

# A Godly Mother's Unfeign Faith

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

July 3, 2011

*"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also...(3:15-17)And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim.1:5 with 3:15-17*

This morning I would like to address all those who are mothers and those who will be mother's one day. We are given by the Apostle Paul one of the most precious examples of motherhood and parenting that should be in every mother and father's heart regarding our posterity in regards to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation.

We are told in the Decalogue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment in Ex.20:4-6, *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation** of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."* Now, if the sinful action of a father affects the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation, I also believe we can deduce from this, that, the spiritual actions of the father will also affect for the good the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation. To all those who name the name of Christ this morning, I believe that we would want the spiritual blessings of God upon our descendants. Proverbs 3:33 says, *"The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just."*

I believe that we see this blessed application in Lois, Timothy's grandmother and also in Eunice Timothy's mother, to which I believe also followed in Timothy's household. This happened because one day in the life of Lois, she became a follower of Jesus Christ and sought to raise her children in the nurture and admonition of the LORD! She was no doubt fully persuaded to raise her children in the ways of the Lord against the onslaught of the wickedness that prevailed in the Roman Empire of her day, when Christians had no religious freedom. How much more should Christian mothers and fathers take advantage of the religious freedom we still have in this country, though it is slipping away fast, in seeking to raise up their children in the ways of the Lord! Regardless of the time period in which we live, we must raise our children in nurture and admonition of the Lord. This also reminds of Peter's first sermon in Acts 2 where thousands were converted to God. Turn quickly to Acts 2:37-42, *"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye*

shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.** 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.** 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

We are not told when Lois was saved, but we can see that it had an effect in her life and in the life of her family as she sought to raise her children for the Lord in the untoward generation which she lived. The word untoward in verse 40 in the Greek is ‘**Skolios.**’ This word means crooked, bent, warped, perverse and wicked. It is used also in Phil.2:15, where it says, “*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a **crooked and perverse nation**, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*” Here we are 20 centuries later and we must still raise our children in the midst of an untoward generation, yea, we need to raise our children in the Lord in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, where we have a president that for the first time in our nation’s history is redefining the Biblical mandate of marriage between a man and a woman. No Mr. President, God did not create Adam and Steve or Mary and Eve, no it was ADAM and EVE, a man and a woman.

So in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is of necessity that we have godly mothers who like Lois, have given themselves over to the truth of the Scriptures. God help all of us to have this conviction, especially mothers who will have a tremendous effect on their children in raising them for the glory of God. May God be pleased to give us the courage and conviction in raising our children in this untoward generation! Why am I so adamant in making this point to mothers and also fathers? Real simple, if we do not raise our children in the ways of the Lord, somebody else will raise your children in the ways of the world. Your children will either grow up with a Biblical view of God and His ways or your children will grow in worldview that is diametrically opposed to the Bible and God. One way or another your children will be instructed; guided and led by either the Bible or the world, there is no standing still and there is no neutrality, you will have an impact of them or the world will have an impact. Lois knew this in her time and age and you must know this in our day. Remember the verses I read earlier from the Decalogue, notice how verse 5 ends, “*5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation **of them that hate me.***” Notice the last phrase, “*...**of them that hate me.***” The world in general is diametrically opposed to the Bible and hates God, if you don’t see this then perhaps you are still blind and cannot see afar off.

God helps us in this untoward generation; that is, in this crooked and perverse generation that we live. There 4 things I would like to share with you this morning:

- I. A Faithful Message.
- II. A Faithful Mission or Ministry.
- III. A Faithful Molding.
- IV. A Faithful Mother.

- I. A Faithful Message.

The first thing we want to consider is that Lois and Eunice had a Faithful Message, i.e. the Scriptures. Both Lois and Eunice were convinced that the Word of God was the rule of their faith and practice and so with simple faith they believed that the Scriptures were the Word of God, they didn't question it, they didn't look for the original manuscripts, they knew that God had preserve His word for their generation. Whatever portion of Scripture they had, whether it was part of the Old Testament or part of the New Testament they believed that it was the Word of God. They undertook the responsibility in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They knew the Deuteronomy account in chapter 6:4-9, "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 **And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,** and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*" They knew the importance of conveying the Scriptures to their children. Notice again 2 Tim. 3:15-17, "*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" Timothy from a child had been taught the Scriptures. Lois taught them to Eunice and Eunice taught them to Timothy and I'm sure Timothy taught them to his own children. What faithfulness to a faithful message, from the first generation to the second, to the third and to the fourth generation there were spiritual blessings, because of what one woman's heart and love had for her children, after God saved her. Lois began this spiritual chain; a spiritual conduit and it continued to Eunice and then from Eunice to Timothy and Timothy to his children. Why? Because they knew they had the word of God in their hands and in their hearts. It is one thing to have the Bible in your hands and it's another thing altogether to have in your heart. Ps.119:11, "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*" They thoroughly believed what the Bible said about itself, they fully believed and were persuaded that, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished*

unto all good works.” They didn’t question the Word of God; they didn’t look for the originals to see if there were any mistakes in their Bible, no by simple faith they believe it was the WORD OF GOD and they were submissive to it. They believed in the inspiration of the Scriptures, that they were infallible and inerrant and could be trusted for every aspect of life. They clearly understood that the Word of God was needful and essential for salvation, faith and knowledge of God. The truth concerning God, Christ, Holy Spirit and salvation were of supreme importance. She also understood the importance of the **Inspiration, Revelation, Preservation, Authority, Sufficiency and Illumination** of the Word of God, she was fully convinced of them; she knew she had a faithful message in the Bible. These truths were very important to her and this is why she gave herself over to teaching them to her children as a faithful mother.

**INSPIRATION:** The Scriptures are the inspired Word of God. They are God-breathed. 2 Tim.3:16-17, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” The word ‘**all**’ in verse 16 is a very important (Gk. pas) adjective. This word embraces and takes in the idea of oneness, that is, a complete sum or total of the whole, therefore refers to every passage of Scripture and every word in every passage. No exceptions. Every single word of Scripture is God-breathed. Thus, they believed and embraced **verbal plenary inspiration**. Plenary means that inspiration extends to every part of the Bible, all the Scriptures. Verbal means that inspiration extends to the very words of the text, every word is inspired.

**REVELATION:** The Scriptures are the revelation of God. This is the means by which God can be known. This is how God communicates with man. Deut. 29:29 says, “*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: **but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever**, that we may do all the words of this law.*” The Bible is the complete revealed will of God to us for all things that pertain to life and salvation. God reveals Himself in a two-fold manner, general revelation and special revelation. By general or natural revelation God reveals Himself in creation and in the conscience, but this type of revelation is insufficient to save sinners. It only teaches us that there is a God. Special or Divine revelation is the means God has chosen to reveal Himself in a salvific way. Special revelation transcends from the physical to the spiritual in the grace of saving knowledge. God will quicken His Word to our hearts in regeneration.

- **PRESERVATION:** The Scriptures are preserved by God for us. God has providentially preserved His written Word for us. The Bible itself sets this forth, “*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD; **thou shalt preserve them** from this*

generation for ever" (Psa.12:6-7). "For ever, O LORD, **thy word is settled** in heaven" (Psa.119:89).

- **AUTHORITY:** The Scriptures are the final authority over all matters of faith and practice. This simply means that the ultimate basis of all authority and truth is Scripture. Scripture has the final say over all that we believe and thus instructs us how we are to live those beliefs. The 10 Commandments are the standard concerning authority, "*And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*" Ex.20:1-17
- **SUFFICIENCY:** The Scriptures are sufficient for all matters of life, that is, what the Scriptures have to say is adequate to equip us for everything that pertains to live. 2 Peter 1:3, "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*" Ps.119:97-105, "*O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" It means that everything binding on our consciences and everything required of us is given to us in Scripture. This is why we are prohibited and not allowed to add or take away from the Scriptures. Thus the Scriptures are the perfect and only standard of revealed truth in everything we must believe in order to

be saved and in order to glorify God. Where it does not give direct teaching or instruction it gives principles by which we are to live. God has given to us the Bible so that we can live as real people in the real world, not in some false utopia that the world promises but never fulfills. He gave us the Scriptures to teach and instruct us to be joyful, to have peace and happiness and to be fulfilled and be blessed in this life, for He promises, *"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* John 10:10. The Book you hold addresses every needful and important question that man has or will ever ask.

- **ILLUMINATION:** The Scriptures illuminate or give light to the mind, heart and soul as the Holy Spirit teaches us. The Holy Spirit opens up our understanding as He teaches us the Word of God. Consider the following verses, *"And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in **understanding**, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, Ex31:3; "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth **understanding** unto the simple," Ps. 119:130; "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is **understanding**," Prov. 9:10; "Then opened he their **understanding**, that they might understand the scriptures," Luke 24:45; "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an **understanding**, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life," 1 John 5:20; "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." 1 John 2:27.*

This without a shadow of doubt; did Lois and Eunice believed, they knew that they had A FAITHFUL MESSAGE and therefore communicated it to their children!

## II. A Faithful Mission or Ministry.

Secondly, they had a faithful ministry or a faithful mission. 2 Timothy 3:15, *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* What mothers need to understand is that their home is a missionary field. This is their God given duty to instruct and raise their children in the ways of the Lord. Now, the influence of the feminine movement has cause the status of motherhood to decline, because women are encouraged to follow a career and not in raising their children. They have a mission at home they have a ministry at home, this is the most important mandate that they have, sorry, not your careers, but in the raising of your children in the nurture and admonition of the LORD! I know that some of you mothers work, some of you have to work, I understand that, but it does not in any form or fashion take away from your most important job in the WORLD, raising your children in the word of God. This is also the duty of the father also, first and foremost, but mothers spent more time with their children than the fathers and if you have a weak husband who doesn't take

up his role, then the mother must, yes must teach the children. Western culture ideology regarding women and professional career lives, does not remove the role of motherhood, given to them from God. Timothy from a child knew the Scriptures, which means that Eunice as a child also knew the Scripture from Mama Lois. These two women gave themselves over to make sure their children knew the HOLY SCRIPTURES; they were not in the work world they were at home raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Again, I am trying to offend anyone; I'm just sharing what I believe the Scriptures teach. I am not trying to put a guilt trip on anyone and I know that some of you have to work, but that does not lessen your God given role as a MOTHER.

The word child in our text, in the Greek gives the idea of an infant, a babe. In other words, it was at the knees of grandma and mama that little Timmy learn about God, the Bible, the gospel and salvation that one day produce genuine salvation in the life of Timothy. The best thing you can do for your children, as babes, infants, toddlers up to their teenage years is that you consistently teach them about God, the Bible, the gospel and salvation, nothing in this world is more important than this. I'm not saying you do this 24/7 and never talk about anything else, but to make sure that you take the time you teach them these basic but very important things. Why? Because this is your missionary field, your children! Remember again, if you don't teach your children, someone else will, don't lose sight of the most important mission and ministry in your life, not your careers, no YOUR CHILDREN, because you only have them young once.

### **III. A Faithful Molding.**

The third thing we see is a FAITHFUL MOLDING. By molding I basically mean, the fashioning, shaping and forming of their children. Lois to Eunice and Eunice to Timothy, again it says, "***And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures***, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." From an infant, they were faithful in making known the Holy Scriptures to Timothy. We know that it had a profound affect in Timothy in that it produced salvation for him. The phrase 'hast known,' is the Greek word, 'Eido,' which means to see or perceive with the eyes in order to discern or discover something. It also means to inspect, examine, behold, to know, that is; to get some knowledge or the meaning of something. 'Eido,' is in the perfect tense and means that Timothy received knowledge of the Holy Scriptures in early childhood and continued to the present time of the writing of 2 Timothy. In other words, Timothy could not recall a time when he had not known the Holy Scriptures.

Charles Spurgeon says, "*Babes receive impressions long before we are aware of the fact. A special vantage-ground is lost when even babyhood is left uncultured. The Holy Scripture may be learned by children as soon as they are capable of understanding anything. It is a very remarkable fact, which I have heard asserted by many teachers, that children will learn to read out of the Bible better than from any other book....Give us the first seven years of a child, with God's grace, and we may defy the world, the*

*flesh, and the devil to ruin that immortal soul.*” Have you notice that the government wants your children in pre-kinder now at about age 3 or 4, they want to mold their minds early with a philosophical world view first. When I used to sale World Book Encyclopedias I would also sell the Child-craft set for the younger children, because one of my close’s to get a sale was to inform the parents that at age 3 and 4, this is person’s, a child’s time period where they will have the highest retention level. So parents of young children do not lose sight that at age 3 & 4 they have the highest retention level, so make sure that you continually over and over read them the Scriptures! It is easier at this age while theirs heart are still soft and impressionable. If you do not mold their hearts someone else will, get their hearts while they are young, because their hearts are still pliable. It’s like planting a small tree that looks like a twig which easily bends to grow in the direction you would want that tree to grow before it becomes a tree and is now too hard to bend. MOLD their hearts while they are young, mold their hearts in the ways of God while they are young or they will break your hearts when they get old! Daniel Webster said, “...from the time that, at my mother’s feet, or on my father’s knee, I first learned to lisp verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation. If there be anything in my style or thoughts to be commended, the credit is due to my kind parents in instilling into my mind an early love of the Scriptures.” One writer says: “Begin to train them early, to fear and love the Lord, to carry on life’s pathway God’s lamp, His holy Word.” The following is from Precept Austin’s webpage: “Children can surely come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as amply testified by the following well known believers...**Polycarp**, the great church father, was nine when he was saved. **Matthew Henry** was eleven. **Jonathan Edwards**, America’s greatest theologian, was seven. Hymn writer **Isaac Watts** was nine. Evangelist Henry Drummond, Moody’s friend, was nine. **E. Stanley Jones**, the great Methodist missionary statesman, was moved to be a missionary when he was eight years old. He saw a picture of a big tiger standing beside a small Indian boy, and underneath was the caption, “Who will tell me about Jesus?” And Stanley Jones said, “I will.” **Corrie ten Boom** asked Christ to be her Savior at age five. **W. A. Criswell**, the famous Southern Baptist pastor, was saved when he was ten, but he felt God calling him into ministry even earlier. “I had been thinking about being a preacher for years, since I was six,” he recalled. “I knew I wasn’t converted yet, hadn’t been saved. But I knew God wanted me to be a preacher.” Hymnist **Philip Bliss** was twelve years old when he made his public confession of Christ. **William Booth**, founder of the Salvation Army, was fifteen. **Dr. Harry Ironside** was thirteen. **Count Nikolaus Ludwig Zinzendorf**, who gave rise to modern Protestant missions, was saved at age four.” (Spurgeon at age 14 or 15) We know that the Lord saved the prophet Samuel at a young age and David also. Why? Again, because these people’s mother’s began to mold their hearts at a young age in the Holy Scriptures! “**John Quincy Adams** once wrote that...So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more confident my hope that they will prove useful citizens, and respectful members of society.”

Again, “**And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Charles Spurgeon says, “I lay stress upon that word **Holy Scriptures**. One of the first objects of the Sabbath-school should be to teach the children great reverence for these **holy** writings, these inspired Scriptures. The Jews esteemed the Old Testament beyond all price; and though unfortunately many of them fell into a superstitious reverence for the letter and lost the spirit of it, yet were they much to be commended for their profound regard to the **holy** oracles. Especially is this feeling of reverence needed nowadays. Observe that Timothy was taught, not only to reverence **holy** things in general, but especially to know the Scriptures. Suppose we get the children together on Sabbath days, and then amuse them and make the hours to pass away pleasantly; or instruct them, as we do in the week-days, in the elements of a moral education, what have we done?”



*We have done nothing worthy of the day, or of the Church of God.”* The following is copied from Austin Precept’s web page, “**Godly Grandmothers** - A little boy described grandmothers like this: A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own, so she loves everybody else’s. Grandmas don’t have to do anything but be there. If they take you for a walk, they slow down past leaves and caterpillars. . . . They can answer questions like why dogs hate cats and why God isn’t married. When they read to you, they don’t skip parts or mind if it’s the same story again. Everyone should have a grandmother because they are the only grown-ups who have time for you.” Also from APWP, “Timothy is a prime example of how a young life can be greatly influenced by a grandmother, especially if she is a godly woman. He held a position of great responsibility in leading the congregation at Ephesus. It was a difficult assignment for a young man who was timid by nature. To help his young protégé stand firm, the apostle Paul reminded him of the faith of his grandmother Lois (2Ti 1:5). It isn’t hard to imagine her playing with him when he was little, teaching him Scripture passages, putting him to bed with hugs and kisses and childlike prayers, and in the process nurturing the faith of her grandson.” One writer said: “Tips for Grandmothers: Pray for your grandchildren, play with your grandchildren and pass on your faith to your grandchildren.” Amen and amen to that, grandfathers are to do the same. Mothers what is the end result of molding your children in the Holy Scriptures? They are able to make them wise unto salvation and isn’t that what we want from our children, to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation! There is a lot here, but we must press on.

#### **IV. A Faithful Mother.**

Fourthly and lastly a Faithful Mother, this is what God calls you to be, be a faithful mother to your children, raise them up in nurture and admonition of the Lord. Time is a precious commodity because your children will only be young once and if you blow the opportunity you might never get it again. Make time to teach your children the word of God; I know that sometimes it’s hard, because you have a 1000 and one things to do. But somehow, someway give yourself over as a mother to raise your children up God’s way.

How were Lois and Eunice faithful mothers? 2 Tim.1:5, “*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*” The faith of Lois and Eunice was real and sincere, it was not hypocritical. This is what the word unfeigned means, in the Greek it’s, ‘**Anupokritos**,’ a compound word from ‘**A**’ meaning without and ‘**hupokrinomai**’ to pretend, ‘**hupo**’ means under indicating secrecy and ‘**krino**’ means to judge when combine it means to play the part, to act the part. ‘**Anupokritos**’ then literally means without playing the part, that is, not acting the part, being without pretense and without hypocrisy, that is, being sincere and or genuine. In other words, Lois and Eunice’s faith were genuine, without hypocrisy, their faith was sincere and real. They had a truth saving and justifying faith. It was genuine, that is, their faith was a firm persuasion, a firm conviction and a faith that surrendered to the word of God and showed it to be in a genuine changed life! Godly mothers are women of sincere faith which seeks to convey and communicate their genuine faith to their children. Hypocritical faith can’t be handed off or given, because you if you are a fake and hypocritical your kids won’t want anything to do with your version of Christianity. But genuine faith is contagious. Timothy’s faith could be traced back through his mother to his grandmother. He could see the Lord in them, and it attracted him to the Lord.

We see that this faith first dwelled in Lois and was passed on to Eunice and it dwelled in her also and then of course passed on to Timothy and also dwelled in him. What a blessing, what a precious spiritual heritage. Why, because one day, Lois bowed the knee to Christ and passed on that faith to her children and her children's children. This, my dear friends is a FAITHFUL MOTHER! This is a faithful mother that you should emulate and follow in her footsteps, that perhaps God will be pleased to bless you like He did Lois and Eunice. What a mother, yea what a grandmother! Would to God that all mothers were like Lois and Eunice, wow, what a world this would be. Mothers do influence their sons and daughters! One of life's greatest blessings is to have a godly mother. And, thus, one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to be a godly mother.

Let's end with this quote from Dennis De Hann, "**For Future Generations** - *When a team of Christians visited Stavropol, Russia, in 1994 to hand out Bibles, a local citizen said he recalled seeing Bibles in an old warehouse. They had been confiscated in the 1930s when Stalin was sending believers to the gulags. Amazingly, the Bibles were still there. Among those who showed up to load them into trucks was a young agnostic student just wanting to earn a day's wage. But soon he slipped away from the job to steal a Bible. A team member went looking for him and found him sitting in a corner weeping. Out of the hundreds of Bibles, he had picked up one that bore the handwritten signature of his own grandmother. Persecuted for her faith, she had no doubt prayed often for her family and her city. God used that grandmother's Bible to convict that young man. God has no grandchildren. We must each become first-generation believers through personal faith in Jesus. But the devotion to God of a grandparent or parent is a powerful ally of His Spirit to bring our children to Christ. Paul encouraged Timothy by recalling the faith of his grandmother and mother. Although Timothy's faith was his own, it was deeply linked to theirs. What an admonition to us who are parents and grandparents to be faithful!*"

Mother's may God grace you to be a faithful mother and that begins with being in Christ, if you are mother and outside Christ, please come to Christ even now, that He may save you and make you an Lois and an Eunice, so that you can raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Those of you, who are mothers in Christ, be faithful, continue and persevere, don't give up. The hardest job in the world is being a MOTHER! But the best job in the world is being a FAITHFUL MOTHER!

May God help you: REMEMBER you have:

- I. **A Faithful Message.**
- II. **A Faithful Mission or Ministry.**
- III. (you must be doing) **A Faithful Molding.**
- IV. (Need to be) **A Faithful Mother.**

Before I pray I would like to read a poem I wrote years ago:

# **HAPPY MOTHER' DAY**

**Children are an heritage of the Lord  
We thank our God and look to His Word  
His wisdom and instruction is truly a must  
We need guidance and so in God we trust**

**Mother's bring children into this world  
They are more precious than any pearl  
Children are a gift from our Great God  
We confess what a miracle He has wrought**

**We take them home from the hospital; what a joy  
We rejoice that they are healthy whether girl or boy  
They keep us up at night and we get little sleep  
But what a joy to know they are ours to keep**

**What a bond is formed between mother and baby  
Hoping they grow up to be a fine young man or a lovely lady  
We are excited when we see them take their first step  
We take their pictures so these memories are kept**

**Mothers are wipers of noses and washers of ears  
Mothers pick them up when they fall and wipe their tears  
Finders of shoes, toys, clothes and hats  
Mediators, peacemakers and referee of spats**

**We train their hearts from the Bible for that is our goal**

**We have the promise they will not depart when old**

**They finally graduate and it all seems so fast**

**For in our hearts we thought it would forever last**

**We have sought to raise them in His Holy Word**

**We pray that they will believe and follow the Lord**

**and that salvation would be wrought in the heart;**

**that they would persevere to the end and never depart**

**God ordained from creation to birth children by Mothers**

**and that men would be the leaders and Fathers**

**God's instruction to us is be fruitful and multiply**

**and as we see our children born most of us do cry**

**No, it does not take a village for children to be raised**

**God ordained that Mothers would bring up children under HIS grace**

**So, for what all you have done we wish you today**

**that God will bless you with a Happy Mother's Day**

**Pastor Jose Maldonado**