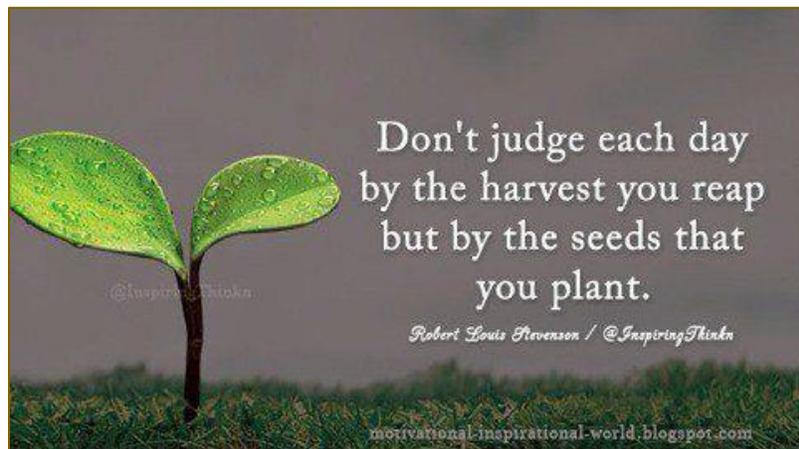


# Transference of Faith

The transference of faith is often subtle and mysterious. How do we pass our faith down to our children? How do we take the seed of faith that is in us and plant it in someone else's heart? Paul calls attention to this with Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5); Paul sees a "sincere faith within" Timothy. He recognizes that this faith first "dwelt" in his grandmother and then in his mother. Timothy's father was an unbelieving Greek. Somehow the faith that lives in grandmother and mom came to live in him. Of course, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) But technically this is not what happened with Timothy because he was raised by a Jewish mother and grandmother with pagan influences. At some point it seems grandmother and his mother became Christians, but this likely occurred after faith was forming inside Timothy. Although there is a lot of mystery to this transference of faith, it does involve some predictable elements. There must be intention. Faith is not accidentally transferred. We decide what to tell others. We decide what to expose others to. We decide how much of our own faith to show others. We decide what forms of faith we will display to others. In the case of Timothy, faith happened over a period of time and Paul came along and reaped the harvest. For others, like many of the pagans throughout the Roman Empire, it came more quickly during the preaching of a sermon about Jesus. Whether to the philosopher in Athens or the half-breed Jewish/pagan boy growing up in Lystra, or to the Roman centurion in Caesarean who loved the Jewish people or the seller of purple worshipping on a river bank, or to an Ethiopian treasurer traveling down the road or to a terrified jailor who was on the brink of suicide, faith was transferred. Human agency was always involved. The word of God comes into the picture. The heart has been prepared somehow. The seed goes in and a crop comes up and more seed is produced, and on and on it goes. And we get to participate in this wonderful mystery of faith.



# Reflection and Discussion



Spend a few minutes talking about transferring faith to another.

---

---

---

---

Read 2 Tim.1:5. What do you think was happening in this home that resulted in the transference of faith?

---

---

---

---

What negative influences must be overcome in order to have a successful transference of faith?

---

---

---

---

Look at some of the examples of people coming to faith and how that occurred.

---

---

---

---

Memory Verse: Philemon 6

“...and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective.”