**Challenges For 1st & 2nd Generation Christians**

**Reading – 2 Timothy 2:1-7**

***[John 3:3-5] Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

What is a 1st generation Christian? ***[Matthew 15:8-9; 13-14]  ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9    And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ... [13] But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.  14Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”***

***[Matthew 7:21-23] “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.  22Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’  23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’***

***[Matthew 10:34-39] “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.  35For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’  37He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.  38And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.  39He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.***

Saul of Tarsus Paul was an example of a 1st generation Christian [Acts 9]

***[Romans 10:1-3] Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.  2For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.  3For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.***

***[Philippians 3:7-9] But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.  8Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ  9and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;***

Timothy: ***[2 Timothy 1:6-7] 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,  7for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.***

***[2 Timothy 1:8 & 13] Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,… 13Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.***

***[2 Timothy 4:1-5] I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead***[***£***](qv://steplinkto1%200000035055)***at His appearing and His kingdom:  2Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.  3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;  4and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.  5But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***

We can only live on borrowed faith for so long until we have to find our faith that enables us to stand on our own. ***[Galatians 6:2-5] Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.  3For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.  4But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.  5For each one shall bear his own load.***

## In John 3:5 Nicodemus was a multi-generation child of God. But the nation did not need to be born again, Nicodemus needed to. You must be born again. God has no grandchildren.