

## My Mother the Model

*When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded in you also.—II Timothy 1:5*

Paul recounts the rich heritage that Timothy gained from his mother and grandmother. His father was an unbelieving Greek but his mother and grandmother were godly believing Jews and they taught Timothy *genuine faith*. Many of us today have had that same privilege of seeing genuine faith in a mother or grandmother and we learned from their model. My father was not a believer as I was growing up but I learned genuine faith from my mother as she modeled what she had learned from her mother.

When I teach teachers I am emphatic about the necessity of modeling. Most students need to see a demonstration of what the teacher is trying to teach. They need to have the teacher explain the essential characteristics as he models them. Then they need to have the teacher guide them in the practice of that behavior. As they begin to be able to do it independently they still need the teacher to monitor the behavior they are learning and give them feedback and correction.

As mothers, it is our greatest desire that our children would know genuine faith in Jesus Christ. So how do mothers convey their faith? Do they lecture? Do they give out worksheets? No, they live it and as they live it they give testimony to what God is doing and how they are exercising their faith. As Timothy put into practice the things he had learned from his mother and grandmother's model, he too became skilled in the faith.