

Timothy

“Young Lions”

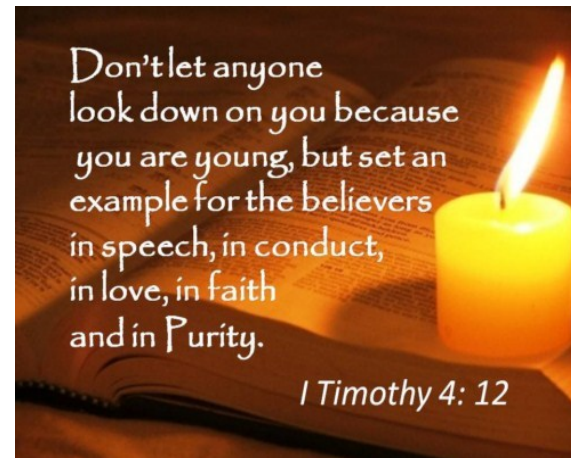


“I’m passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself.”
1 Timothy 1:18 THE MESSAGE

Many times we disregard the effect of our childhood on us as adults. We tend to dismiss the beliefs of a young person when he/she doesn’t agree with us and chalk our knowledge up to experience. After all, we’ve been around the block a few times! I have said on many occasions that I am so thankful for my home church. They made the youth feel like they were running the place!!! We weren’t. They allowed us to be

involved, and we felt important. That has been strength to me throughout my adult life.

By ignoring youth, we can miss out on a lot. Their enthusiasm is contagious. They can lead little children. They can light up the day for a senior citizen, and they can lead in ways that we had disregarded because they did not work for us, and so we assume they will not work for anyone else. The experience we had as a youth made a definite influence on our life as an adult whether we want to admit it or not. By the same token, we as an adult can have a very positive or negative influence on a child.



Timothy was one of those people. He had been taught the word of God as a child. Yet, he was not a –Christian, as we know it today. He was taught by his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. They were Jews, but they taught Timothy the Holy Word, and they



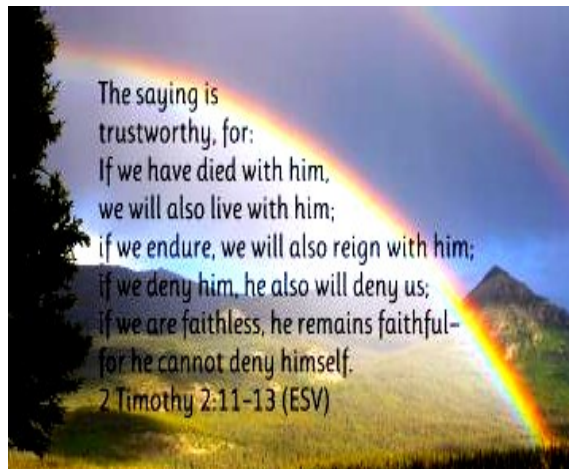
“God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”
2 Timothy 1:7

became strong followers of Jesus. But then, what is a Christian as we know it today. The Bible tells us that we have to accept Christ as our personal Savior. Is that enough, or do we have to act in a certain way? Do we have to dress in a certain way? Do we need to be from a certain “neighborhood”?

On one of Paul’s trips, he noticed this energetic youth and asked him to travel with him. Timothy helped preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, started young churches, and wrote letters to the new churches. He was young. He may have been timid due to his youth, and we don’t have a lot of quotes from him, but we do know of his work and his love of Jesus Christ.

Timothy’s life points out two major aims for adults. They need to teach their children the Bible because that word will not fall on deaf ears as it

might if they try to teach the older people who already have their mind set in concrete! And, those words will always be with that youth to guide and strengthen him through life and all the trials. We have read many times how the Scripture verses memorized by youth, and the songs sung by youth have been an inspiration in prison camp, and in many other areas of temptation or peril. We have heard many stories of how Scripture verses helped a prisoner to turn his life around and accept Christ and spend the rest of his life telling others about his Lord. That was not by accident.



Timothy was not sent out alone. First, he had the teaching from his mother and grandmother. And, Paul was with him much of the time. He also had the fellowship and company of other believers. Most of all, he had his faith in a God that would always be with him. We know that our youth are the leaders of tomorrow, but we often dismiss their ideas.

I have seen youth serve on committees and have good ideas that older members never even thought about. I have seen youth out in the cold helping older people without being asked. As a teacher, I learned to listen to youth. They had a different perspective. Sometimes, I disagreed with them. Sometimes, I realized they saw something I had not seen because their viewpoint was unusual. We remember that Jesus said *“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”* Matt 18:3 But when Christ told the disciples to let him talk to the children, they were upset. Why did he want to talk with those little kids!!!

ENDURANCE

**“You therefore, my son,
 be strong in the grace
 that is in Christ Jesus.
 You therefore
 must endure hardship
 as a good soldier
 of Jesus Christ.”**

2 Timothy 2:1,3.

Prayer: Abundant God, You have given us so much. Yet, in our worldly knowledge, we sometimes forget that You have given those same gifts to all ages. We tend to think our way is right. Help us to lead the little children, support the youth. Help the young person to know that each person, regardless of age is important in the world both today, tomorrow, and always. Amen

1. As a youth, did you have the good fortune to have someone listen to your ideas?
2. Were you fortunate enough, as a youth, to have someone take you under his wing?
3. How can we show youth that we think they are important? How can we learn from youth?
4. As a youth, what obligations do we have to tell others what we know?
5. Why should we listen closely to the fact that Christ wanted to talk with the children?
6. Timothy 2:15 tells us to *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* What does it mean to “present yourself to God as one approved?”

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“Youth is hope and the power of tomorrow. Please treasure it.”