The Faith of Our Children and Grandchildren
2 Timothy 1:3-5

Introduction:
A. Timothy’s faith first in grandmother and mother.
B. Our influence on children’s and grandchildren’s faith probably greater than church’s.
C. Christian parents and grandparents should do two things to influence children’s faith.

Discussion:
I. We Should Examine the Quality of Our Own Faith.
A. The basis of it.
   2. Is it too subjective? (Cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
B. The sincerity of it. (v. 5 - unfeigned, sincere, genuine).
C. The depth of it.
   1. Too shallow if merely ritualistic, traditional, or emotional.
   2. Too shallow if it finds no work to do for the Lord. (Jas. 2:26; 4:17).
   3. Too shallow if does not help us with daily life.
      a. With worries (Matt. 6:30).
      b. With fears (Matt. 8:26).
   4. Too shallow for concern with children’s faith (Eph. 6:4).
D. The expression of it.
   1. Are we too vague?
      a. Against “sin”, “error”, and “worldliness” — nothing particular.
      b. For “scriptural”, “truth”, “right”, “soundness” — nothing particular.
   2. Are we too flexible?
      b. Bend Bible to fit practice, rather than practice to fit Bible.
      c. Bend to overly accommodate the immaturity of youth.
         (1) By not holding responsible for sinful behavior.
         (2) By melting under pressure of requests and protests.
         (3) By excusing unacceptable behavior — even giving tacit permission.
   3. Are we too rigid?
      b. Cannot say “I am sorry” to children when wrong.

II. We Should Combine Bible Teaching with a Good Example.
A. Example alone will not produce faith.
   1. The word must be taught. (Rom. 10:6-8, 14-17; cf. Matt 28:18-20).
   2. Many methods of teaching: classes, conversation, literature, etc.
   3. Many opportunities for teaching: both at home and at church.
B. Example may determine the effectiveness of teaching (cf. Matt. 23:3; 1 Pet 3:1)
   1. Poor examples undermine our teaching.
   2. Good examples reenforce our teaching.

Conclusion:
A. No guarantees — children and grandchildren free moral agents.
B. Improve odds greatly with strong faith, sound teaching, proper example.