

“Sincere Faith”

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 10, 2026 (Mother’s Day)

2 Timothy 1:3-7 “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ 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, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. Kids don’t need flawless parents. They need genuine ones.

2 Timothy 1:5 “I am reminded of your **sincere faith**, a faith that dwelt **first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice** and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

Paul doesn’t commend Lois and Eunice for having a perfect system. He commends them for having a sincere faith.

3 Characteristics of “Sincere” Faith

1. Sincere faith is consistent (not perfect, but real over time).

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Faith is best on display in the ordinary.

2. Sincere faith is visible (not hidden or private-only).

2 Timothy 3:14-15 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

If faith is never visible, it’s very difficult for it to be transferable.

3. Sincere faith is honest (repentance included).

1 John 1:8-9 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

*The most dangerous thing in the home isn’t sin—
it’s pretending there isn’t any.*

II. Kids don’t inherit faith. They’re shown how to follow Jesus.

A. Timothy *learned* the Scriptures, which means someone *showed* him.

2 Timothy 3:14 “But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed...**”

B. Yes, Timothy was taught by his mother – but not only his mother.

2 Timothy 3:14 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it...**”

The Greek phrase translated “from whom” is plural, indicating God used a plurality of people to teach Timothy the Word (his mother, his grandmother, and maybe others).

C. Saving faith never comes about in a vacuum.

2 Timothy 3:15 “And how from childhood **you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

People do not become Christians simply by being near Christian things. They need to be shown Christ through the Word of God.

Romans 10:14,17 “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? **And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?...¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing**, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

III. You're called to be faithful. God is responsible for the results.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

We need two things at the same time:

1. A clear sense of responsibility.
2. A deep sense of dependence.

*Biblical parenting is process-driven, not product-driven.
We plant. We water. God gives the growth.*

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Where do you most need your faith to become more “sincere”— more consistent, more visible, or more honest?
2. What would it look like for someone close to you to see less of your polished image and more of your genuine walk with Christ?
3. What ordinary rhythm in your home, schedule, or relationships could you use more intentionally to point others to Christ?
4. Who are you tempted to assume is “fine” spiritually simply because they are around Christian things? How could you lovingly engage them more intentionally?
5. Where do you need to keep planting and watering while trusting God with results you cannot control?