



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.**

*2 Timothy 1:5-7*

## Why am I Lutheran? I was born this way

“Nature” and “nurture” get a lot of blame for a lot of things. These words are used when people talk about a child’s characteristics. Do they come “naturally,” out of the person’s DNA? Do they come from the way a child was raised?

In some cases, it’s easy.

Brown hair? Nature.

Polite? Nurture.

What about this one: Lutheran?

The answer is nurture, because all people are born sinful and are naturally enemies of God. Faith (and therefore being a Lutheran) doesn’t come from nature; faith comes from hearing the message, which is the Word of God.

I was born into a Lutheran family and grew up in a Lutheran church and at a Lutheran school. Sometimes (and if you’re like me, maybe you do this too) I take the idea that “I am a Lutheran” for granted, as though I was born with it. I forget that people like my parents, teachers, and pastors poured hundreds and hundreds of hours into helping me see Jesus. More importantly, I forget that God was working through them, giving me the gift of eternal life.

*Nobody* is born a Lutheran. Everybody is born far, far away from God, and he runs after them. That’s why, when Paul writes to Timothy, he is excited. He talks about a fire that somebody started in you, a fire that can grow and make a difference. It wasn’t started to be a small, timid fire. It was meant to be a Jesus-motivated, difference-making fire.

Powerful? Nurture.

Loving? Nurture.

Self-disciplined? Nurture.

Lutheran? Nurture.

And for those who aren’t Lutheran yet, you can nurture them. For those who don’t know Christ, don’t know grace, and don’t know power, love, and self-discipline, you can be their nurturer.

**Prayer: Lord, though we rarely feel qualified to make the difference you make through us, reach down through our hands and reform hearts and change minds. Set people on fire by your love. Amen.**