



# Walking in the Word

## The Essential Foundation Stones of Timothy's Life

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#### *The Essential Foundation Stones of Timothy's Life*

#### *2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1:5; 3:14-17; Acts 16:2*

*Who or what will enable us to have the greatest return and joy in our spiritual journey? The Scripture sums up a possible answer in 2 Timothy 2:1-2. Why do you think Timothy received this instruction? Timothy was blessed to have at least five significant foundational "S" stones in his house that prepared him to receive great returns and joy. Who lived in his home? (2 Tim 1:5; Acts 16:1; John 14:23; 1 Pet. 2:4-5) Each of the 5 stones represents what we want those we influence/disciple/mentor to also have, so they can receive great returns and joy in their spiritual life! Timothy had:*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ . *It's only placed in our foundation "...through faith in Christ Jesus"—2 Tim. 3:14-. His grandmother Lois, and mother Eunice placed the 2nd-4th stones and they prepared the ground for this first stone, but Timothy still had a personal decision to make. 2 Timothy 3:15 and 1 Peter 2:4-7 verify it's by faith we come to Jesus. It's the only way to have a relationship with the "...precious cornerstone" and be "built into a spiritual house." (See also Rev. 3:20; John 14:23.)*
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ —2 Tim. 1:5. *This second stone is described in 2 Timothy 1:5—"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which FIRST lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in YOU also." Timothy had two family members in his spiritual heritage and foundation who had obvious faith. This generational influence was significant because Timothy was privileged to SEE faith LIVED out before him in his life. (This was a contrast to his father, who was a Greek and also not a believer.)*
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ . *Paul said to Timothy, it's "...SINCERE faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice..."—2 Tim. 1:5. Sincere means no mask, not disguising one's intentions, nor concealing one's true feelings or values. It means to be authentic and not playing a part or wearing a mask as an actor. It's being genuine. Timothy didn't grow up watching two family members who talked like Jewish believers but lived like pagans. His mother and grandmother lived before him without masks. As followers of Jesus, they were open with their faith, love, encouragement and struggles.*
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ . *This stone was also clearly displayed in his mother and grandmother's lives. Later, it was reinforced and strengthened by Paul. 2 Tim. 3:14—"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you KNOW those from whom you learned it, 15] and how from infancy you have KNOWN the Holy SCRIPTURES, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 15] All Scripture is God-breathed..." Timothy's sincerity, study habits and love for the Scriptures didn't suddenly happen. He became a disciple of Jesus and one who valued learning and loving the Word, because he heard and saw it lived out in front of him from infancy, e.g., they read to him and told him bedtime stories. He saw the application of the Word in real life situations from infancy onward—2 Tim. 3:14-16. This is ultimate discipleship!*

5) \_\_\_\_\_ . Acts 16:2—“The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.” (See also 1 Tim. 4:14; 6:12.) This helped to override any negative influences around him—Acts 16:1b. They also gave spiritual insight regarding his gifts/ministry. It added even more stability to his life. Remember Acts 16:2 points out something very important to all mentors/influencers: **WE ARE NOT ENOUGH!** Every mentee or person we influence needs a team, a church of spiritual believers contributing to their spiritual foundation. These other older adults not only appreciated Timothy from a distance, Acts 16:2 reports they **SPOKE UP** and had good things to say about him. That must have been a massive encouragement to Timothy.

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Caution: Beware of Counterfeit Stones—2 Tim. 3:1-17; 4:1-5; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 17:11; 20:28-31, etc.

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### **Application Phase 1—Matt. 7:24-27**

- 1) *Is Jesus your cornerstone? (Explain)*
- 2) *Can you restate the obvious reasons why Timothy’s family members were so helpful to Timothy’s future? What does sincerity look like in you or others?*
- 3) *As we review the spiritual heritage we’ve each received from our own families, would you say it was spiritually healthy and positive, or was it negative and hurtful? Or, was it a combination of both? How? If it was positive, can you give some examples of ways your immediate or extended family has continued to have influence in your life, ministry and mentoring (discipleship) of others?*
- 4) *Specifically, when you were growing up, how was the Word valued and practiced in your home?*
- 5) *If we are parents and/or mentors, how is our value of reading and applying the Bible being played out today in our homes and life? (See Deut. 6:4-9; 2 Tim. 2:15.)*
- 6) *What are some of the positive effects on individuals and/or churches when we value, honor and are mentored by those who are spiritually mature?*
- 7) *If you are influencing a person through mentoring, or as a parent, how will you teach them about Jesus and the basics of the faith/salvation?*
- 8) *More broadly, how are we replicating in OUR church the opportunity for people like Timothy, Titus, Mary, Martha, Aquila and Priscilla, Titus, etc., to have close relationships with mentors (mature/safe adults), so they can personally be encouraged in their calling and spiritual gifts? What are we already doing? What do we need to do in addition?*
- 9) *How will we equip FAMILIES to train/mentor/disciple their own children and youth? Are we/they preparing children and youth so that other godly leaders/mentors will help them grow even further? Does Timothy’s family and church give us some ideas? How?*

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Timothy had:

- 1) *A Salvation Cornerstone, Jesus*
  - 2) *A Spiritual Heritage/Formation Stone*
  - 3) *A Sincere Faith Stone, Lois and Eunice*
  - 4) *A Scripture Stone, it’s God-breathed.*
  - 5) *A Spoken Affirmation Stone, his Church and other Christians in the area*
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