

2 Timothy 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanksgiving and Encouragement ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

SINCE TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY IT MIGHT BE NICE TO OPEN WITH SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE IMMEASURABLE INFLUENCE MOTHERS HAVE ON THEIR CHILDREN.

THE LAST VERSE OF THE HYMN "FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS" PROCLAIMS HOW THEY GIFT THE CHURCH AND THE HOME WITH THE POWER OF THEIR FAITH.

"FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS, CHRISTIAN FAITH, IN TRUTH BEYOND OUR STUMBLING CREEDS.

STILL SERVE THE HOME AND SAVE THE CHURCH, AND BREATHE THY SPIRIT THROUGH OUR DEEDS.

FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS, LIVING STILL, WE WILL BE TRUE TO THEE TILL DEATH."

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE IMPACT MOTHERS CAN HAVE IS PROVIDED BY SOME OF OUR PRESIDENTS, WHO HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF THEIR MOTHERS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON DESCRIBED HIS MOTHER- MARY, SAYING: "I ATTRIBUTE MY SUCCESS IN LIFE TO THE MORAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION I RECEIVED FROM HER."

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS SAID ABOUT HIS MOTHER- ABIGAIL: "ALL THAT I AM, MY MOTHER MADE ME."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN DECLARED ABOUT HIS MOTHER- NANCY: "ALL THAT I AM OR EVER HOPE TO BE, I OWE TO MY MOTHER."

RONALD REAGAN SAID ABOUT HIS MOTHER- NELLIE: "FROM MY MOTHER I LEARNED THE VALUE OF PRAYER, HOW TO HAVE DREAMS AND BELIEVE WE COULD MAKE THEM COME TRUE."

AND OUR FINAL EXAMPLE OF A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE COMES FROM THE FRENCH SCULPTOR FREDERICK BARTHOLDI WHO SEARCHED FOR A MODEL FOR THE STATUE OF LIBERTY HE WAS CREATING.

HE WANTED A WOMAN WHOSE LIFE REPRESENTED THE IDEAL OF LIBERTY, RESPECT, LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, THE STATUE IS MEANT TO REPRESENT.

AFTER LOOKING AT SEVERAL FAMOUS WOMEN, HE REALIZED HIS OWN MOTHER -AUGUSTA WAS THE BEST MODEL HE COULD FIND AND SO HE USED HER FEATURES FOR THE FAMOUS STATUE.

THESE ARE JUST SOME EXAMPLES OF THE INFLUENCE AND BLESSINGS MOTHERS BRING TO THE WORLD.

LET US TURN NOW TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS, WHICH IS FILLED WITH A LOT OF WISDOM AND OTHER TEACHINGS ABOUT LIFE AND OUR INTERACTION WITH GOD AND OTHERS.

INCLUDED IN ITS PAGES ARE SEVERAL SAYINGS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTION OF THEIR PARENTS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING GODLY WISDOM.

THE BOOK ITSELF IS LIKE A MANUAL THAT SEEKS TO TEACH US HOW TO USE WHAT WE LEARN AS CHILDREN IN OUR DAILY LIVES, SO THAT THE KNOWLEDGE WE GAIN MAY INSPIRE US TO LIVE IN WAYS THAT PLEASE AND HONOR GOD.

AND WHILE THE BIBLE FOCUSES MORE ON FATHERS THAN ON MOTHERS, THERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF HOW MOTHERS DEEPLY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN.

HERE ARE A FEW: REBEKAH TOOK DECISIVE ACTION AFTER GOD TOLD HER THAT HE HAD CHOSEN HER SON JACOB OVER HIS TWIN BROTHER ESAU.

SHE HELPED JACOB GAIN THE BLESSING OF HIS FATHER THAT SHOULD HAVE GIVEN TO HIS OLDER BROTHER, BASED ON WHAT GOD TOLD REBEKAH ABOUT HIS PLAN FOR THEM BEFORE THEY WERE BORN.

NEXT WE CAN LOOK TO THE HEBREW MIDWIVES WHO DEFIED THE ORDERS OF PHARAOH AND DID NOT KILL NEWBORN BOYS LIKE THEY WERE INSTRUCTED.

THESE WOMEN DID WHAT THEY KNEW WAS RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT, AND THE LORD BLESSED THEM WITH FAMILIES OF THEIR OWN.

AND THE MOTHER OF MOSES SAVED HER SON FROM DEATH AT THE HAND OF THE EGYPTIANS, FIRST BY HIDING HIM, THEN BY SENDING DOWN THE RIVER IN A BASKET.

AFTERWARDS PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER GAVE MOSES INTO HER CARE UNTIL HE WAS WEANED AND WENT TO LIVE IN THE PALACE.

WE SHOULD ALSO REMEMBER HANNAH, WHO WHEN SHE PRAYED FOR A SON PROMISED TO DEDICATE HIM TO THE LORD IF HE GRANTED HER PRAYER.

SHE KEPT THAT PROMISE BY SENDING HER YOUNG SON SAMUEL TO THE TEMPLE TO BE RAISED BY THE PROPHET ELI.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS IS THE BEST KNOWN MOTHER OF ALL, FOR SHE WAS CHOSEN BY GOD TO GIVE BIRTH TO AND RAISE THE PROMISED SAVIOR.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THE FIRST MIRACLE JESUS DID WAS CHANGING WATER INTO WINE, AND HE DID IT AFTER HIS MOTHER POINTED OUT THE NEED AT THE WEDDING FEAST.

THE VALUE JESUS PLACED ON HIS MOTHER WAS DEMONSTRATED WHILE HE WAS ON THE CROSS WHEN HE GAVE HER INTO THE CARE OF ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES.

WE ALSO FIND ELIZABETH, THE MOTHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHO PRAISED GOD FOR THE BLESSING IN BOTH MARY'S WOMB AND HER OWN, ESPECIALLY FOR THE DESTINY OF THEIR CHILDREN.

TIMOTHY'S MOTHER EUNICE AND GRANDMOTHER LOIS ARE ANOTHER PAIR OF NEW TESTAMENT WOMEN WHO WERE FAITHFUL.

THIS BRINGS US TO CELEBRATE THE BLESSING OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS.

ONE WAY THIS BLESSING IS EXPRESSED IS IN A POEM WRITTEN BY JOANNA FUCHS, WHICH SHE CALLED: "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"

"MY MOTHER IS A CHRISTIAN, IN EVERY IMPORTANT WAY;
THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DISPLAYED IN HER EVERY DAY.

MY MOTHER IS FILLED WITH KINDNESS, WITH LOVE AND JOY AND PEACE, HER PATIENCE AND HER GOODNESS INSPIRE AND NEVER CEASE.

SHE FOLLOWS OUR LORD JESUS WITH FAITHFULNESS, AND MORE; SHE'S GENTLE AND HAS SELF CONTROL, SHE KNOWS WHAT PRAYER IS FOR.

THANKS, MOM, FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN, AND SHOWING ME HOW TO BE; I'LL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE FOR ALL ETERNITY.”

WE CANNOT KNOW IF THIS IS SOMETHING LIKE HOW TIMOTHY FELT ABOUT HIS MOTHER EUNICE AND GRANDMOTHER LOIS.

HOWEVER, THE BIBLE DOES SPEAK ABOUT THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE THEY HAD ON HIS LIFE AND HIS FAITH.

THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO US THROUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL.

THE APOSTLE MENTORED YOUNG TIMOTHY, AND IN FACT, SAW HIMSELF AS HIS SPIRITUAL FATHER.

HE WROTE TO TIMOTHY, WHO WAS MINISTERING IN THE CHURCHES IN EPHEBUS, WHILE PAUL WAS IN PRISON.

PAUL SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE THE YOUNG MAN IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF OVER HIS IMPRISONMENT, AND THE STRESSFUL SITUATION WITHIN THE CHURCH IN EPHEBUS.

YOU SEE, THE THREAT OF PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS WAS GROWING AND MANY BELIEVERS WERE FEARFUL.

PAUL REMINDED TIMOTHY, AND THE CHURCH, THAT EVEN IN PRISON PAUL FOUND WAYS TO SERVE JESUS, AND THAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS PHYSICAL FREEDOM.

PAUL FURTHER EMPHASIZED HE TRUSTED HIS FATE TO GOD'S CARE AND THEY SHOULD TRUST GOD ALSO.

THE APOSTLE THEN BESTOWED A BLESSING UPON TIMOTHY, PRAYING HE WOULD EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE.

HE THANKED THE LORD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS. AND FOR THE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE HE AND TIMOTHY SHARED AS BOTH JEWS AND CHRISTIANS.

PAUL CELEBRATED THE FACT THAT TIMOTHY, WHOSE FATHER WAS GREEK AND THUS A PAGAN, HAD A PIOUS JEWISH MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER.

THEY HAD TAUGHT HIM SCRIPTURE AND THE WAYS OF GOD FROM HIS YOUTH, THUS IMPLANTING WITHIN HIM THE SEEDS OF FAITH.

THEN, AFTER LOIS AND EUNICE BECAME CHRISTIANS, THEY SHARED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST WITH TIMOTHY, AND LATER HE WAS CONVERTED AS WELL, WITH THE HELP OF PAUL.

THUS HE COMMENDS TIMOTHY THE FAITH HE HAS IN CHRIST, AND THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD HE LEARNED FROM THIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER.

THOSE TWO WOMEN LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR FAITH THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND THEIR OWN EXAMPLE, AND PAUL WAS ABLE TO BUILD UPON THEIR WORK WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AFTER HE CAME TO FAITH IN CHRIST, THE APOSTLE TOOK YOUNG TIMOTHY UNDER HIS WING, ALLOWING HIM TO TRAVEL WITH HIM.

IN A REAL SENSE HE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WERE ABLE TO NURTURE TIMOTHY IN THE FAITH BECAUSE LOIS AND EUNICE HAD FIRST PLANTED THE SEEDS OF FAITH WITHIN HIM.

IT WAS BASED UPON THAT FAITH THAT THE APOSTLE INSTRUCTED THE YOUNG PASTOR TO NOT BE AFRAID OR ASHAMED TO SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL.

HE WAS TO FOLLOW PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF TRUSTING IN GOD'S GRACE AND POWER, AND HOLD ONTO WHAT PAUL HAD TAUGHT HIM, ESPECIALLY ABOUT FAITH AND LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST.

BUT THE APOSTLE JOINED HIS OWN INFLUENCE ON TIMOTHY WITH THE HERITAGE, THE TEACHING, AND EXAMPLE OF HIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER.

HE ENCOURAGED TIMOTHY TO HOLD FAST TO HIS FAITH, AND TO ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS FROM HIS YOUTH FROM THEM.

THE SINCERITY OF THEIR FAITH IS TO BE A MODEL FOR TIMOTHY AS HE SEEKS TO NURTURE THE FAITH IN CHRIST THAT IS WITHIN HIM, AND CALLS HIM TO SERVE THE LORD.

PAUL NOT ONLY MENTIONS THE FAITH OF THESE WOMEN IN THE OPENING SENTENCES OF HIS LETTER, BUT MIDWAY THROUGH IT, AS WELL.

THE LETTER OPENS WITH PAUL PROCLAIMING THE SINCERITY OF THE FAITH OF LOIS AND EUNICE, AS HE CELEBRATES HOW MUCH TIMOTHY HAD BENEFITED FROM THEIR EXAMPLE.

THEN IN CHAPTER THREE, THE APOSTLE AGAIN BRINGS UP HOW HIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER WERE POSITIVE SPIRITUAL ROLE MODELS FOR HIM.

HE DOES THIS AFTER FIRST DIRECTING TIMOTHY TO FOLLOW THE TEACHINGS, CONDUCT, FAITH, AND PATIENCE HE OBSERVED IN PAUL'S OWN MINISTRY.

PAUL REMINDS TIMOTHY NOT ONLY HOW HE HAS SUFFERED FOR CHRIST, BUT ALSO HOW GOD HAS RESCUED HIM THROUGH JESUS.

HE WARNS TIMOTHY ABOUT WICKED PEOPLE, AND THOSE WHO PRETEND TO BE CHRISTIANS BUT ARE IMPOSTERS WHO DECEIVE OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT.

TIMOTHY IS ENCOURAGED TO NOT BE DISHEARTENED OR DECEIVED.

INSTEAD HE SHOULD HOLD ON TO WHAT HE LEARNED FROM HIS MOTHER'S AND GRANDMOTHER'S INSTRUCTION AND EXAMPLE.

THEN IN 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15 SAYS: "BUT AS FOR YOU, CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND FIRMLY BELIEVED, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU HAVE LEARNED IT.

AND HOW FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE SACRED WRITINGS THAT ARE ABLE TO INSTRUCT YOU FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

HERE AGAIN WE ARE REMINDED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THE FAITH TO THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG.

THOSE TEACHINGS CAN BE THE FOUNDATION THAT WILL HOLD UP DURING THE STRUGGLES, CHALLENGES, AND BLESSINGS IN LIFE AS CHILDREN LIVE AND GROW INTO ADULTHOOD.

THIS JOB OF TEACHING THE FAITH, THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND THROUGH HOW WE LIVE OUT OUR FAITH, IS NOT RESERVED FOR THE HOME AND FAMILY ALONE.

THIS IS PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION AND EXAMPLES FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS ALIKE.

BUT DOING THIS IS EASIER WHEN WE CAN BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE HOME AND FAMILY.

THUS WE AGAIN ARE REMINDED OF DEBT THE CHURCH HAS TO THOSE WHO HAVE TENDED THE SOIL AND PLANTED THE SEEDS OF FAITH IN CHRIST WITHIN THEIR CHILDREN.

LET US PRAY:

LOVING GOD WE ASK YOUR SPECIAL BLESSING AND ANOINTING OF THE YOUR SPIRIT UPON ALL MOTHERS THIS DAY.

FILL THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS WITH THE JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE AND THE MINISTRY OF MOTHERHOOD. AND WE PRAY YOU WILL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR STRUGGLES.

MAY THEY BE INSPIRED AND EQUIPPED TO TEACH ABOUT YOUR LOVE AND FORGIVENESS, AND PLANT WITHIN OTHERS THE SEEDS OF FAITH. WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND EVERY MOTHER AND BLESS HER WITH YOUR LOVE AND GRACE TODAY AND EVERY DAY.

COMFORT WE PRAY THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF A CHILD, BEFORE OR AFTER BIRTH. COMFORT AS WELL THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR CHILDREN THEY HAVE NEVER CONCEIVED OR BEEN ABLE TO ADOPT.

ENCOURAGE US ALL , WOMEN AND MEN AND CHILDREN ALIKE TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVE AND GRACE, AND INSPIRE US TO BE LIVING TESTIMONIES TO THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF FAITH IN JESUS AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, FOR IT IS IN HIS NAME WE PRAY. AMEN

SERMON SUMMARY: 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

SINCE TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY IT MIGHT BE NICE TO OPEN WITH SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE IMMEASURABLE INFLUENCE MOTHERS HAVE ON THEIR CHILDREN. WHILE THE BIBLE FOCUSES MORE ON FATHERS THAN ON MOTHERS, THERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF HOW MOTHERS DEEPLY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS IS THE BEST KNOWN MOTHER OF ALL, FOR SHE WAS CHOSEN BY GOD TO GIVE BIRTH TO AND RAISE THE PROMISED SAVIOR. THE BIBLE TELLS US THE FIRST MIRACLE JESUS DID WAS CHANGING WATER INTO WINE, AND HE DID IT AFTER HIS MOTHER POINTED OUT THE NEED AT THE WEDDING FEAST. THE VALUE JESUS PLACED ON HIS MOTHER WAS DEMONSTRATED WHILE HE WAS ON THE CROSS WHEN HE GAVE HER INTO THE CARE OF ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES.

WE ALSO FIND ELIZABETH, THE MOTHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHO PRAISED GOD FOR THE BLESSING IN BOTH MARY'S WOMB AND HER OWN, ESPECIALLY FOR THE DESTINY OF THEIR CHILDREN. TIMOTHY'S MOTHER EUNICE AND GRANDMOTHER LOIS ARE ANOTHER PAIR NEW TESTAMENT WOMEN WHO WERE FAITHFUL.

THIS BRINGS US TO CELEBRATE THE BLESSING OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS. ONE WAY THIS BLESSING IS EXPRESSED IS IN A POEM WRITTEN BY JOANNA FUCHS, WHICH SHE CALLED: "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"

"MY MOTHER IS A CHRISTIAN, IN EVERY IMPORTANT WAY;
THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DISPLAYED IN HER EVERY DAY.
MY MOTHER IS FILLED WITH KINDNESS, WITH LOVE AND JOY AND PEACE,
HER PATIENCE AND HER GOODNESS INSPIRE AND NEVER CEASE.
SHE FOLLOWS OUR LORD JESUS WITH FAITHFULNESS, AND MORE;
SHE'S GENTLE AND HAS SELF CONTROL, SHE KNOWS WHAT PRAYER IS FOR.
THANKS, MOM, FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN, AND SHOWING ME HOW TO BE;
I'LL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE FOR ALL ETERNITY."

WE CANNOT KNOW IF THIS IS SOMETHING LIKE HOW TIMOTHY FELT ABOUT HIS MOTHER EUNICE AND GRANDMOTHER LOIS. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE DOES SPEAK ABOUT THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE THEY HAD ON HIS LIFE AND HIS FAITH.

THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO US THROUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL THE APOSTLE MENTORED YOUNG TIMOTHY, AND IN FACT, SAW HIMSELF AS HIS SPIRITUAL FATHER.

THE APOSTLE BESTOWED A BLESSING UPON TIMOTHY, PRAYING HE WOULD EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE. PAUL CELEBRATED THE FACT THAT TIMOTHY, WHOSE FATHER WAS GREEK AND THUS A PAGAN, HAD A PIOUS JEWISH MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. THEY HAD TAUGHT HIM SCRIPTURE AND THE WAYS OF GOD FROM HIS YOUTH, THUS IMPLANTING WITHIN HIM THE SEEDS OF FAITH.

THEN, AFTER LOIS AND EUNICE BECAME CHRISTIANS, THEY SHARED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST WITH TIMOTHY, AND LATER HE WAS CONVERTED AS WELL, WITH THE HELP OF PAUL. THUS HE COMMENDS TIMOTHY THE FAITH HE HAS IN CHRIST, AND THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD HE LEARNED FROM THIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. THOSE TWO WOMEN LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR FAITH THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND THEIR OWN EXAMPLE, AND PAUL WAS ABLE TO BUILD UPON THEIR WORK WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE APOSTLE JOINED HIS OWN INFLUENCE ON TIMOTHY WITH THE HERITAGE, THE TEACHING, AND EXAMPLE OF THIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. HE ENCOURAGED TIMOTHY TO HOLD FAST TO HIS FAITH, AND TO ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS FROM HIS YOUTH FROM THEM. THE SINCERITY OF THEIR FAITH IS TO BE A MODEL FOR TIMOTHY AS HE SEEKS TO NURTURE THE FAITH IN CHRIST THAT IS WITHIN HIM, AND CALLS HIM TO SERVE THE LORD.

IN THIS LETTER, WE ARE REMINDED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THE FAITH TO THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG. THOSE TEACHINGS CAN BE THE FOUNDATION THAT WILL HOLD UP DURING THE STRUGGLES, CHALLENGES, AND BLESSINGS IN LIFE AS CHILDREN LIVE AND GROW INTO ADULTHOOD.

THIS JOB OF TEACHING THE FAITH, THROUGH HOLY SCRIPTURE, AND THROUGH HOW WE LIVE OUT OUR FAITH, IS NOT RESERVED FOR THE HOME AND FAMILY ALONE.

THIS IS PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION AND EXAMPLES FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS ALIKE.

BUT DOING THIS IS EASIER WHEN WE CAN BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE HOME AND FAMILY. THUS WE AGAIN ARE REMINDED OF DEBT THE CHURCH HAS TO THOSE WHO HAVE TENDED THE SOIL AND PLANTED THE SEEDS OF FAITH IN CHRIST WITHIN THEIR CHILDREN.

LET US PRAY:

LOVING GOD WE ASK YOUR SPECIAL BLESSING AND ANOINTING OF THE YOUR SPIRIT UPON ALL MOTHERS THIS DAY.

FILL THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS WITH THE JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE AND THE MINISTRY OF MOTHERHOOD. AND WE PRAY YOU WILL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR STRUGGLES.

MAY THEY BE INSPIRED AND EQUIPPED TO TEACH ABOUT YOUR LOVE AND FORGIVENESS, AND PLANT WITHIN OTHERS THE SEEDS OF FAITH. WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND EVERY MOTHER AND BLESS HER WITH YOUR LOVE AND GRACE TODAY AND EVERY DAY.

COMFORT WE PRAY THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF A CHILD, BEFORE OR AFTER BIRTH. COMFORT AS WELL THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR CHILDREN THEY HAVE NEVER CONCEIVED OR BEEN ABLE TO ADOPT.

ENCOURAGE US ALL , WOMEN AND MEN AND CHILDREN ALIKE TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVE AND GRACE, AND INSPIRE US TO BE LIVING TESTIMONIES TO THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF FAITH IN JESUS AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, FOR IT IS IN HIS NAME WE PRAY. AMEN

2 Timothy 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanksgiving and Encouragement ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.