The Faith of Our Children
2 Tim. 1:3-5

Introduction:
A. We, as Christians, will likely influence the faith of generations to come.
   1. Timothy's was a third generation faith.
      a. Not blind faith of parents - was "genuine" ("unfeigned" - KJV) faith.
      b. Not weak faith of "inherited religion" - was taught Scriptures (3:14-15).
   2. Some are exceptions to the rule.
      a. King Hezekiah was faithful in spite of father, Ahaz. (2 Kgs 17:2; 18:5)
      b. Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways. (1 Sam. 8:3)
B. We, as Christians, will likely pass on dominant features of our faith.
   1. If faith is predominantly strong, children's faith likely strong.
   2. If faith is predominantly weak, children's faith likely weak.
C. We, as Christians, need to work on flaws in faith - for own, children's and grandchildren's sake:

Discussion:

I. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO SUBJECTIVE. (2 Tim. 3:14-17).
   A. Too subjective if "just because" is answer for faith (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
   B. Too subjective if reflects mere personal preferences or opinions.

II. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO SHALLOW.
   A. Too shallow if merely ritualistic (cf. 2 Tim. 3:5), traditional, or emotional.
   B. Too shallow if do not find work to do for the Lord. (Jas. 4:14-17; Mt. 23:3).
      1. Work at faithful attendance to all services.
      2. Work that goes beyond mere showing up at services.
      3. Work that goes beyond "organized" and "assigned" activities.
   C. Too shallow if unwilling to defend faith. (Jude 3).
   D. Too shallow if does not sustain us in daily life.
      1. Worry. (Matt. 6:30).
      2. Fear. (Matt. 8:26).
   E. Too shallow if unconcerned about Children's faith. (Eph. 6:4)

III. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO VAGUE.
   A. Too vague if merely oppose: "Sin", "False doctrine", "Worldliness", etc.
   B. Too vague if merely advocate: "Scriptural", "Truth", "Right", "Soundness", etc.
      1. What specific things do you consider to be such?
      2. cf. Brother at Lipscomb stood "four square" on Premillennialism.

IV. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO FLEXIBLE.
   A. Too flexible if bend to fit times and circumstances. (cf. Gal. 2:14ff; Eph. 4:14)
      1. Can only been in matters of indifference and expediency.
      2. Can not change the faith once for all delivered.
   B. Too flexible if bend Bible to fit practice, rather than practice to fit Bible.
      1. Institutional controversy example of this in both ways.
      2. Marriage controversy fast becoming an example.
   C. Too flexible if bend faith to pacify immature children - afraid to say "no way"!
      1. Melt under that "Oh, mother" or "Oh, daddy" look.
      2. Give in to crying and pitiful begging.
      3. Afraid of appearing to be "old fashioned" or "out of step with times".

V. Their Faith Is Likely To Be Weak If Our Faith TOO RIGID.
   A. Too rigid if no room for patience, compassion, compassion and forgiveness - believe such is softness of character. (cf. Matt. 23:23).
   B. Too rigid if cannot say "I am sorry" to our children - think it shows weakness.

Conclusion:
A. We may not detect flaws in our faith - our children do.
   1. They may try to justify themselves by our weaknesses.
   2. Or, they may turn away in total disgust.
B. We can give our children a strong working faith only by having one ourselves.