

## **WHAT WILL YOUR CHILDREN INHERIT FROM YOU?**

2 Timothy 1:5 ... "...I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."

Have you given any thought to what your children will inherit from you when you die? This question applies to the poor as much as it does the rich. We will each leave something behind when we die. It could be a few Pesos, perhaps a motorcycle, Caribao, a few chickens, or a farm. It could be your fishing boat, a chair, an old necklace, your Bible, or a book. You may leave behind some clothes, your church shoes, or old photographs.

You might also leave behind debts; money you owe to people who will come looking for your descendants after your death. People may chase your children to get back things you borrowed from them and neglected to return. And, what will happen if you sold those borrowed items? Debts and obligations are especially shameful things for you to leave to your children. Please, consider the burden and hardship you may be creating for your children by accumulating debt and obligations. Do not allow that to happen!

As important as it is to plan how your material possessions will be distributed to your children and other relatives after your death, there is something even more important: Your legacy. In today's verse, Paul writes to Timothy and praises the faith in God that was passed to Timothy from his grandmother and mother. Paul says nothing about money, jewelry, or furniture because he believes that our faith – your faith – in God is the most important thing you can have, and the most important thing your children can inherit from you. If you leave your children money, it will be spent before you begin to ripen in the grave. If you give them a motorcycle, it will be broken within weeks, because people often do not value things they do not have to work for. The photos and clothes you leave to your children, will likely have no importance to them and be tossed aside.

However, if you train your children from a young age to love and obey God; if you demonstrate your faith to them daily; if you teach them to be givers instead of takers, they will inherit from you a rich spiritual and moral heritage that is priceless. It will stay with them and be replicated to their children, perhaps for generations. I know many people who work hard so they can leave things to their children. Many OFWs have this mindset. They leave their children at a young age – sometimes soon after birth – and work overseas to send money to their children. Your children do not need your money, video games, televisions, or brand-name clothes. They need you; you personally, not just in weekly phone calls. They need to grow into their own faith by watching you demonstrate your faith. This is the most important thing you can give your children while you are living, and the most important thing you leave behind when you die.

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