

## God Cares as a Mother

### 2 Timothy 1:1-7

There is a Jewish proverb that reads *“God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers”*

This proverb has always bothered me since we know God is indeed everywhere. This week looking at Paul’s mention of Timothy’s grandmother and mother I believe the Lord helped me find the truth

*“Since God is everywhere, He made mothers”*

### Biblical Background

We must remember that God is not a man or a woman, He is God! He uses various anthropomorphisms. *(an Anthropomorphism is the perception of a divine being or beings in human form, or the recognition of human qualities in these beings.)* The Bible speaks of the hands, arms, eyes, and voice of God (it also mentions his wings and feathers, but He is not a bird) *These are to help us see Him more clearly. He uses several word pictures relating the love of God to that of a mother. God is described as a woman in labor (Isaiah 42:14) and as having given birth to his people (Deuteronomy 32:18). He is compared to a nursing mother (Isaiah 49:15), to a comforting mother (Isaiah 66:13; Psalm 131:2), and to a mother teaching her child to walk (Hosea 11:3). God is described as a mother bear whose cubs have been taken away, as a hungry lioness (Hosea 13:8), as a mother eagle caring for her young (Deuteronomy 32:11-12). David compared God to a woman (Psalm 123:2-3), and Jesus himself likened God to a woman cleaning her house to find a lost coin (Luke 15:8-10). Jesus cries over Jerusalem saying He wanted to gather them as hen does her chicks (Matthew 23:27). God provided just enough healthy food for his people (Exodus 16:11-18), and he provides for us as well (Philippians 4:19). He urged his disciples to rest (Mark 6:31). He bandages our wounds (Psalm 147:3) and will wipe away our tears (Isaiah 25:8). He comforts us (Isaiah 51:12) and carries us close to his heart (Isaiah 40:11).*

In 2 Timothy 2:1-7 Paul speaks of a godly grandmother and mother, but I want us to look at what we learn about God Himself in this passage

### 1. God has an eternal plan

He knew Timothy before he was born and planned for him long before that

He lives outside of time **Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

His plan for our salvation predates the creation **1 Peter 1:18-20** *For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.*

### 2. God’s plan is for families

Note Paul speaks of Timothy as a son, of his ancestors in faith as forefathers, as the picture of sincere faith seen in Timothy’s grandmother, Lois and mother, Eunice. (sad that grandfather and father were not in this picture)

Marriage and families, was and is God’s plan for society from the creation – **Genesis 2:24**

### 3. God can overcome all obstacles

Some of us come from dysfunctional or broken homes, but God is not hindered by such.

Timothy was from a home with a believing mother but an unbelieving father. (See **Acts 16:1**)

God desires that children be raised by a believing father and mother but can overcome any difficulty

**John 1:5** *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Because we belong to God we are also overcomers

**1 John 4:4** *But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.*

God can use whatever circumstance you are in, (He is not the blame) for your development and good

### 4. God knows how to turn tragedy into victory

The history of Timothy and his family can be seen in two Acts passages

Paul’s first visit to Lystra, Timothy’s hometown, ended in violence but ultimate victory

**Acts 14:8-23** **Note 14:19-20** *Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town.* Timothy saw firsthand the power of God and the deep love of Paul

On Paul’s second visit to Lystra he was impressed by Timothy’s faith and chose him to be his assistant. **Acts 16:1-3**

We are witnessing God doing that with the pandemic today.

### 5. God desires every generation to have a genuine faith of their own

Do you have believing parents – wonderful – but their faith will not save you.

Note verse 5, *I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.* It is the same faith but his own faith.

*We do need to know, however, that we have nothing to boast about other than our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; and each of us must come to Him as an individual, regardless of our family's influence. Paul makes this totally clear when he writes in Galatians 6:14, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (NIV). Ken Ham*

## 6. God gives us the gifts we need to serve Him but we must sharpen and use them 6

*This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. 1:6*

Every believer has received spiritual gifts chosen for us by the Holy Spirit *It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. 1Corinthians 12:11*

Our task is to "kindle afresh" – stir them up as we would a fire to make it burn brighter

We are to discover and develop the gifts God has given us for His Kingdom

## 7. God calls us to live boldly in our present world 7

### A. Fearless -The spirit of fear is not from God

The most repeated command of the Bible is "Fear not" one for each day of the year

Why – we all have fears – speaking before a group, heights, confrontation, rejection ...

Fears hinder the work of God – Paul encouraged Timothy 25 times in his letters to be bold

The first step in overcoming fear is to realize it is not from God – then we can deal with it correctly

### B. Powerful – When we do the work of God we can expect the power of God

Jesus promised it - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

Paul explained it - *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. 2Corinthians 10:3-5*

### C. Loving – Christlike in how we use the power of God

Jesus modeled it well - *Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. John 13:1*

He washed their feet and told them to follow His example *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35*

### D. Discerning -God has given us a sound mind

The idea is of a calm, self-controlled mind in contrast to the panic and confusion of our world

The word speaks of the discipline of a clear mind.

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23*

It is ours by the grace of God *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God Titus 2:11-12*

God has given us mothers (and fathers) and bosses and even pastors to help us learn who He is and how He wants us to live **How are you responding to Him?**

His eternal plan for your life - yielding or complaining?

His gifts entrusted to you – developing or ignoring?

His Spirit working in you – listening or rejecting?

Is your life marked by panic and confusion?

– turn to the mother love of God today.