

Title: "God's Threefold Call for Grandparents

Text:

2 Timothy 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."

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."

Introduction

It is common for many to think of the genealogies in the Bible as uninteresting, and yet, when you put things together, you can find some insights related to grandparent relationships that you might otherwise miss. Of course, there is Eve - the mother of all living and grandmother to the children of Cain and Seth. How well we know the stories of the patriarchs of Israel - Abraham, father of Isaac, grandfather of Esau and Jacob. God promised to make Abraham a great nation, and indeed He has done that. Notably, there is Ruth, and we know the love story of Ruth and Boaz. It is a beautiful story of redemption and grace. The last verses of the book of Ruth tell us that Ruth and Boaz were the grandparents of Jesse, the father of King David.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul writes his second letter to Timothy and mentions Timothy's mother and his grandmother along with a reference to their faith. Let's read together 2 Timothy 1:5 and then 2 Timothy 3:15

Read text.

I. God calls grandparents to teach their families the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:15 makes mention that Timothy had been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood. It is incumbent upon believing grandparents to pass their faith on to the next generation and the generation after that. God gives us longevity, among other reasons, to pass down our faith. Where would we be were it not for godly grandparents who instilled the knowledge of the Scriptures into the hearts of their children and grandchildren?

I spoke with a man a few years ago who had fallen out of church. He felt that he could worship the Lord just as well in his easy chair watching Charles Stanley on television as he could getting dressed and coming to church. In the course of conversation, though, I heard him express concern for his grandkids and their salvation. His children were not raising his grandkids up in church. He himself had been raised in church, and so were his kids raised in church. And he had talked to his children about this, but his own example muted his warnings. He felt that he had the roots from earlier in life to be okay forsaking the assembling of himself with others for

worship. But his example has trickled down, and now, his grandkids are being raised as if they were from a pagan background.

God calls grandparents to teach their families His Word.

We read in Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 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.

Our Lord Jesus said much the same when He gave us His Great Commission in Matthew 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." We are to teach the next generation the commands of God.

Now, if you have done all you can to pass the Word of God on to the next generation, but for reasons outside your control, your kids are not raising your grandkids up in the ways of the Lord, keep praying. Keep doing what you can. But God, of course, will not hold you responsible for what you cannot control.

But I ask you this morning, grandparents, what have you done and what are you presently doing to pass the Word of God on to your grandkids and the future generations.

How I thank God for ministries like Sunday School and AWANA where my elders taught me to memorize Scripture and to hide God's Word in my heart.

Thank God for grandparents that will pass His Word on to the next generation. Not only this, but also:

II. God calls grandparents to tell their grandkids about Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15 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."

Here, we are going beyond just Scriptural facts and familiarity with the Bible to the good news of the Gospel that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Do you know there are those who treat the Bible only as an academic textbook? To our shame, they may know the Bible better than any believer, and yet they do not have a personal relationship with the Author. They have studied it under such a powerful microscope that they probably know something of the DNA code of the Apostle Paul himself, and yet they have never given themselves to Christ.

It is absolutely, critically important for us to pass on the knowledge of God's Word to future generations. But we must, as we are doing that, show them the cross on every page of Scripture, show them why did God create the heavens and the earth? Why did God slay an

animal when Adam and Eve fell? Why did the Israelites have to bring an animal sacrifice each year to postpone the wrath of God another year? Why did the spotless Lamb of God have to come and die once and for all for sin? As Hebrews 9:12 reminds us, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

When the resurrected Lord met the two on their way to Emmaus, Luke 24 tells us, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Jesus is the Hero of the Scriptures; He is the goal of every message. He is the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. Every jot and tittle of the inspired Word of God exists to draw men and women and children *and grandchildren* into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

As you teach your grandchildren the Word of God, the Bible does not return void. The Scriptures, God says, are able to make one wise unto salvation.

Have you told your family about Christ? Witnessing to your own family is without a doubt the most difficult audience to which you can witness. And yet, God is indeed calling you this morning, grandparents, to be His witnesses, first at home, and then the region around you, and then the uttermost part of the earth.

So, we see in these verses we have read today that God, first of all, calls grandparents to teach their families His Word, and that's not all, as we teach the Word, God calls grandparents to tell their grandkids about Jesus. And building upon this foundation, we see, thirdly, that God calls grandparents to build unfeigned faith in their families.

III. God calls grandparents to build unfeigned faith in their families.

The first verse we read 2 Timothy 1:5 says, "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."

There is a progression here from basic knowledge of the Scriptures, to specific knowledge of the Gospel, to growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ into spiritual maturity such that the faith that your grandchildren have is unfeigned. Unfeigned faith is sincere faith. It is not pretend faith that says, "Oh yes, I am a Christian," and then lives like the world. It is genuine, undisguised faith.

It is both caught and taught. As your grandchildren see your example, and as they see God work in your life, and as they see you depend upon and trust God for your daily bread, it builds up unfeigned faith within them.

One of the great evangelists of last century was Dr. Dolphus Price. Early on in his life, Dolphus Price was so overwhelmed with passion for what he wanted to accomplish for the glory of God

that knelt by an old tree and prayed this prayer. "Oh God, let me start a godly line." This became the trajectory of his ministry - to start a godly line. God granted Dolphus Price his prayer. He had two sons that became pastors. Many of his grandchildren are ordained into Gospel ministry. Even some of his grandchildren are serving as missionaries and church staff. It can all be traced back to a day when Dr. Dolphus Price got on his face before God and said, "God, let me start a godly line."

Now, your line may have already been started. You may have gotten it right most of the time or hardly at all. But regardless of that, even today, you can drive a stake in the ground and say, "God being my helper, in the time that He gives me remaining on this earth, I want to use my influence to teach my family His Word, to tell my family about Jesus, and to build up within them unfeigned faith."

If there has never been a time when you have trusted Christ as your Savior, today is the day of salvation. That's where it must begin. You can never call your family to something that you yourself do not believe. If you have lived a lie, they know it. But if you trust Christ today, they will undeniably see the change.

As we enter into a time of response for our invitation, you come as God's Spirit leads in your heart.