

What's a Mother to Do?

The month of May brings to mind thoughts of mothers and Mother's Day. We may think of our mother or grandmother or even a friend's mother. We might think of ourselves as mothers. Most mothers have positive thoughts about motherhood. We remember the joy we felt when our child was born. We think of our child's talents. We remember something thoughtful our son or daughter did for us. I remember one Mother's Day when my children were young and they surprised me by doing many of the tasks I normally did. They made breakfast, washed the dishes, and swept the floor. They were helpful and showed kindness so I could rest and enjoy my special day.

We also know that since we live in a sinful world, the mother/child relationship is tainted with sin. Children from little on throw tantrums, disobey mom, and are sometimes even disrespectful. Children lie, steal, hate, and the list goes on. Much has been written about motherhood, but you can't buy one self-help book that offers a solution to every problem mothers face in life. "Surely I was sinful at birth, in sin my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:5) So what's a mother to do? Let's look to Scripture for a solution to the problem, "What's a mother to do?"

I have been 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. 2 Timothy 1:5

Here, in Paul's second letter to Timothy, we see what one believing mother and grandmother did. We do not know much about Timothy's mother or grandmother, other than what we are told here. Eunice and Lois were faithful believing women. They knew they were sinners, and that young Timothy had also inherited that sinful nature. They also knew the good news of Jesus, their Savior from sin. There was no reason to despair or wonder what to do. Their problem of sin had been removed through the blood of Jesus which had taken away their sins and Timothy's too. Timothy, Eunice, and Lois were God's forgiven children. This mother and grandmother shared Jesus' forgiving love, which prompted Timothy to want to share it with others. When my children were young, we ended each day with a song or prayer such as "Jesus, Savior, wash away all that has been wrong today." It was a good reminder of Jesus' forgiveness.

We hear in his letter to Timothy that Paul wants to take Timothy with him on a missionary journey. Paul mentions Eunice, Timothy's mother, and Lois, Timothy's grandmother as having an influence on Timothy. And now Timothy wants to share the good news of Jesus' love with others. We are told he got that foundation from a faithful believing mother and grandmother.

It is the privilege and joy of every Christian mother to instruct her children in the love of Jesus. Remember your Christian mother, if you were blessed with one. If you are a mother, pray that God will bless you and your children. Remember to pray for Christian mothers everywhere.

For Christian homes, O Lord, we pray,
That you might dwell with us each day.
Make ours a place where you are Lord,
Where all is governed by your Word. (CW 500 vs.1)

This devotion was written by Wendy Feuerstahler and reviewed by President Emeritus Armin Panning.