

Passing the Torch

Gary Kirksey

June 8, 2008

Psalms 71:17-18 O God, You have taught me from my youth, and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me until I declare Your strength to this generation, your power to everyone who is to come.

How can we pass the gospel of Jesus to the next generation?

1. We have to love the next generation.

1 Timothy 1:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:2 Paul obviously loves Timothy and delights in him.

- How many younger people do you have a close relationship with? In what contexts—family, workplace, social?
- What do you enjoy about those relationships? What things are difficult?

2. You can't just share your faith. You have to share your life.

2 Timothy 1:3-6 and 3:10-15 Paul tells Timothy to continue in the faith because he knows those from whom he's learned it. He is referring to himself, Timothy's mother and grandmother. Timothy can trust what they have taught him because he knows their character from being in ongoing relationship with them. Simply giving people information may result in their opening their hearts and minds to God, but more is needed to equip them to pass the gospel on to others. 2 Timothy 2:2

- If you have children, have you modeled a life of walking with God? What can you do to make sure they are strong in their faith?
- In your relationships with younger people, how open are you about your struggles and imperfection? How much do you communicate about your faith and what God has done for you?

3. You must find your victory in the victory of others.

All of 1 and 2nd Timothy is devoted to teaching Timothy to be successful. It was Paul's passion to spread the gospel. Many scholars believe this may have been Paul's last epistle. If so it means that he was an old man as he wrote it. He needed Timothy to be equipped to carry on the ministry.

- How much do you feel the need to pass on understanding of the things of God to those younger than you?
- If you were writing a letter to a younger believer like Paul, who would it be to? What would you say?