

2 Timothy 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. Paul commends Timothy's "unfeigned faith" (anypokritos pistis, ἀνυπόκριτος πίστις)—genuine, authentic faith without pretense or hypocrisy. The Greek anypokritos literally means "without wearing a mask," contrasting true heart faith with religious performance. This genuine faith shows itself in consistent godly living, perseverance through trials, and sacrificial service.

The generational progression—Lois to Eunice to Timothy—illustrates the biblical pattern of faith transmitted through families, particularly through godly mothers and grandmothers. The verb "dwelt" (enoikēsen, ἐνοίκησεν) suggests faith took up residence in these women like an indwelling presence. While faith cannot be inherited genetically, faithful parents create environments where children encounter gospel truth and observe authentic Christian living.

Paul's settled conviction uses perfect passive participle (pepeismai, πέπεισμαι)—"I have been persuaded and remain persuaded." This isn't wishful thinking but confidence grounded in observed evidence: Timothy's proven character, sacrificial service, and perseverance.

Historical Context

Timothy's family situation was unusual. His mother Eunice was Jewish, his father Greek (Acts 16:1). In Jewish law, children of Jewish mothers were considered Jewish, but Timothy remained uncircumcised until Paul circumcised him for missionary expediency (Acts 16:3), suggesting accommodation to his Greek father or incomplete Jewish upbringing. Lois and Eunice's faith likely began through Diaspora synagogue exposure to Old Testament Scriptures. They apparently converted during Paul's first missionary journey, requiring courage since it likely led to synagogue exclusion and family tension.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How is your authentic faith being transmitted to the next generation through consistent godly living and intentional discipleship?
2. In what areas might your faith be more cultural tradition than genuine heart transformation?
3. How can you honor and learn from the spiritual heritage of parents, grandparents, or mentors who modeled authentic Christianity?

Interlinear Text

ὑπόμνησιν	λαμβάνων	τῆς	ἐν	σοί	ἀνυποκρίτου	πίστεως			
to remembrance	When I call	G3588	in	thee	the unfeigned	faith			
G5280	G2983		G1722	G4671	G505	G4102			
ἵτις	ἐνώκησεν	πρῶτον	ἐν	τῇ	μάμμῃ	σου	Λωΐδι	καὶ	
which	dwell	first	in	G3588	grandmother	thy	Lois	also	
G3748	G1774	G4412	G1722		G3125	G4675	G3090	G2532	
τῇ	μητρὶ	σου	Ἐυνείκῃ	πέπεισμαι	δὲ	ὅτι	καὶ	ἐν	σοὶ
G3588	mother	thy	Eunice	I am persuaded	and	that	also	in	thee
	G3384	G4675	G2131	G3982	G1161	G3754	G2532	G1722	G4671

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 1:5 (Faith): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Acts 16:1 (Faith): Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

1 Timothy 4:6 (Faith): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Romans 15:14 (Parallel theme): And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Hebrews 6:9 (Parallel theme): But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

Psalms 116:16 (Parallel theme): O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

Psalms 86:16 (Parallel theme): O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

Romans 8:38 (Parallel theme): For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 4:21 (Parallel theme): And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

2 Corinthians 6:6 (Parallel theme): By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,