

Women Warriors for Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, wells in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

MOTHERS DAY IS A DAY TO RECOGNIZE MOMS. HOWEVER, FROM A BIBLICAL POINT OF VIEW IT MEANS MORE THAN OUR TRADITIONAL IDEAS OF MOTHERHOOD.

BIBLICALLY IT MEANS THAT WOMAN ARE VALUABLE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST AND THEY ARE TRULY THE FRONTLINE WARRIORS FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME.

Show Video: 39 Pounds of Love. Story of Ami who was born with a genetic defect in 1970. Given only six years to live his mother became a warrior to find a cure and keep him alive.

Ami's mother is truly a warrior.

Christian Women are warriors and called by Jesus Christ to first and foremost be his disciples, proclaim his truth, mentor and disciple new believers and raise children to know the power and purpose of Jesus.

Keep in mind that the New Testament is the most unique document in the history of mankind. Why do I say that?

The Reason: God the Father places the same value and purpose on women as he does of men.

No other historical document has placed such value and purpose as does the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the bible we find the Lord elevating women:

THERE WAS

Miriam who led the people in praising God after the crossing of the Red Sea (**Ex 15:21**)

Ruth who put God first and became the ancestress of King David (**Ruth 1:16;4:17**)

Deborah, a judge in Israel (**Judges 5**),

Hannah who 'lent to the Lord' the child of her prayers (**1Sam 1:28**)

Esther who took her life in her hands to plead for her doomed people,

The **widow** whose obedience sustained the prophet Elijah (**1Kings 17:9-16**)

A little captive **maid** who told Naaman's wife of the man of God who could cure Naaman of his leprosy (**2Kings 5:2-4**)

The **woman who anointed Jesus** with the expensive ointment (**Mk14:3**),

The **poor widow's** gift of two mites which won Jesus' praise (**Mk 12:43**)

Mary who gave birth to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (**Luke 1:28**)

Martha who served and **Mary** who sat at the feet of Jesus (**Luke 10:38-42**)

Mary Magdalene who brought spices to anoint Jesus, who first greeted the risen Lord and who received the first commission - 'Go tell' (**Jn 20:17-18; Mk 16:9**)

Lydia one of the first converts in Macedonia (**Acts 16:14**)

Dorcas – full of good works (**Acts 9:36**)

Phebe & Priscilla – servants of the church (**Ro 16:1-4**)

Lois and Eunice who had sincere faith (**2Tim 1:5**)

Persis 'the beloved' and **Tryphena and Tryphosa** who laboured for the Lord (**Romans 16:12**).

These verses are amazing. Why?

- Around the world women and girls still have little value.
- Women are viewed a property.

Women can be bought and sold and are!

Women are less than men.

Women are to be seen but not heard.

In Christianity women have been elevated and used by the Lord to the same level as men.

It was Paul the apostle who said that in Christ there is neither male nor female.

Over the past 35 years I have heard many sermons about women, their roles and the biblical command to submit to their husbands.

Unfortunately I have heard little about the husband laying down his life for his wife.

May be it has to do with the fact that most preachers are men.

Here is the biblical mandate to men and women:

Wives submit to your husbands—voluntary, in response to the Lord's command, and it is not the husbands role to expect submission.

Husbands die to yourself, you will, your bullheadedness yourdesires. The husbands role is to respond to Jesus by sacrificing himself for his wife.

The bottom line? Both husbands and wives are to behavior like Jesus to one another!

Unfortunately Christianity has hurt itself on this topic.

As a result of some pretty slopped biblical preaching and teaching a great many in the non-christian community view evangelical, bible believing Christianity, as the western from of the Afgan Taliban!

We are too often viewed as men who suppress women, men who lord is over their wives, men who value boys over girls.

Is this true! **NO.**

Therefore we need to be wise and careful how we teach and talk about women and men in the church.

2Tim. 1:3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

As Paul writes to Timothy he gives us a wonderful glimpse as to how faith is passed from one generation to the next.

Paul first tells of his faith: ***I thank my God whom I serve.***

Several times in the word of God Paul shares his testimony.

A testimony is simply telling others what the Lord has done for you in a very personal way.

Women, Mothers, Daughter do you have a testimony for Jesus Christ.

Your testimony for Jesus will impact your children's lives, your in-laws, your grandchildren.

I remember one women, a very successful businesswoman, who spoke of her mother in glowing terms:

Mom taught me to cook, to sew, to dress up, manners, study habits, how to drive, on and on.

Then she paused, tears welled up in her eyes. She went on: Mom shared everything with me except....Jesus Christ.

Moms, women, are you like St. Paul? Can you share your testimony of what Jesus has done for you?

If you have not then plan to develop a testimony this week.

What do you say?

Keep it simple. Keep it short, Keep is centered on Jesus.

•#1: Tell what Jesus has done for you.

- Jesus healed my heart of bitterness.
- Jesus restored my broken relationship with my brother or sister.

- Jesus grew in my heart as a child from hearing the bible stories until I came to the point of surrendering my life to him.

•#2: Tell what Jesus means to you.

- Jesus is the reason I get up each day.
- Jesus is my hope for living and dying.
- Jesus gives me purpose.

•#3: Tell what you want Jesus to mean for those you speak to.

- Jesus wants to be your lord and savior.
- Jesus wants to heal your broken heart.
- Jesus wants to grant you inner peace and eternal life.

Prepare your testimony so you can fulfill the words of St.

Peter: *1Pet. 3:15* but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.

A woman, who is a warrior for Jesus Christ, sheds tears for her children and for children without parents.

Tears are a reflection of the heart. (mirror graphic)

When we shed tears for our children, our spouse, for others we are displaying the depth of Jesus' love.

Genuine tears reflect the agape love, the love without strings heart of mothers.

If you have been privileged to have a Christian mother I can assure you today that she shed tears for you on more than one occasion.

British statesman **Lord Shaftesbury's statement says it all: 'Give me a generation of Christian mothers, and I will undertake to change the whole face of society in twelve months.'**

It is accurate to say that the influence of a mother in her home upon the lives of her children cannot be measured.

The mother-infant bond is an intense relationship of unparalleled human affection. It is the foundation of the child's emotional and physical survival.

It is in the intensity of that bond that tears are shed.

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Mothers and grandmothers are the frontline soldiers for their children and grandchildren in Jesus Christ.

Lois and Eunice's faith and commitment to Jesus impacted Timothy for a lifetime.

What did they do?

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Take these words of mine to heart and keep them in mind. Write them down, tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder.

Teach them to your children, and talk about them when you're at home or away, when you lie down or get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Then you and your children will live for a long time in this land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors—as long as there's a sky above the earth.

Anything worth doing is worth doing INTENTIONALLY!

Note the action words: Take, keep, write, tie, wear, teach, talk.

The point: The Bible is saying that if we want our kids to know the Lord and grow in faith then we, parents, moms and dads, need to be the primary teachers, motivators, leaders in making that happen.

Secret: Sunday school will not make your children Christians.

My preaching will not make your children Christians.

The youth program will not make them Christians.

We can only reinforce what you INTENTIONALLY do in teaching and modeling for your children the truth about Jesus.

Therefore Moms your influence on children is ENORMOUS!!!

I want to encourage you to intentionally take, keep, write, tie, wear, teach, talk about Jesus and his purpose for your children over and over and over again.

Undoubtedly this is what Lois and Eunice did for Timothy.

If they could do it I know you can do it as well.

Billy Graham tells the story of a widow who recognized some special abilities in her son and did everything in her power to give him the best education possible.

She grew vegetables, kept chickens, took in washing etc and sent her son to university.

With graduation day pending the son gave his mother the invitation to attend.

The mother's response was typical but true: 'I cannot go, I have nothing to wear'.

But the son insisted and finally took her to the ceremony in her plain cotton dress.

The son tried to take her to sit with his classmates wealthy parents but on this point she won and sat on the far left where she could still get a view.

The son delivered his message and was handed his piece of paper and his medal, and with the sound of the exploding applause he went straight over to his mother and pinned the medal on her, saying 'Mother this belongs to you. You earned it'.

This mother had not achieved all that alone.

Her faith in Jesus Christ and the values Jesus taught her were her daily strength which she applied to her son.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,

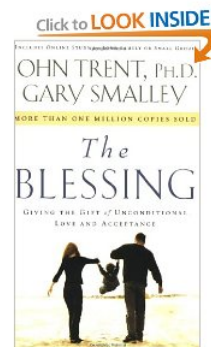
which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Mom's one more thing to consider.

In verses 6 & 7 Paul reminds Timothy God's gift to him that came through the laying on of Paul's hands.

The premise of the entire book can be summarized in these words: *Mom and Dad's intentional efforts to speak a word of blessing on their sons and daughters, no matter their age, will make all the difference in whether those sons and daughters live happy healthy lives or not.*

“The unconditional love and approval that comes with the blessing is vital to our self-esteem and emotional well-being.”



Mom's and Dad's here is what you can do:

- **Take time this next week to call, be with or write your children.**
- **Tell them how much you love them.**
- **Tell them of your pride in the fact that they are your sons or daughters.**
- **Tell them that Jesus created them for a special purpose.**
- **Tell them that they are meant to be a blessing to the world.**

Mom-you are Jesus' frontline warrior to your children and all the children of the world.

What you do today will make a lifetime difference tomorrow.

You are more than a mom-you are Jesus ambassador of love and truth.

Yellow card:

_____ **As a woman created by Jesus Christ I will strive to be his disciple and stand for his truth for the rest of my life.**

_____ **As a woman I will use my gifts, talents and abilities to mentor other women to be disciples of Jesus.**

_____ **If I am a mother, grandmother, guardian or teacher I will strive to teach children their purpose and value in the eyes of Jesus.**