EQUIPPED BY GOD'S WORD.** - v16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **v17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the knowledge and understanding of God's Word.