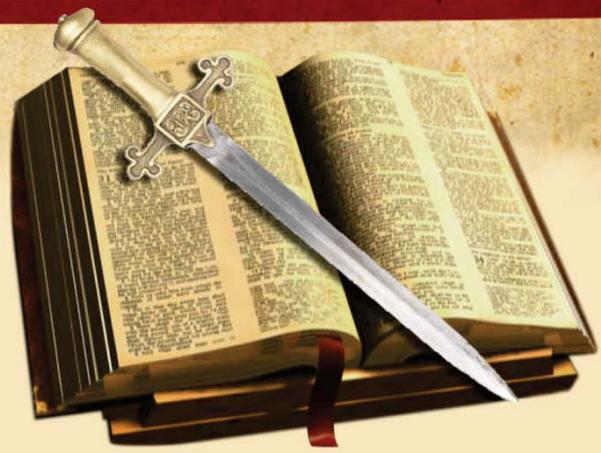


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



2 TIMOTHY

Unlocking Your Spiritual DNA

(The Principles of: Spiritual Genetics and Choice)

2 Timothy 1:2-7

There he sat, the great apostle of God, aged and shivering in a cold, dank Roman prison. He who had given his life for the Gospel was about to die for the Faith. Yet, in the final chapter of life, his desire was to help others, not himself. Recalling how Timothy struggled with confidence, Paul penned these unforgettable words: *“I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”* **Locked within the spiritual DNA of this young evangelist was faith...power to do great things for God! All he had to do was to unlock God’s resource within by recognizing it and kindling afresh the gift of God.**

It runs in families. It really does! But for some, their spiritual heritage is not good. Look at the descendants of **Cain**. Murder and polygamy was his legacy (*Gen. 4:23*). And look at the descendants of **Ham**, the son who uncovered his father’s sin (*Gen. 9:20-27*). His sons became the fathers of nations who warred against God. They built cities and birthed races that sacrificed children to false gods! On the other hand, look at **Seth**. All his descendants called on the name of the Lord (*Gen. 4:26*). **Shem**, who covered his father’s sin, became the father of the Jews (from whom Christ came). And from **Japheth**, who also covered his father, came the Europeans (the fertile soil for Christianity). *Amazingly, the spiritual conditions of these men originated in their families. Each had spiritual genes...inclinations for or against God.*

What kind of heritage do you have? Some may have godly ancestors who prayed for future generations. Your stalwart faith is evidence that God heard those prayers (*Ps. 103:17-18*). But others may not have grown up in righteous families. How is it that you believe? **Remember, God gives people power to choose their destinies.** Good choices can change the future (*Deut. 30:19*). Even the *harlot* changed an evil heritage to good, simply by the choice she made (*Heb. 11:31; Matt. 1:5-6*)! What then is the heritage you will leave to your children? **Make decisions carefully, beloved. Reject genetics that lead to destruction. Receive new Spiritual DNA from Christ and leave it for your children’s children (Deut. 7:9).**

Next: The Kingdom of God in Titus - Chastened by Grace

