

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a tree trunk's cross-section, showing concentric growth rings in shades of brown and green. A white rectangular box with a thin brown border is positioned on the left side, containing the main text.

OLD, NOT OBSOLETE.

Aging: Opportunity or Obstacle?

Aging is a profound spiritual
opportunity, not an obstacle.

Time shifts our roles before we realize it.

67

“I don’t know what happened; one day I was thirty-something, then I woke up, and I was 67.”

Thirty-Something

Health: Navigating physical changes

Finances: Managing fixed resources

Purpose: Finding relevance outside of a career

Legacy: Wondering how younger generations view our grey hair

Grandparent

Are we fossils or foundations?

The Cultural Myth

Older people are past their expiration date. They become has-beens, marking time until their bodies give out.

Fossils

Irrelevant

Obsolete

The Kingdom Truth

Older people have decades of knowledge, experience, skill, and wisdom to share as trusted guides.

Deep-rooted

Fruitful

Wisdom-keepers

Essential

The young disciple who shaped the early church.

Born around AD 28 to a polytheist Greek father and a devout Jewish mother, Timothy came to faith around AD 47-48 during Paul's first visit to Lystra (Acts 16).

AD 49-50

Paul enlists Timothy to his mission team.

The Mission

Sent as a trusted co-worker to Corinth, Philippi, Thessaloniki, and Ephesus.

Ordination

Set aside for ministry by the council of elders (1 Tim 4:14).

The Mission

Sent as a trusted co-worker to Corinth, Philippi, Thessaloniki, and Ephesus.



The secret to Timothy's ministry was his grandmother.



Before Timothy ever met the Apostle Paul, his foundation was laid by his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5).

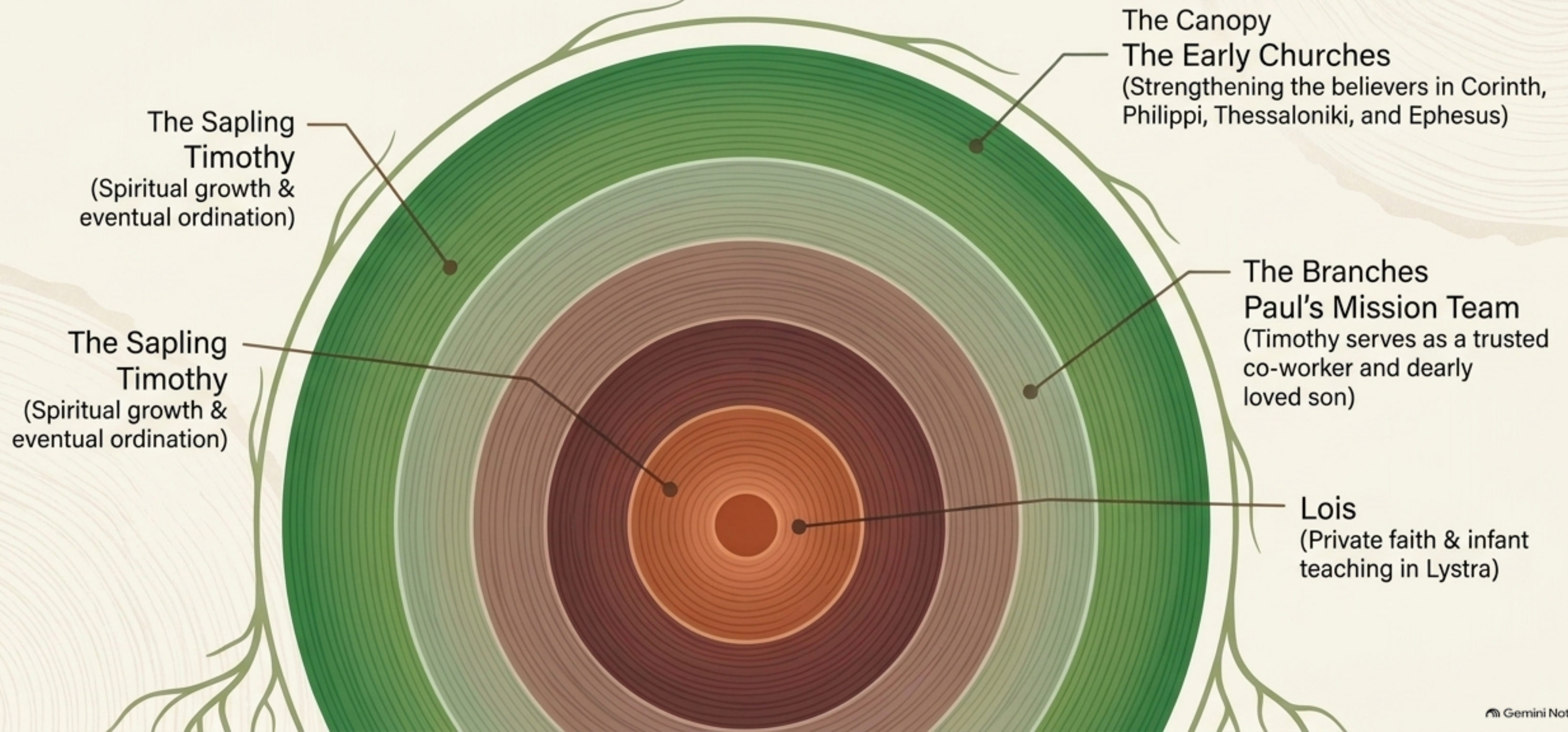
Modeled Genuine Faith

She lived the same fully-devoted faith in private as she did in public. She gave him a believable picture of Jesus.

Taught the Scriptures

From infancy, she taught him the sacred Scriptures, making him wise and ready for salvation (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

The eternal fruit of a grandparent's faithfulness.



Three blueprints for an enduring legacy

1

You may be
old, but you
are not
obsolete.

2

You have
decades of
wisdom to
offer.

3

The younger
generation
urgently
needs an
older
mentor.

Roles may change, but your influence remains.

“To the end of our life we may discover the good works God has prepared for us... How sad it is if we so regret not doing what we have so much enjoyed doing in the past that we fail to see what God has for us to do in the present.”

— Derek Prime (Retired Pastor)

Marilyn Fenner

As her health faltered, Marilyn refused to go quietly. She kept keeping books, calling guests, and praying. She grew frail, but she was never obsolete.

Do not fade away. Volunteer at the Welcome Center, join BWARM, and pray for opportunities.

God gave you decades of wisdom to share.

Why walk away now? You have spent years studying the Bible, overcoming trials, and developing as a leader. You are a **trusted guide**.



The righteous will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green, to declare, 'The LORD is just; he is my rock.' (Psalm 92:14-15).

Seek out the scars of learned lessons.

If you are younger, you need an older mentor—someone who is a good example of a Jesus-follower.

Historical Parallel: Moses was 80 years old when he began mentoring Joshua.

What to Look For

Seek out humility and experience. Look for someone who has been through the fire and can pass that survival knowledge on to you.



How to initiate a mentorship (without the panic).

The Wrong Way



The Question: "Will you be my mentor?"

The Result: The mentor's face goes white. It creates pressure, implies a massive time commitment, and triggers panic. The word "mentor" never needs to be spoken out loud.

The Right Way



The Question: "Can I ask you something?"

The Result: Immediate openness. It allows for quick wisdom, addresses a specific situation, and builds an ongoing relationship organically.

The simple ask that bridges the gap.

The Older
Saint

The Younger
Believer

Humble,
experienced,
full of wisdom.

Can I ask your advice
on something?

(The connection is made).

Navigating
life, needing
guidance.

Action: Waiting quietly.
They will not be pushy or
force their advice on you.

Action: Taking
the initiative.

Proof that we are never past our expiration date.

Resources



The Proof



Status: Headed to Europe for seven weeks of ministry.



Retiring from a job does not mean retiring from Christ.

As we get **older**, our roles may change, **but our influence increases**. The years you spent gaining wisdom and learning priceless faith lessons were never meant to end with you.

We are not done until we are done.