

The Church on the Move: Next Gen Church

2 Timothy 1:1-9 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 31 July 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Describe your relationship with one of your oldest friends. What keeps you close?

Worship: [Psalm 100](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

Sermon Summary for [2 Timothy 1:1-9](#) (Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

“Repent and be baptized every one one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, everyone the Lord our God calls to himself” (Acts 2:38-39).

God loves to work across generations. The Gospel is intended to be passed on within families as well as generationally within congregations. Jesus came to give us life in Himself – abundant life – that is intended to overflow into the lives of those coming after us. We see this in Christ's yearning for children to know the love of the Father: *“Let the little children come to me. Do not hinder them. For to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matt 19:14)*. The church's life and vibrancy therefore hinges on our engagement and effectiveness in passing the love of Christ on to the younger generations. This has always been true. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul focuses on the needs of rising generations of Christians and how we, the church, can pass a living faith on to them.

Rising generations need real faith from us // A real faith is experiential; it has something authentic to share. Like the apostles, our sharing the Good News is enmeshed within sharing our experiences of the Risen Jesus. We share this in word and deed, which means our faith needs to be genuine. It also means that cultivating our life in Jesus is never just about ourselves. It's also for our families, our fellow congregants, and for younger generations who will come after us. Paul could talk about the promise of life in Christ – even in the face of his own looming death – with authenticity, grace, mercy and peace. He is able to do this because Jesus was real and palpable to him. This Life flowed out of Paul because the source was God rather than it being a product of his own efforts.

Rising generations need enduring faith from us // Paul urges Timothy to be ready for – and even to embrace – the sufferings that come his way for following after Jesus and to do so with Gospel boldness. We too must be prepared to endure hardship for our faith; suffering with Jesus is a core part of the Christian walk. And we need to be willing to discuss and share this reality with rising generations or their faith might wane. God will be the One who keeps them in His church, but He almost always uses His people to share the means of preparation. We lean into God in such times, trusting His power to be displayed and at work in our weakness. In all our spaces of suffering, God will be uniquely and deeply with us.

Rising generations need relational faith from us // It is one of our highest callings and privileges to share our faith with our family and to pass it on to future generations. With loved ones we can cultivate and grow as followers of Christ together. This both strengthens and deepens our roots... while also enabling us to better share how God has worked in and through our lives. What a privilege this is for us as parents, siblings, and even through the spiritual kinship that Paul describes of his relationship with Timothy. May we see this as a glorious and unique opportunity to play our part in fulfilling the original mandate that God gave to humanity: to reproduce His image in the world.

[Rising generations need encouraging faith from us](#) // Paul urges Timothy to fan the flames of his calling to pastor and evangelize, leading the church forward in Ephesus. We all need this kind of encouragement – especially in the earlier stages of our journey, when we are trying to realize whose and who we are in Christ. We need more mature believers coming alongside us, encouraging us to give up fear, and to seek the Spirit’s graces of power, love and self-control. And so it is for us to learn that a core part of our life’s fruit is to see fruit growing on the trees of others whom we are loving in Jesus’ name.

Discussion Questions *(You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)*

Rising Generations Need Real Faith from us

- How might Paul’s reference to the faith of Timothy’s mother and grandmother encourage Timothy to boldness and endurance (2 Tim. 1:6–8)? (See also [Acts 16:1](#) and [2 Tim 3:15](#).)
- How have you experienced Christian faith being passed on to you? What made it authentic and impactful?
- Have you seen God’s work made manifest in a loved one? How has witnessing this affected you?
- Have you ever considered how your faith affects those around you? How it will affect future generations?
 - How might this shift in perspective change how you approach your relationship with God?

The Rising Generations Need Enduring Faith from us

- Paul recalls Timothy’s “sincere faith” (2 Tim. 1:5). What does it mean to have sincere or genuine faith? Consider [1 Timothy 1:2, 1:5, 1:19; 4:12; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:22; 3:10, 3:15; 4:7](#).
- What does it look like and mean for our faith to endure in the modern world?
 - Can you share some examples of this?

Rising Generations Need Relational Faith from us

- Paul longs to see Timothy again so he may “be filled with joy” (1:3-4). Paul frequently mentions believers’ joy in the Holy Spirit ([Rom 14:17, Gal 5:22, 1 Thes 1:6](#)) and his own joy in fellowship with other Christians ([1 Thes 2:19-20, Phil 2:2, Philemon 7](#)). What is the relationship between these two sources of joy?
- Did you grow up with parents or other older family members who were Christians?
 - If so, describe their influence on you. If not, who contributed to and supported your coming to know Christ? Do you think of them as an older sibling or parent in Christ as Timothy sees Paul?

The Rising Generations Need Encouraging Faith from us

- In 2 Timothy 1:1, Paul introduces himself as an “apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.” Why do you think Paul begins this way?
 - How do Paul’s apostolic calling and his hope in God’s promise inform his perspective on present trials? Consider [2 Timothy 1:8-12, 2:8-13, 4:6-8](#).
- Do you have any experience of suffering for or with Christ? Have you been able to see and recognize that God was with you through those dark times? What kind of encouragement and support was (or would have been) most impactful to receive during that time?
- How can you personally and together as a CG be encouraging for those a bit behind you on the road?

Prayer

This week’s Prayer Guide for personal or group use is [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer

Our August Day of Prayer and Fasting as a church is this Thursday, August 4th. Join to pray with others at one or both of the online prayer meetings at 8:00 am or 7:00 pm. The link to these meetings and other resources are found on the PCC website at <https://pacificcrossroads.org/prayer/>