



“A Mother’s Deposit”

2 Timothy 1:5

Idea: A faithful model of the gospel is the greatest deposit a mom can make in her children’s lives.

Intro: There is no one quite like Mom. She is wonderful!

What Is a Mother?

Somewhere between the youthful energy of a teenager and the golden years of a woman’s life, there lives a marvelous and loving person known as “Mother.”

A mother is a curious mixture of patience, kindness, understanding, discipline, industriousness, purity, and love.

A mother can be at one and the same time, both “lovelorn counselor” to a heartsick daughter, and “head football coach” to an athletic son.

A mother can sew the tiniest stitch in the material for that dainty prom dress and she is equally experienced in threading through the heaviest traffic with a station wagon.

A mother is the only creature on earth who can cry when she’s happy, laugh when she’s heartbroken, and work when she’s feeling ill.

A mother is as gentle as a lamb and as strong as a giant. Only a mother can appear so weak and helpless and yet be the same one who puts the fruit jar cover on so tightly even Dad can’t get it off.

A mother is a picture of helplessness when Dad is near, and a marvel of resourcefulness when she’s all alone.

A mother has the angelic voice of a member in the celestial choir as she sings Brahms lullaby to a babe held tight in her arms; yet this same voice can dwarf the sound of an amplifier when she calls her boys in for supper.

A mother has the fascinating ability to be almost everywhere at once and she alone can somehow squeeze an enormous amount of living into an average day.

A mother is “old-fashioned” to her teenager; just “Mom” to her third-grader; and simply “Mama” to little two-year old sister.

But there is no greater thrill in life, than to point to that wonderful woman and be able to say to all the world, “That’s my mother!”

– Fred Kruse

Inquiry: I believe this is how Timothy felt about his mother. Like the apostle Paul, she had made a hefty deposit in his life. In Acts 16:1, we learn Timothy’s mother was Jewish and his father was Greek. It seems highly probable that Timothy’s father was an unbelieving Greek. While Paul points out that his mother and grandmother were Jewish believers. They had richly deposited the scriptures in his heart from childhood (2 Tim 3:15). This groundwork enabled the preaching of Paul’s gospel to find fertile soil in Lystra (Acts 14). Timothy heard the gospel messaged and believed. He faithed into Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, and his life was immediately transformed. Timothy’s instant and ongoing transformation was the result of God’s gracious deposits made into his life. Last Sunday, we looked at a mentor’s deposit. Today, we are looking at “A Mother’s Deposit.”

Read 2 Timothy 1:5.

There was no doubt in Paul’s mind about Timothy’s faith. It was sincere, genuine, and authentic. The young pastor had not simply given lip service to the Lord. There was no straddling of the fence for him. He had jumped into the faith with both feet.

Sincere faith is not always found in every person who has professed faith in Jesus. Some people don’t possess genuine faith because they have never fully understood the gospel. Some think that being a Christian is important for cultural reasons. Others may just not want to go to hell. They said, “Yes” to Jesus for fire protection only. This was not the case for Timothy. He knew the gospel message. He had fully embraced it, knowing the cost of following Jesus. Faith for Timothy was not a cultural issue. It was not a way to get ahead or network with others. It definitely was not just a way of escaping punishment for sin. Faith for Timothy was all about Jesus and making His great name famous. Where did he learn how to live like this? Paul tells us that it was the deposit laid down in his life by Timothy’s grandmother and mother.

Aren’t grandma’s wonderful? There ought to be a holiday just for grandparents. This reminds me of a short essay that James Dobson included in his book, *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women*. The essay was written by a third-grader. It’s entitled *What Is a Grandmother?*

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people’s little girls and boys. A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with boys, and they talk about fishing and stuff like that.

Grandmothers don’t have to do anything except be there. They’re old so they shouldn’t play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend horse is, and have a lot of dimes ready. Or if they take us for walks, they should slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They should never say, “Hurry up.”

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandmothers don’t have to be smart, only answer questions like, “Why isn’t God married?” and “How come dogs chase cats?”

Grandmothers don’t talk baby talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us

they don't skip or mind if it is the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

Timothy's grandmother, Lois, had made a spiritual deposit in his life. She made the deposit first by making a deposit in his mother, Eunice. And the two of them spiritually invested themselves in Timothy. Timothy possessed a sincere faith because his mom and grandma possessed a sincere faith. Mom's listen up. You want the best for your kids. You want to see them succeed. You want them to do great things. You want their lives to be full of joy and goodness. Well, there is something you need to understand. A faithful model of the gospel is the greatest deposit a mom can make in her children's lives.

Three truths about a mother's deposit:

1. You can only deposit what you possess.

I heard about a man who was raised in a pastor's home. When he was a young boy his godly mom used to rock him to sleep each night. She didn't sing to him just little ditties and lullabies; she sang him the hymns of the faith. When he was in the crib, he remembers her leaning over and singing to him "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "And Can It Be," "More Love to Thee, O Christ," "My Jesus I Love Thee," and "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." She sang the deep songs. And he says, "I remember. I remember those hymns. In fact, when I got into church, I had heard and learned most of the hymns." Think about the deposit she made. It was a deposit in that young boy's life, which he would never forget.

How was she able to make the deposit? She possessed the means first. The word, *deposit* is a banking term. It is a sum of money placed or kept in a bank account, usually to gain interest. It can also speak of the action of placing something in a specified place.

Illust: If I am going to make a deposit into my account at the bank, I first must have something to deposit. I remember one time when I was younger standing in the teller's line for several minutes. Then, when it was my turn to make a transaction with the teller, there was nothing in my hands. I had left the deposit in my truck. That was embarrassing moment and a waste of time because I could not deposit what I didn't possess.

And moms neither can you. Lois and Eunice were able to deposit the gospel in Timothy because they first possessed it themselves. This truth leads to a second one.

2. Your deposit has to be more than verbal; it must be by example.

Think back to your childhood. After your parents told you to do something, was your first response, "Why?" And was their reply a firm, "Because I said so?"

I can remember hearing that a lot. In fact, I catch myself using it with my girls. Now, it is true that children should obey their parents simply because they are the parents. And it is true that one of the ways parents educate their children is through verbal commands and instruction. But did you know that with your kids more is caught than taught? If you are prone to raising your voice in the home to get your way, guess what your children do to get their point across. They raise their voice too. Now, I seriously doubt you sat them down and used a flow chart to instruct them on the best ways to yell, scream, and throw a fit. No, they observed and adopted a model from you.

Don't misunderstand; good deposits have verbal instruction. You should teach the Word of God to your

children. You should have conversations about faith in Jesus. You should explain theological concepts to them. But it needs to go a step farther. Truth should be modeled.

Lois and Eunice taught and modeled. They made sure their sincere faith in Jesus was lived out in front of Timothy. They were intentional about being a good and godly example before Timothy. Here is the point...

“You can teach what you know, but you reproduce who you are.” – John Maxwell

What benefit is it if as a parent you can quote Scripture and talk theology with your kids but your personal life fails to provide an example of sincere faith in Jesus? There is no benefit. In fact it really becomes a dangerous detriment. It teaches your children that you can live a nominal Christian life and be okay with God.

If you are lukewarm in your faith, then your model will likely be reproduced in your children. It does not matter how much you know. What matters is how much you have been transformed.

Moms, make sure you possess a sincere faith and model it before your children. There is a third truth.

3. You can deposit the gospel in the lives of your children, but they must believe on it themselves.

“...I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

Paul’s statement reminds us that every child must do his or her own believing. God has no grandchildren; He only has children.

It is the responsibility of Christian parents to teach the Word of God, point to Jesus, and model the gospel before their children. It is not the responsibility of parents to *save* them. Parents are stewards of the children God has entrusted to them. The kids belong to God. He will call and draw them to Himself. But each child has the personal responsibility to respond in faith to the gospel.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:6

I have known Christian parents who felt like failures because they pointed their kids to Christ, but they walked away from Christ and His Church. They have quoted Proverbs 22:6 to me, while wanting to know what they did wrong. They truth is, they didn’t do anything wrong. The Proverbs are general truths that are generally true.

Today, if you feel shame and embarrassment because your kids have forsaken the faith you pointed them too, you shouldn’t. You can only teach and model the gospel. You cannot make them believe on the gospel. They must do it themselves. You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. What you can do though is pray. Pray for repentance and faith in your kids. Don’t hold back either. Pray bold prayers over them. And don’t make excuses for their sin. Love them as your kids, but never excuse their sinful lifestyles. Continue to make spiritual deposits into their hearts. Pray for them. Share the Word with them. Model the gospel. And invite them to believe on Jesus.

Conclusion: Moms are amazing people. Where would we be without them? They are full of love, empathy, and energy. They keep the family train smoothly running on the track. Moms thank you for everything that you do. Moms, thank you most of all for the deposit you make in your children’s lives each day. You are forming and influencing the next generation. Remember...

- You can only deposit what you possess.
- Your deposit has to be more than verbal; it must be by example.

- You can deposit the gospel in the lives of your children, but they must believe on it themselves.

What kind of deposit are you making? Are you seeing any return on the investment? It is never too late to tweak your investment portfolio. Is there anything that you need to change today?