

May 12, 2019

## Fanning Motherhood into Flame

### 2 Timothy 1:1-7

#### Intro

- Paul's desire is for Timothy to endure hardship and to stand confidently in the ministry that God has given him.

Main idea: God calls and equips moms for the mission of motherhood.

#### Faithful to God's Call (v. 1-4)

"This, then, was Timothy—young in years, frail in physique, retiring in disposition—who nevertheless was called to exacting responsibilities in the church of God. Greatness was being thrust upon him, and like Moses and Jeremiah and a host of others before and after him, Timothy was exceedingly reluctant to accept it. Is someone who is reading these pages in a similar situation? You are young and weak and shy, and yet God is calling you to leadership?"

—**John Stott**, *The Message of 2 Timothy*, 20

- Paul's apostolic commissioning is a reminder to Timothy that we always serve by God's sovereign and good assignment.

*"Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him."* (1 **Corinthians 7:17**)

"Motherhood is not a hobby, it's a calling. You do not collect children because you find them cuter than stamps. You do not raise children if you can squeeze the time in. Motherhood is what God gave you time for." —**Rachel Jankovic**, "Motherhood is a Calling," in *Mom Enough: The Fearless Mother's Heart and Hope*, 2

### **Clear Conscience**

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)*

- God calls us to faithfulness, not fruit-management.

### **Constant in Prayer**

- *5 Things to Pray for Your Kids* by Melissa Kruger

"My dear mother, besides the rains she took with me, often commended me with many prayers and tears to God; and I doubt not but I reap the fruits of these prayers to this hour." –**John Newton**

### **Containing Tears**

- To love in this fallen world is to hurt.
  - *The Storm-Tossed Family* by Russell Moore
  - C.S. Lewis & "Sensucht"
- Our home life makes us yearn for Home. But we're not there yet. And so family realities are met with longing and tears.

### **Honoring God's Ways (v. 5)**

- The gospel traveled to Timothy through a lady named Lois and her daughter named Eunice.

- Paul's primary concern: what will the next chapter of the Christian movement look like? He is urgent about the transfer of the gospel.

*"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)*

*"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4)*

### **Teaching**

*"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." (2 Timothy 3:14-15)*

- Motherhood is missional.

"There is a good old saying that distance adds intrigue. It is certainly true—just think back to anything that has ever been distant from you that is now near. Your driver's license. Marriage. Children. Things that used to seem so fascinating, but as they drew near become less mystical and more, well, real. This same principle also applies to mission fields. The closer you get to home, the less intriguing the work of sacrifice seems. As another good old saying goes, 'Everyone wants to save the world, but no one wants to help Mom with the dishes.' When you are a mother at home with your children, the church is not clamoring for monthly ministry updates. When you talk to other believers, they don't communicate awe about what you are sacrificing for the gospel. People do not press you for needs they can fill for you, or how they can pray for you. Your life does not feel intriguing, or glamorous. Your work is normal, because you are as close to home as you can possibly be. You have actually gone so far as to become home." -**Rachel Jankovic**, "Motherhood is a Mission Field," in *Mom Enough: The Fearless Mother's Heart and Hope*, 5

### **Testimony**

- "Sincere faith."

➤ *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* by Sam Chan

From *Truth* → *Belief* → *Life*

to

*Livability* → *Believability* → *Truth*

“Because motherhood is missional, there’s something of eternal value taking place in the realm of the unseen. It’s true—sometimes the only cheering a mom hears is when the lid of the ice cream container snaps open in the kitchen. But as mothers faithfully raise up the next generation in the gospel, the applause of heaven echoes in eternity.”  
–**Gloria Furman**, “Missional Motherhood, in *Mom Enough: The Fearless Mother’s Heart and Hope*, 99

## **Empowered by God’s Gift** (v. 6-7)

### ***Fear***

“This desire to control our lives is common among mothers. We voice our worries to each other, talk about our stresses, and strategize how to make our lives smooth and problem-free. Worry is an ‘acceptable sin’ that joins many conversations, play dates, and texts. Sometimes we even encourage worry among one another, attempting to out-do each other to see whose life is most worrisome and hectic. It seems so normal and commonplace, after all. I mean, what mother doesn’t worry? And if she didn’t, wouldn’t there be something wrong with her?” –**Christina Fox**, “Grace Greater Than Our Worries,” in *Mom Enough: The Fearless Mother’s Heart and Hope*, 62

### ***The Spirit’s Resources***

**Power to Serve**

**Love for Sacrifice**

**Self-Mastery**