

Paul's focus for Timothy is first on a pure concise, immediately followed by a genuine faith.

2 Timothy 1:5a: "I am reminded of your sincere faith"

- **Grammatical Usage:** "**sincere**" or in the Greek, "anupokritos" meaning, "unfeigned; without hypocrisy"; "**faith**" or "pisteōs" meaning, "faithful fidelity".
- **Literal Interpretation:** I am reminded of the reality of your faithful fidelity....
- **Contextual/Comparison:** God keeps His Word: God continually uses His Word.

I. NOT ALL FAITH IS GENUINE

A. FAITH THAT DISPLEASES GOD...

1. There is **little faith**
 - a. That fails to trust in God's providence - **Matthew 6:30**
 - b. That is filled with fear and doubt - **Matthew 8:26; 14:31**
 - c. That allows human reasoning to forget God's power - **Matthew 16:8-9**
2. There is **dead faith**

That fails to produce works - **James 2:17; 20**
3. There is **demonic faith**
 - a. Who believe in God, but only to tremble - **James 2:19**
 - b. Who believe in Jesus, but want to be left alone - **Mark 1:24**
4. There is **unconfessing faith**
 - a. By those who may believe, but will not confess Jesus - **John 12:42-43**
 - b. Such faith will not save, for confessing Christ is necessary - **Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33**
5. There is **"circumstantial faith"**
 - a. Some signs of a "circumstantial faith"
 1. Praying in public, but not in private
 2. Studying the Bible when at church, but not in private
 3. A lack of personal closeness and dependence upon God
6. There is **"blind faith"**

God expects us to love Him with our minds as well as our hearts - **Matthew 22:37**

B. FAITH THAT PLEASES GOD...

1. **Faith that is a strong conviction in things unseen**
 - a. Such is the Biblical definition of faith - **Hebrews 11:1**
 - b. Especially in God and His promises - **Hebrews 11:6**
2. **Faith that believes God raised Jesus from the dead**
 - a. For such is necessary for our salvation - **Romans 10:9**
 - b. For such is the source of great blessings - **John 20:29**

3. **Faith that works through love**
 - a. Faith that justifies by works, not by faith only - **James 2:24**
 - b. Faith that works through love, not by works only - **Galations 5:6**
4. **Faith that is genuine**
 - a. Faith that is sincere, unfeigned – **2 Timothy 1:5**
 - b. The kind of faith reflects God's love – **1 Timothy 1:5**

II. **DEVELOPING A FAITH THAT IS GENUINE**

A. **THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD...**

1. The Word of God is designed to produce faith - **Romans 10:17**
2. Books were written to create and strengthen faith – **John 20:30-31; 1 John 5:13**
3. The Bible contains evidence to develop faith (harmony of the Scriptures, scientific foreknowledge, fulfilled prophecy, eyewitness testimony, etc.)

B. **THROUGH THE FAMILY OF GOD...**

1. Timothy had been blessed being around people of faith - **2 Timothy 1:5**
 - a. His grandmother Lois and mother Eunice
 - b. The good example of their faith undoubtedly cultivated his own
2. Our faith is strengthened by our association with other Christians
 - a. Whose frequent assemblies exhort us to love and good works - **Hebrews 10:24-25**
 - b. Whose daily exhortations can ward off an evil heart of unbelief - **Hebrews 3:12-13**

C. **THROUGH WALKING WITH GOD...**

1. Abraham is the father of the faithful - cf. **Galatians 3:7, 9**
2. Abraham demonstrated his faith by walking with and wherever God told Him - **Hebrews 11:8-9**
3. Abraham grew in faith as he walked with God, even to where he was willing to offer his son - cf. **Hebrews 11:17-18**
 - a. His faith was not developed all at once, but in stages
 - b. It grew as he walked with God throughout his sojourn in life
 - c. The same could be said of the faith of the apostles of Christ

Keys

1. God is willing to help provide the kind of faith that pleases Him...
 - a. He provides **His Word** to create faith
 - b. He provides **His Family** to nurture faith
 - c. He provides **His Companionship** to strengthen faith

-- **Working together to produce "A Faith That Is Genuine"**
2. When people think of you, what kind of faith do you have that comes to their remembrance...?
 - a. Does it produce gratitude as Timothy's faith did for Paul? - cf. **2 Timothy 1:3-5**
 - b. Does it produce sadness, as Demas' lack of faith undoubtedly did for Paul? - cf. **2 Timothy 4:10**

➤ **Conclusion:** Is my faith a delight to God, noticed by others?