

# **IMPARTING** *Generational* **BLESSINGS**



BUILDING A SPIRITUAL LEGACY

# **PERRY STONE**



IMPARTING GENERATIONAL  
**BLESSINGS**

By Perry Stone, Jr.



## **IMPARTING GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS**

*This book was written especially for the partners of our ministry, in deepest appreciation for their continual prayers and support of our Manna Fest television program. It is our sincere desire to see you and your descendants come into the fullness of God's favor and blessings.*

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**It's All About Being in Covenant with God**  
***"And I will establish my covenant between me  
and thee and thy seed after thee in their  
generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a  
God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."***

(Genesis 17:7)

*"I will make thy name to be remembered in all  
generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever  
and ever."*

(Psalms 45: 17)

*"He hath remembered his covenant for ever; the word  
which he commanded to a thousand generations."*

(Psalms 105 :8)

*"Be ye mindful always of his covenant: the word which he  
commanded to a thousand generations."*

(1 Chronicles 16: 15) *"And they that shall be of thee  
shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the  
foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be  
called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the  
paths to dwell in."*

(Isaiah 58:12)

# Preface

In life there are two types of people: Those who make an impact and those who leave scars. People who leave scars impart a negative impression, often for life. People who make an impact are those who have deposited valuable reserves of wisdom and knowledge and are appreciated long after they are gone.

Throughout my life, many people have impressed me, but only a few have significantly impacted my life. For this reason, I wish to express my deepest love and appreciation to one person in particular who has made a great impact upon my life, and to whom I owe much credit for my present ministry: my father, Perry Fred Stone, Sr.

Dad has faithfully walked with God for over fifty years. From a teenage evangelist in the 1940's to the present, he has witnessed a countless number of people healed of every known disease and affliction through his prayers. Throughout the years, he has received warning dreams that, on several occasions, spared the lives of myself or other family members. I have been with him on hundreds of occasions when he prays. At times, he prays like a dying man, groaning and travailing for revival. At other times, his words have piercing authority, much like an ambassador who is approaching a king's throne.

Dad has never been a wealthy man. He lives on social security and the offerings of God's people. He is approaching 70 and preaches with more anointing today than ever before.

Should Christ tarry many more years, Dad will go home to be with the Lord and wait for the rest of the family to arrive. Should he go before Christ comes, I pray that the same anointing and spirit of prayer will drop like a mantle upon his two sons and grandsons.

If that day comes, it will not matter that he leaves us few material goods. He will leave a legacy of integrity, godliness, and memories that will endure for generations. We will be proud to say a man of God was among us.

I dedicate the revelation in this book, *Imparting Generational Blessings*, to my father, a man whose walk with God has touched thousands of lives, especially those of his own household.

With eternal love,  
Your son, Perry Stone, Jr.

# Introduction

For many years, ministers have emphasized the subject of breaking generational curses. At one time, it seemed that every minister had a teaching or a message dealing with the subject. People became very "curse conscious," spending hours tracing past hurts or bitter words, and forgiving loved ones who had injured them emotionally. Most of the teaching was doctrinally sound and a great help to those in need. Yet, one afternoon the Holy Spirit moved upon my mind and said *I want someone to begin teaching on how to impart the generational blessings!*

Up to that point, I had not personally heard anyone teach on how to impart generational blessings. I was familiar with praying for the sick or asking God to bless a person, but not the idea of transferring a blessing from one generation to another. As I began to research this subject, I was amazed to discover that, throughout the Bible, there are revelations of God imparting His covenant blessing from the father to the son, with each succeeding generation passing that blessing on to the next generation. I also observed that the revelation of the blessing was mentioned far more often than was the revelation of generational curses.

Personally, I am not ignorant of experiencing generational blessings. I am a fourth generation minister of the Gospel. My father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all Full Gospel ministers. As each generation passed, the following generation seemed to experience a greater level of spiritual growth,

blessings, and results in the ministry. As you will discover, the same pattern of progressive blessings can be seen with the first three patriarchs of the covenant, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the thread of passing on the blessing is woven throughout the Bible.

Whenever I read a book dealing with practical Biblical truths, I want to know if the author is simply writing on the subject as an interesting topic, or if the author is writing based on both experience and knowledge. For example, I don't want to read books on how to raise children that are written by someone who has never raised one. Nor do I want to study resource material on marriage written by someone who has never been married.

I understand the power of generational blessings. Our family has experienced this in our lives and ministries. I want to teach you, from the Word of God and from personal experience, spiritual truths that will help you come into your season of favor and blessing, and teach you how to pass the torch of blessing on to your children and grandchildren.

This truth has been in my spirit for many years. Now it is time to bring it forth to reach more people with this life-changing teaching. I have prepared this book with my dear partners of ministry in mind. Your prayers and support are transforming lives, families, and churches. I desire to see you and every member of your household blessed and highly favored (Numbers 6:23-27).

Your Covenant Partner for Global Evangelism,  
Perry Stone, Jr.

# 1



## The Potential Power of the Blessing

*"For I know him, that he will command his children and his house-hold after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which the Lord hath spoken of him."*

(Genesis 1 8:19)

Jonathan Edwards, one of colonial America's most noted early ministers, was married in 1727. His classic message, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," was so convicting that lost souls sitting under his preaching would scream and fall to the floor in anguish. Some would begin yelling that they could feel the flames of hell scorching their feet. Yet, many do not know that Edwards, in his private life, was a very loving, compassionate man who enjoyed spending quality personal time with his family.

Edwards had eleven children. When at home, Edwards had a special chair that he alone sat in and, in the evenings, he would sit with his children for one hour each day. The smaller ones would sit on his lap and the older ones would spend precious time with their dad, as together they would share their hearts. Edwards also prayed a blessing over each child.

In 1900, A. E. Winship tracked 1,400 decedents of Edwards. In his published study, Winship revealed that the one marriage of Edwards produced:

- 300 ministers
- 13 noted authors
- 13 college presidents
- 65 college professors
- 100 lawyers and a dean of a law school
- 30 judges
- 56 physicians and a dean of a medical school
- 80 holders of public office
- 3 United States Senators

- 1 Vice President of the United States
- 1 comptroller of the United States Treasury

The spiritual seeds planted in the hearts of the Edwards' children would blossom into a family tree producing spiritual fruit. Is it possible that families today can begin planting a family tree that will produce children and grandchildren who will carry on a spiritual legacy? As we will see, the legacy can actually begin before the child is born.

### **The blessing begins in the loins**

As Hebrews 7:8-10 indicates, actions taken by a father years before his children are born can impact those children. Paul wrote about Abraham, God's covenant man, and Melchisedec, the first king and priest in Jerusalem:

*"And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father; when Melchisedec met him."*

The entire story of Abraham paying tithes unfolds in Genesis chapter 14. Abraham had returned from a battle and traveled to Salem (which was later called Jerusalem) to meet with Melchisedec. This mysterious figure was the first king and priest of God. Abraham gave one tenth of the spoil (a tithe) in appreciation for God giving him victory during the battle (Genesis 14:20). Paying tithes is nothing unique, but to say that



Levi was paying tithes in Abraham's loins when Levi was not yet born is stretching things ... or is it?

### **The secret is in the seed**

To understand this concept, we must understand how God views the seed and the power of the covenant. When God made a covenant with Abraham, He promised to bless Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:3, 13:15, 15:3, 16:10, 17:7, 17:10). The term seed refers to Abraham's children. Why does God place so much emphasis on the seed? He does so because the evidence that a Hebrew child was in covenant with God was the act of circumcision. On the eighth day in the life of a Hebrew male child, the foreskin of his flesh was circumcised (Genesis 17:12). This physical act leaves a small scar on the flesh as a visible reminder of the covenant, in the same fashion that crucifixion scars on the body of Jesus are a reminder of the new covenant he instituted through his suffering. It is interesting to note that Jesus appeared to his disciples and revealed these scars eight days after his resurrection (John 20:26-27).

When the Hebrew son marries, the seed from his loins must pass through the area of his body marked by the act of circumcision. Therefore, the seed is blessed before the child is ever physically conceived! This brings up the concept of how God views a child. In our age of abortion, many do not believe that life begins until the child is birthed and breathing on its own. Yet, God marks a child before it is conceived in the womb. God told Jeremiah, *"Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified*

*thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations"* (Jeremiah 1:5). David said, *"Thou art my God from my mother's belly"* (Psalms 22:10). The Bible says, *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward"* (Psalms 127:3). Both John and Jesus were given names by an angel of the Lord prior to being conceived in the womb (Luke 1:13 and 31).

If God knows your children before they are born, and the seed is marked before conception takes place, then we know why the writer of Hebrews taught that Abraham was paying tithes for Levi while Levi was still in Abraham's loins. Abraham's seed was Isaac, Isaac's seed was Jacob, and one of Jacob's sons was Levi whose son, a Levite, became the priest who received tithes from the people (Nehemiah 10:38).

The blood of a child originates from the father's seed; therefore, God placed emphasis on the seed of the man producing the child. This is why the Book of Genesis speaks of the fathers, not the mothers, begetting the sons. In a Hebrew genealogy, women are seldom listed. This is because the man bore the physical mark of the covenant and his seed was blessed before it entered into the woman!

In God's sight, what a man does with his body is very important. Entire generations are cursed through drug addiction, alcohol, pornography, and wicked imaginations. Yet, if a curse can be passed on to the third and fourth generations, the blessings, as we will show you, can also transfer from father to son.

### **Abraham: the beginning of the covenant**

The roots of our spiritual heritage begin with Abraham. This ancient patriarch was a friend of God and was chosen as God's covenant man (Isaiah 41:8). This early nomad left the comfort of his community, separated himself from relatives, and journeyed by faith into the Promised Land. Being childless, Abraham discovered God's plan to form a new nation through Abraham's children who were not yet born! God promised Abraham, *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing"* (Genesis 12:2).

Abraham received this promise of a son at age seventy-five, but he was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. Abraham waited twenty-five years for God to fulfill His Word. Most folks would have given up, but Abraham counted God faithful to perform the promise (Romans 4:3).

After entering into the covenant, blessings followed Abraham. He was very rich in cattle, silver, and gold (Genesis 13:2). God gave him the land everywhere his feet walked! Before Abraham's death, he sought a bride for his son, Isaac. Abraham sent his servant, Eleazar, to Syria to find Isaac a wife. Eleazar's caravan included ten camels loaded with gold, silver, and jewels to give to the father of the future bride (Genesis 24:10). Abraham's servant confessed, *"The Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels and asses"* (Genesis 24:35). Eleazar also revealed that Abraham had given to Isaac *"all that he had"* (Genesis 24:36).

## Second generation blessing

After Abraham's death, his son Isaac received not only the wealth of Abraham, but an additional measure of the covenant blessing as well. In the time of Abraham, a famine struck the Promised Land and Abraham was forced to live in Egypt (Genesis 12:10). Another great famine came in the time of Isaac, but the blessing on Isaac was at a higher level. Instead of going to Egypt, Isaac sowed in the time of famine and received one hundred fold (Genesis 26:12). It is impossible to obtain a harvest in a famine unless God's special favor is with you. We also read, *"And the man (Isaac) waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great"* (Genesis 26:13). Abraham, the first-generation covenant man, was unable to receive a harvest in famine. His son, Isaac, was not only able, but received back one hundred times the seed he had planted!

When we are in covenant with God, if our children serve the Lord they should experience additional blessings from the Lord, since the level of blessing should increase with each generation. Isaac was blessed, and his blessings were transferred to his son, Jacob.

# Transfer to the third generation

As the time of Isaac's departure drew near, he spoke a special blessing upon Jacob. Esau, the firstborn, was expecting to receive the double portion blessing promised to the firstborn son (Deuteronomy 21:17). Instead, Jacob pretended to be Esau and tricked his father in order to receive Esau's blessing. The Bible records the words of Isaac's blessing on Jacob:

*"Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee."*

(Genesis 27:28-29)

Esau, Jacob's brother, was angry because Jacob took his birthright and his blessing (Genesis 27:36). Leaving Isaac's wealth behind, Jacob fled for his life and settled in Assyria, joining the work force on his uncle's farm. Jacob was hired as a herdsman and worked for Uncle Laban for twenty years (Genesis 31:41). During this time, Laban changed Jacob's wages ten times (Genesis 31:7). Despite Laban's mistreatment of Jacob, God began to bless everything Jacob touched. Jacob recognized this blessing when he rebuked Laban saying, *"For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is increased unto a multitude; and the Lord hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house*

*also*" (Genesis 30:30). Even Laban admitted that God had blessed his farm because a blessing followed Jacob (Genesis 30:27).

After twenty years of hard work, Jacob took his two wives, children, and flocks, and returned to the Promised Land to meet Esau. Jacob was uncertain of the reception he would receive. Would his brother, who had sought to kill him twenty years earlier, forgive Jacob, or was he planning a secret attack against him? For security purposes, Jacob divided his family into two groups and crossed the Jordan River, coming face to face with his twin (Genesis chapter 33).

After a tearful reunion, Jacob offered Esau a special gift of choice animals from his abundant flock. Esau responded, *"Keep it brother, I have enough"* (Genesis 33:9). Jacob demanded that he accept the gift, confessing, *"Take my blessing that is brought to thee ... because I have enough"* (Genesis 33:11).

Remember that when Jacob left his family he had nothing. Twenty years later, he had such abundance that he tried to give some of it away. Esau, on the other hand, was so blessed that he didn't have room enough to receive the blessing. What brought such abundance in the lives of these descendants of Abraham? In Jacob's case, the answer is threefold:

- Jacob worked hard, regardless of the circumstances (Genesis 31:40).
- Jacob was loyal to his assignment, even when he was mistreated (Genesis 31:7).
- Jacob was under a special covenant blessing from his father (Genesis 27:27).

These same three principles — hard work, loyalty to the vision, and walking in a covenant relationship with God — can release God's favor in your life. Jacob had an obsession with his dream. He wanted Rachel for his wife, and this desire became his motivation. You may have a godly heritage, but God cannot bless the hands of a lazy person who does not consistently follow a dream, a vision, or the purposes of God.

Those he worked for recognized the blessings God had placed upon Jacob. Laban realized, "*The Lord hath blessed me for thy sake*" (Genesis 30:27). Laban knew he had little when Jacob arrived, but twenty years later God had blessed the hard work of Jacob and now both Laban and Jacob were enjoying the fruits of Jacob's labor.

Jacob's wives, Leah and Rachel, confessed that their father had spent the daughters' inheritance and left them with nothing. Laban had "devoured their money" (Genesis 31:15). The wives realized that God's blessings were with Jacob, so they departed from their father's house and journeyed to the Promised Land with little concern for the personal inheritance that they would never receive. The blessings on Jacob were so great that Dad's inheritance was now insignificant.

### **A nation forms within the fourth generation**

Seventy souls came from the loins of Jacob (Exodus 15). These seventy included his twelve sons, their children, and grandchildren. The twelve sons of Jacob were called the "sons of Jacob" and eventually the "children of Israel" (Exodus 1:1). This large family became the nation of Israel. After spending four hundred years in Egypt, the children of Israel departed

from their captivity with 600,000 men (Exodus 12:37). Including the women, children, and the mixed multitude, some scholars estimate that three million Hebrews eventually entered the Promised Land forty years later.

Israel was an invincible nation hedged in and protected by the hand of God. Whenever Israel was in trouble, they could remind God of His covenant and God would defeat their enemies. The only time their prayers were unanswered or their defeat certain was when they sinned against God or broke the words of the covenant (Joshua 7:1-20).

#### **4,000 years later the blessings continue**

Although many Jewish people who live in Israel today consider themselves atheists, agnostics, or secular Jews, there is a clear blessing on the land of Israel and great financial blessing upon many Hebrew people. While many non-religious Jews refuse to acknowledge God's hand in their lives, many Christians reject the notion that the Lord would bless anyone who has not received the new covenant.

Modern blessings trace back to the covenants God made with Abraham and King David. God's favor on the land of Israel was promised to Abraham and his seed (Genesis 12:7). The blessing of Israel ruling the nations and controlling Jerusalem was promised to King David in the form of a covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-14). God told David that if his descendants departed from the covenant He would chastise them but that his "mercy shall not depart away" (2 Samuel 7:15). God remains faithful to His Word. The Almighty declared:



*"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."*

(Psalms 89:34)

The modern blessings upon the land, the field, and the cities of Israel are being released because of words God spoke to Abraham. As strange as it seems, sinners who are not honoring the salvation covenant can still see their works blessed because they are the blood line of someone who has a covenant with God. I know of one man who makes no profession of Christianity, but he demands that his wife pay tithe each week from his income. He acknowledges that he knows where the blessings are coming from, and although he has not accepted Christ, he recognizes that aspect of the covenant.

I realize this goes against the traditional theology of most Christians, but God is true to His covenant. This is why, after almost two thousand years of persecution, the nation of Israel is one of the greatest nations on earth. God has a preplanned purpose for Israel, and he blesses the land and the people in preparation for fulfillment of His promises to the prophets.

God will recognize the aspect of His covenant that is being acted upon. Years ago, a female minister was having great results when praying for the sick. Yet, because of her denominational training, she did not believe certain gifts of the Spirit were operating in the church today. A minister asked me how she was experiencing these miracles while teaching that certain gifts had ceased. I told him it was because the woman had a revelation on the authority in Jesus' name and a faith to believe God would heal the sick. God honored her

understanding of the healing revelation in the covenant, although she fell short of understanding other important covenant truths.

Some churches have a powerful ability to bring souls to Christ but never teach on the Holy Spirit and the power of God. Yet, God blesses the congregation with many conversions. God will always confirm His Word and will bless you in the level of revelation that you understand and act upon.

God made a covenant of prosperity with Israel (Deuteronomy 29:9). He included a covenant of healing (Exodus 15:26) and a covenant of redemption (Exodus 13:13-15). Many Jewish people walk in prosperity but have no knowledge of a redemptive and healing covenant. Israel has some of the greatest technology, military weapons, and computer development on earth. It is not because they are more intelligent, but because the descendants of Abraham carry the DNA of a covenant in their heritage!

If God still honors His Word to natural Israel, how much more can He bless the seed of those who walk in the new covenant!

*"He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."*

(Psalms 105:8)

2



# The DNA of a Covenant

*"And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it."*

(Nehemiah 9:38)

A test developed in 1997 by an American geneticist resulted in a recent astonishing discovery. A number of Jewish men living in Israel had the test conducted, proving that they were from the lineage of the ancient Hebrew priesthood. Geneticists began studying variations in the Y chromosome of 306 Jewish men from Israel, Canada, and England, including 106 self-identified Cohanim.

The Hebrew priesthood came through Levi, the father of the Levites. The Levites were appointed priests who ministered in the tabernacle of Moses, the Temple of Solomon, and Herod's Temple. When Herod's Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., the Jews were scattered throughout the nations. This resulted in the cessation and dispersion of the Levites and the priests. For centuries, it was only by their names that Jewish people could assume they were in the priestly lineage.

The Hebrew word for priests is *Cohanim*. If a Jewish person has the surname Levi, Levee, or Levin, it indicates a connection to the tribe of Levi. If their surnames are Cohen, Kahn, Kane, or a similar variation, the name indicates a connection to the ancient priest, although not all men with such surnames are Cohanim. David Goldstein reported that of seventeen Cohanim in Israel who were tested, thirteen carry

this priestly gene. Re-searchers have tested three thousand men from a tribe in India and another group in Africa and have found that several men in each group carry the gene.

Scientists have broken many of the human genetic codes. They have discovered that all men are related and have one original mother. The Bible was the first to confirm this when it stated that Eve was the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20). As stated, research has also revealed that there is a priestly gene that is locked into the blood of those who are true descendants of Aaron, the first priest.

# The DNA of God

Certain men may carry a priestly gene, but only one man, Jesus Christ, carried the DNA of God. Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). Christ had no earthly father; therefore, the seed within Mary was the seed of God's Word (John 1:1-4). Since a child's blood can come only through the seed of a man, and Christ had no earthly father, the blood in Christ came from His Heavenly Father. When Jesus began His ministry, He said, *"I do nothing of myself but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things"* (John 8:28). He also revealed, *"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father"* (John 14:9). Jesus walked, talked, and acted in the perfect will of God, because Christ carried His Father's genes! Jesus was called the "Son of God," not just in name, but by His very nature (Luke 1:35).

When Abraham cut covenant with God, he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin and the flesh of every male child born in his house (Genesis 17:23). When we enter the new covenant, we accept the sacrifice of Christ's suffering and, by faith, receive the forgiveness of our sins by His blood. The flesh of Christ was cut so that we could be grafted into the covenant. It is His blood that cleanses from all sin (1John 1:7). It is as though we were dying with a blood disease and we received a blood transfusion! Paul wrote, *"If any man is in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The phrase new creature means *new creation*. God's life through Christ makes us new.

## **We have the DNA of Christ**

When we repent we are "born again" (John 3:3). We enter a covenant with God through Jesus Christ.

- Just as Christ was formed within Mary by the Father, we also become a new creation through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- As Christ carried the name and nature of His Father, we carry the name and nature of Christ (John 14: 13-16).
- As Christ was the begotten Son of God, we become the sons of God through spiritual adoption (Romans 8:14-16).
- When Christ began healing, delivering, and forgiving, He was fulfilling God's plan for man. By accepting Christ, we receive God's plan for us.

Eventually, everything begins to change. Our conversation changes from profanity to preaching. Our attitude changes from anger to appreciation. Our lifestyle changes from pride to humility, from self-centeredness to servanthood. People who knew us before our conversion often can't understand the changes they see. The old nature is dead due to a transformation in our spiritual DNA (Romans 6:6). The inward transformation has become an outward lifestyle.

Just as the blood contains DNA that can be traced and examined, the blood of Christ contains something very special. When we receive His blood by faith, it has power to forgive from sin (Ephesians 1:7), purge our conscience (Hebrews 9:14), and save us from wrath (Romans 5:9). It is no surprise that the

Bible teaches that we overcome the enemy "*By the blood of the Lamb (Christ) and by the word of our testimony*" (Revelation 12:11).



# The DNA of a Covenant

Just as DNA is imprinted in the blood, there is a DNA pattern found in the covenant. A person cannot change the genetic patterns locked in their blood. They are handed down from generation to generation. Even certain diseases passed down are called genetic diseases. God's covenant with Abraham was sealed in the blood of circumcision (Genesis 17:11), and the new covenant was sealed in the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:13). The written Word of God is the legal oath that activates the covenant, the blood is the token (sign), and the Bible is the legal document that connects God to His promises. We must understand that, when experiencing any Biblical covenant promise, it is as real as the law of gravity. If I jump from a tree or a building, I will always fall downward. I can't see gravity but it is there.

When we believe and begin to act upon the Word of God, certain spiritual laws are activated. There is a "law of the spirit of life" (Romans 8:2), a "law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2), and a "law of faith" (Romans 3:27). If I pray in faith, nothing wavering, God will hear and answer my prayer (James 1:6). These spiritual laws are eternally engraved in what I call the DNA of the covenant. If we have a need and pray according to God's will, He shall *"Supply all my need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4: 19). Just as the genes of the human body set in motion the formation of the body, the DNA of the covenant sets in motion the formation of a new nature and a new creation in Christ.

A child's blood contains certain genetic features that are

linked to the seed of the father, and the proper blood test can reveal the link. You would never know who is the spiritual father of some so-called Christians based on their character and walk. Scripture indicates that a person who receives Christ also receives a radical transformation. A person whose life has been changed by the new covenant will have visible marks of that change. It is all a part of the new creation process. Your conversation, thinking, attitude, actions, and manner of conduct take on the nature of your new Father!

In summary:

- The Bible is a covenant book containing both the old and new covenants.
- Both covenants were sealed in blood, the old in the blood of circumcision and the new in the blood of Christ.
- We enter the new covenant by repenting of our sins and accepting Christ as our Savior.
- The effect of our covenant relationship begins a total transformation of our spirit, soul, and body.
- I call the transforming effects of our relationship with God the "DNA of a covenant."

3



## Unusual Examples of Generational Blessings

*"For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake."*

(Isaiah 37:35)

It is rare for anyone to escape death twice, but Jarrod

Skelton has beaten the odds. Several years ago, Jarrod was in a serious motorcycle accident. As he hung between life and death, intercession was made and he recovered. More recently, Jarrod and his brother-in-law were thrown from a boat while fishing. The boat's motor continued to run as the men were in the middle of a large lake. Jarrod's brother-in-law was cut by the motor and drowned. Wearing heavy clothing and boots, Jarrod expected that he would be next. As he went under, God miraculously spared his life when a Christian couple looking for a fishing spot pulled him from the waters. Everyone knew it was a miracle.

I recently told him, "One of the reasons you are still here is because you have several generations of prayer warriors in your family. From an infant, family members called your name in prayer and asked God to protect you. Those prayers that were stored in heaven came up before God when death was stalking you!"

# You should have been dead

Several times my life has been spared from death, and only later did I discover that someone was praying for me at the very moment that I needed divine intervention. Those who carry your blood and your name should understand the influence a true believer can have through prayer. It is possible that you and I would have been dead a long time ago had covenant prayers not been planted in the heavenly Temple before the throne of God. The Bible speaks of putting God in remembrance (Isaiah 43:26), and of how God remembers His covenant (Leviticus 26:42). When the Israelites were in danger or in bondage and cried out to the Lord, He remembered His promises to their forefathers and delivered them (Exodus 2:24).

God's mercy upon a covenant man's household is clearly demonstrated in the family of King David. God gave David a promise for his future sons:

*"If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne forevermore."*

(Psalms 132: 11-12)

David understood the nature of a covenant. In fact, he would never counterattack King Saul's assassination attempts because David had a covenant with Saul's son, Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:3). Years later, David sinned miserably by committing adultery with Bathsheba and conspiring to have her husband,

Uriah, killed in battle (2 Samuel 11 :15). Although David repented, the murder of Uriah brought a sword of judgement against David and his sons (2 Samuel 12:9-10).

God was merciful to David because he knew how to repent and he had a covenant with God. Yet, sin has a price. David's affair with Bathsheba opened the door for the enemy to attack his seed. It seems that the sin of David affected his sons. Adonijah induced a family feud (1 Kings 2); Amnon raped his half sister (2 Samuel 13); and Absalom, the "hippie" in the family, started a rebellion (2 Samuel 13).

Despite the failures in the family, God's love for David birthed a special blessing for future generations. After David's death, his son, Solomon, reigned for forty years (2 Chronicles 9:30). Solomon's son, Rehoboam, split the kingdom of Israel and trouble began brewing among the tribes (2 Chronicles 10:1-19). The faithfulness of God to His covenant and His word can be seen in the lives of kings who followed David:

### **King Abijam (1 Kings chapter 15)**

This descendant of David ruled eighty-six years after David's death. The writer tells us that his heart was not perfect as David his father (1 Kings 5:3). Normally, God would bring a form of judgement against the king, but we read these amazing words: *"Nevertheless for David's sake did the Lord his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem"* (1 Kings 15:4).

### **King Jehoram (2 Kings chapter 8)**

About 186 years after David's departure, another descendant of David married the daughter of Ahab (2 Kings 8:18). He turned wicked and God could have poured out His wrath upon him, but the Bible says, *"Yet, the Lord would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, and to his children"* (2 Kings 8:19). Notice the king was spared, not because he was worthy of a blessing, but because God was keeping a promise he had made to David!

### **King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20)**

Over 313 years later, the descendants of King David were still sitting on the throne of David. King Hezekiah was sick unto death and began to plead with God to be healed. God gave the king this word: *"... Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father; I have heard thy prayer... behold, I will heal thee... and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake"* (2 Kings 20:5-6).

Imagine, 313 years later David's bones had rotted in the tomb; yet, God was still keeping His Word to David.

In light of these incidents we should highlight the following points:

- In each situation, the disobedient kings could have fallen under God's judgement.

- In each situation, God restrained His judgement and wrath upon the kings.
- In each situation, God spared the king for His servant David's sake.

### **It is not what you deserve; it is the covenant of God**

David's descendants received favor and protection, despite their moral and spiritual failures. It was not because they deserved it, but because they were the seed of David and carried his DNA. When your children rebel against God, the only source of protection they have is to be under your hedge. In the Book of Job, his sons and daughters were protected by an invisible hedge created as Job continually offered animal sacrifices on the altar on their behalf (Job 1:5). Under the new covenant, our protection comes when we speak the Word of God over our family and claim God's promises with the confession of our mouth (Romans 10:10).

Your children who are outside of the covenant may have been protected from danger and death because of your prayers, your hedge, and your commitment to God. They were not "lucky" that the car didn't slide off the bridge into the river; they were protected by your prayers!

I believe that when children carry your seed, have your blood type, and are called by your name, God can and will be merciful to them for your sake. When the seed of Abraham was in Egypt, the Hebrews cried out to God by reason of their affliction, and God remembered His covenant and brought them out of bondage (Exodus 2:24). When the seed of Abraham began worshipping a golden calf in the wilderness, the Almighty



set out to destroy them, until Moses began to remind God of His covenant. Moses said *"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants"*. The Bible reveals, *"And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people"* (Exodus 32:13-14). Israel deserved to die, but God remembered His covenant and stopped possible destruction.

In the time of Abraham, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were exceedingly wicked. Before God destroyed the cities, He spoke with his covenant partner, Abraham (Genesis 18: 16-33). After Abraham's intercession, his nephew, Lot, was rescued before the destruction of the city (Genesis 19:1-30). It was Lot's choice to live in Sodom (Genesis 13:12); yet, because Lot was a blood relative of Abraham, God was under a covenant obligation to inform Abraham of His plans. God said, *"Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?"* (Genesis 18: 17)

Since God's covenant is based upon His Word, and He will not change His word or alter the thing that has come out of his mouth, we can have complete confidence in the Bible, God's covenant manual. God requires that we be obedient to His Word if we are to enjoy the benefits of His covenant (John 15:7). Moses and Abraham reminded God of His covenant when trouble was brewing. Today, believers continue to intercede for their loved ones, thus aborting the assignments of Satan.

### **Stopping a robbery with a covenant prayer**

Missionary Kelvin McDaniel has told this story many times with tears flowing down his face. As a young teenager, Kelvin rebelled against his Christian family and ran away from

his home in Bessemer, Alabama.

While in Florida, he met some young men who invited him to New York City. Often living in a stranger's apartment or on the street, Kelvin always knew he had a mother and father who continually prayed for him.

One November evening, Kelvin was suddenly cornered in an alley while two strong men attempted to rob him. Pinned to the wall with a knife to his throat, Kelvin feared he would become another New York crime statistic. Amazingly, he would later learn that at that very moment, a minister was at his mother's home in Alabama saying, "God is showing me Kelvin's life is in danger. We must pray now!" At the very moment intercession was being made in Alabama, the man holding the knife suddenly turned and punched his partner in the face with his fist. Kelvin said, "It was as though a spirit of confusion fell upon the would be robbers." Screaming at his partner, the attacker dropped his knife on the ground and Kelvin sprinted full speed out of the alley and into the street without looking back.

He later discovered that a minister about a thousand miles away was demanding that an attack of Satan be halted. During that special prayer back in Alabama, the Holy Spirit spoke a word through the minister that Kelvin would be protected and would return home to Alabama. The Spirit also revealed that Kelvin would take the Gospel to the nations of the world. Many years have passed, but today Kelvin McDaniel is a missionary evangelist, ministering to crowds of up to 50,000.

God protected Kelvin because his parents were obedient to intercede and claim the covenant promises of family salvation (Acts 16:31).

## **Stopping a car accident with a covenant prayer**

Years ago, my father was in deep prayer when suddenly he saw a full color vision of a fatal automobile accident. In the vision, a huge coal truck slammed into a vehicle, killing the two passengers. The Holy Spirit impressed Dad that the accident would involve his half brother Morgan, who lived in West Virginia. Dad attempted to call Morgan and warn him of the impending danger, but he didn't answer the phone. The only immediate solution was to stand in the gap in prayer (Ezekiel 22:30).

Dad went next door to the church and began one hour of intense, travailing prayer for the protection of Morgan. Toward the conclusion of the hour, the Holy Spirit spoke to Dad and said, "You are asking me to protect one who has willfully turned away from me and refuses to serve me." Dad began to seek God and beg the Lord for Morgan's protection. The Holy Spirit impressed my father that if he would ask for an angel to protect Morgan, that God would permit it because Dad had a covenant with God.

Dad prayed for angelic protection. Later that evening, Dad spoke to Morgan on the phone. Morgan said that earlier he and his buddy were driving across a mountain, and an elderly couple who lived across the street from Morgan was following them. Morgan suddenly felt the urge to pull over and stop at a small restaurant. The elderly couple passed them and journeyed on down the road. Morgan spent a few moments in the restaurant, then headed back to the truck and on toward their destination.

When he turned a corner, Morgan was shocked to

discover that a huge coal truck had hit the elderly couple and killed them both! Death was lurking on the West Virginia roads calling for the name of Morgan Ball, but the angel of the Lord interrupted the assignment and preserved the brother of a minister who had a covenant with God! It is interesting to note that it was Morgan who, as a teenager, led my father to Christ.

# Instructions under the new covenant

Under the old covenant, men would approach God by saying, "In the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Exodus 3:6,15-16). It was taught that since Abraham was the father of the covenant, to pray in his name captured God's attention. Later, the Hebrew nation would approach God at the Temple through the priesthood and by means of blood sacrifices.

Under the new covenant, men approach God in the name of Jesus, God's covenant Son. Jesus said "*Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you*" (John 16:23). Jesus is now our high priest; therefore, we offer the sacrifices of praise and prayer before Him continually (Hebrews 13:15). Our words ascend into the Temple of God in heaven.

When we pray we are to:

- Petition the Heavenly Father (John 16:23).
- Petition the Father in the name of Jesus His Son (John 16:23).
- Petition in faith believing (James 1:6-8).
- Give thanks before the answer comes (Philippians 4:6).

The early patriarchs released the blessing though the power of their words and prayers. We also release blessings though our words and prayers. Ancient covenant men released

the authority of the blessing through the laying on of hands. Likewise, we can release spiritual blessings through the laying on of hands. Let us now explore this fascinating spiritual act.



## **Passing on the Blessing through the Laying on of Hands**

*"Then there were brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

(Matthew 19:13-14)

Recently, several universities did a study involving touch. They learned that we have five million touch receptors in our body, and one-third are in our hands. The red blood cells, which carry oxygen to the blood, contain the pigment hemoglobin. A New York University nursing school found that when one individual lays hands on another, both individuals' hemoglobin level rises in their blood stream. Dr. Delores Krieger, a professor, states that as hemoglobin levels are invigorated, body tissue receives more oxygen. This process aids in the regenerative process of an ill person.

UCLA conducted a study and discovered that type A men could add two years to their lives if they would hug their wives several times a day. Duke University found that without meaningful non-sexual touch, our bodies do not produce a certain type of protein crucial to organ growth and development.

With so much emphasis placed on touch and the laying on of hands, certainly the Creator understood the importance of this action. The Bible is filled with examples of ministering to people through the laying on of hands.

This is both a Biblical doctrine and a spiritual principle. Under the old covenant, the patriarchs, priests, and prophets exercised the practice of laying on of hands when transferring spiritual blessing and spiritual authority from one person to another. Under the new covenant, Hebrews 6:2 indicates that laying on of hands is a doctrine of the New Testament church. There is a somewhat mysterious blessing and power released through the laying on of hands.



Jacob laid his hands upon his sons and spoke a blessing (Genesis 48:14). The priest laid his hands upon the scapegoat to transfer the sins of Israel (Leviticus chapter 8). Moses laid hands upon Joshua to transfer spiritual authority (Deuteronomy 34:9). Christ and the Apostles laid hands upon the sick (Luke 4:40). The Holy Spirit was received through the laying on of hands (Acts 19:6). Ministers were commissioned into the ministry after the elders laid hands upon them, setting them forth for ministry (1 Timothy 4:14). Spiritual gifts were imparted by the laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6).

Perhaps the most precious scripture referring to the laying on of hands is when Jesus blessed the children (Matthew 19:13-14). Laying on of hands should not be something done half-heartedly or without faith. Scripture gives the guidelines to "*Lay hands upon no man suddenly*" (1 Timothy 5:22).

The Bible is clear that blessings, authority, healing, the impartation of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, and even the gifts of the Spirit can be received by the laying on of hands. The transfer of the blessing involves both the one who is imparting and the one who is receiving.

# Empty hands upon empty heads

All spiritual truth must be mixed with faith in order to activate God's promises (Hebrews 4:2). During my early ministry, I often prayed for people in a prayer line. Believers would line up in single file and I would pray for them one by one. I would notice two different responses. Many would begin weeping, shaking, or rejoicing during the personal prayer. With others, it was like praying for a cold piece of concrete. There was no flowing of the Holy Spirit from myself to them. In fact, at times I could sense a resistance. I eventually realized that many people were bound with fear, unforgiveness, and bitterness that had built an inner stronghold. Those persons must humble themselves and repent before the anointing can be released into their spirit. They were physically present in body, but spiritually disconnected.

When you are being ministered to one-on-one, if you do not mix your faith with the prayer, then it is "empty hands upon empty heads!" Christ was aware of this in Nazareth, His hometown. The Bible says, *"He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief"* (Matthew 13:58).

The person doing the impartation or the praying must have an anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to impart to the receiver. I once heard a noted minister say, "When I pray for you there is nothing special in my hands." I thought to myself, "Keep them off of my head!" The fact is that when a person with a strong anointing is ministering to another through the laying on of hands, the receiver can actually feel the presence of God! When the woman with the issue of blood touched the

hem of Christ's garment, Jesus felt healing power leave His body and the woman felt healing power enter her body (Mark 5:27-30). Note that both Jesus and the woman felt something happen. There was a release followed by an impartation.

### **The gift of laying on of hands**

The Book of Acts records events within the early church. In Acts chapter 8, Phillip went to Samaria to preach the Gospel. A revival broke out and the entire city was shaken. Occult books were burned and the Lord's name was magnified (Acts 8:6-12). When the Samaritan believers desired to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Jerusalem church sent Peter and John to lay hands upon them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17). It appears that Peter and John had a special gift to pray for people who desired the gift of the Holy Spirit, because when they laid hands upon the new converts, they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

At age eighteen, I attended a statewide church convention under an open-air tabernacle. As Bishop M. H. Kennedy was introducing the nightly speaker, he said, "God has given Brother Ronnie Brock the gift of laying hands upon people to receive the Holy Spirit." I had never heard of such a gift. The minister shared several stories about hundreds who would receive the Holy Spirit with the evidence of a supernatural prayer language. During the weeklong meeting, I carefully watched the night speaker as he called for those hungry for the Holy Spirit to come forward. True to the words of the Bishop, everyone he laid hands on would begin to speak in a prayer language from the Holy Spirit. I later read where Paul operated

in this gift according to Acts 19:1-7.

Seeing this gift in operation birthed a spiritual hunger in my heart. I longed to see people of all denominations receive the precious gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). I began fasting and praying that God would use me in the same manner. I read where Paul laid his hands upon twelve men and they all received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6-7).

Within twelve months, I began seeing large numbers of people immediately receive the Holy Spirit, as I would lay hands upon them asking God to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many revivals were extended to as long as eleven weeks. When the meetings concluded, often hundreds had received the Holy Spirit, many through the laying on of hands. Many were from denominational backgrounds that did not accept certain manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Let me make it clear that I did not give anyone the Holy Spirit. God is the giver of the Holy Spirit, just as God is the deliverer and the healer (Luke 11:13). Yet, God answers the prayers that men and women pray. The anointing of the Holy Spirit breaks the yokes of bondage (Isaiah 10:27), brings healing power to the sick (Luke 5:17), and can release the power of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). God has always used the prayers of the righteous and the hands of the anointed to perform His works on earth (James 5:16). What God has placed within us can be released out of us to minister to those around us.

I realize those unfamiliar with this practice may not understand the operation of the laying on of hands. Don't allow this lack of knowledge to distract you from the fact that impartation occurs through the laying on of hands.

## **Passing the blessing on through the laying on of hands**

Before Jacob's death, he blessed the sons of Joseph (Genesis 48:9-22). According to tradition, the right hand was to be placed upon the head of the oldest and the left hand upon the head of the youngest. This is because the right hand of God represents the side of His power and authority; therefore, the right hand represented the power of the blessing (Psalms 162:3-11). When Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, stood before Jacob, the blessing took a strange twist. Jacob literally switched his hands, and placed his right hand on the younger and his left hand upon the older (Genesis 48:14). Jacob then spoke a powerful blessing over the sons:

*"And the angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."*

(Genesis 48:16)

Joseph immediately was displeased and attempted to switch the hands of his father. One thing you don't do is interrupt a dying man when he is praying for his grandchildren! The older patriarch refused to listen to Joseph. He said, "I know what I'm doing. The older son will be great, but the younger son will be greater than he and will become a multitude of nations" (Genesis 48:20). There are some today who believe that, centuries later, the sons of Ephraim became the people of Britain and later the early Americans.

When reading this story, I realized that both sons had an

identical blessing spoken over them. The scripture says that Jacob asked the angels of God to bless the *lads*, meaning both young men. But the act of laying the right hand upon the head was identified as the passing of the mantle from one person to another. When Elijah threw his mantle upon Elisha, immediately the double portion anointing was transferred (2 Kings 2:9-15). With the laying on of hands, the blessing was immediately sealed in the patriarch's family in the sight of God. Even today, religious Jews practice speaking over their children and blessing them by laying hands upon them.

When my son was born, I immediately began to lay my hands upon him and speak blessing to his life. I still do so to this day. I will say, "You are blessed and highly favored. You will serve God and become a great man of God. You are the son of my youth and I speak the blessings of God over you." I often have him repeat this blessing out loud. I understand the power of transferring the blessing due to an experience I had as a teenage preacher, with a man many people considered to be a true prophet of God. Seldom a day goes by that I don't take Jonathan in my arms and confess a blessing over him.

In summary:

- The Bible makes it clear that laying on of hands was practiced under both covenants.
- Laying on of hands can bring impartation of healing, gifts, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit.
- Laying on of hands can also be a method of transferring a blessing.
- If someone is to pray for you by the laying on of hands, know that they are anointed and free from sin.



# 5



## **There is a Prophet in the House**

*" ...Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."*

(2 Kings 2:9)

The church is filled with self-appointed and self-anointed prophets. A person who continually walks around saying,



"Thus saith the Lord" is no more a prophet than saying, "I'm a Cadillac" makes you an automobile. But I do believe there are a few true prophetic voices on the earth today. They may not be on the same level as a Biblical prophet, but they are people who spend hours in prayer and truly hear from God. As a teenager, I was honored to encounter such a person, and the impartation from this man changed my life. As a child, I recall hearing my father tell riveting stories about this man's ministry. He was my father's uncle, Rufus Dunford, and the miracle of his healing and conversion reads like a page from the Book of Acts.

# **The Coalfields of West Virginia**

During the 1930's, the coalfields in West Virginia were booming. Men were working in shifts and immigrants were pouring into America from Europe. The rough work and environment bred a wild spirit among the mountain folks. Adultery, moon shining, gambling, domestic violence, and drunkenness were considered a normal lifestyle, while those who turned to religion for solitude were tagged "holy rollers." The Stone and Dunford families were raised in this setting.

During the 1930's, the Pentecostal movement swept through America and brushed through the coal camps of West Virginia. One couple to be affected by the Holy Spirit was Rufus and Mamie Dunford.

During that time, few young men completed school. Most worked on a farm or in the mines at an early age. Rufus had only completed third grade and could not read or write. He depended upon his wife or one of his daughters to assist him when signing his name or reading a document.

Mamie was attending a local church, but Rufus wasn't interested in her religion, at least not until a large tumor was discovered in his brain. Doctors sent Rufus to Johns Hopkins hospital for an examination. The diagnosis was bleak, and surgery did not guarantee recovery. The doctor informed Rufus that he could die during surgery or spend the rest of his life in a vegetative state. Rufus made the decision to return to West Virginia and let fate have its way.

## **The wind in the potato patch**

Mamie began sharing with Rufus how the Full Gospel people believed God could heal. She told him that his only hope was God's Divine intervention. Rufus began humbling himself, meditating on the words of his wife. He spent three days fasting and asking God for help. Rufus continued to function physically, although the sickness and the headaches persisted.

At the end of the third day, Mamie asked Rufus to bring some potatoes from their garden for supper. While Rufus was in the potato patch, he suddenly felt a whirlwind engulf him. No leaves on the trees were stirring, and the wind appeared to be surrounding only him. Suddenly he was knocked off his feet and found himself lying flat on his back. Immediately he began to pray. Rufus later reported, "The more I prayed, the better I felt. The pain slowly began leaving." Rufus began calling upon the Lord for salvation and healing. In the midst of his prayer, something strange began to happen. He began to pray in a language he did not know.

At that moment, Mamie looked out the window, saw Rufus on his back, and cried out, "Oh my, the brain tumor has ruptured!" She ran out of the house and was amazed to hear Rufus "speaking with tongues" and quoting scriptures from Mark chapter 16. Mamie knew this was a miracle because Rufus could not read. That day, while lying in a potato patch, Rufus received salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a complete healing.

Rufus accepted a call into the ministry and became a prayer warrior, praying as much as three hours each morning. He also received a unique gift: He could fluently speak Greek, Latin, and several other languages and was able to witness to

immigrants in their own languages. He had received the true "gift of divers kinds of tongues" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10. This was part one of God's plan of destiny.

### **A forty-two month revival**

As lightning strikes a dry prairie and sets it on fire, revival struck the coalfield communities in the late 1940's. One revival continued every night for forty-two months! A woman named Mildred Collins was ministering each night at the Flat Top Church of God in Christ near the town of English, West Virginia. In November of 1949, a tall, thin, dark-haired teenage boy came to the altar at the invitation of his half brother, Morgan. When Freddie Stone, the son of a coal miner (and the man who would become my father), stood up and confessed Christ had saved him, another ministry would soon be birthed. Nalva Dunford Stone, the mother of Fred, was the sister of Rufus Dunford.

After Dad's conversion, he and Rufus became close ministry friends. He discovered the power of prayer and the awesome operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while sitting under Rufus' ministry. Dad recalled traveling with Rufus to conduct a revival at the Christian Church of God in Beef Hide, Kentucky:

"That night, a young boy with a club foot was brought for prayer. The poor little fellow walked on his ankle bone. He was born this way and the doctors could do nothing about it. Rufus prayed fervently, but without results. He then announced, 'There is too much unbelief.

How many of you will fast with me all day tomorrow for a miracle for this boy?" Hands went up. The next day, Rufus spent most of the day praying and the entire day fasting. That night, he sat the boy in a chair and began praying in the Holy Spirit. As he prayed, he rubbed the boy's right foot. Suddenly, the club foot went straight! The boy cried and then laughed. He jumped up and started to run around the church. His foot was perfect! It was one of the first miracles of healing I ever saw."

I once heard Mamie tell how a cancer had appeared on her leg. It soon spread to the size of a silver dollar. Eventually, the disease ate through her flesh and the bone was exposed. Finally, she went to Rufus and said, "Would you please pray for me that God will remove this cancer?" Rufus replied, "I have been waiting for you to call on the Lord for your miracle. It's about time." Rufus prayed fervently and the following morning, the cancer was gone and the large hole was replaced with new skin. It was as though there had never been a problem!

While Rufus' ministry of praying for the sick became known throughout the mountains, the gift of witnessing to others in their language was the most unique. Dad was with Rufus on many occasions when he would walk up to a foreigner (usually an immigrant coal miner who spoke broken English), and speak to that person in the language of their native country. Often the immigrant thought Rufus was a Catholic priest who had knowledge of Latin and Greek. His own daughter later confessed:

"When we were children, we did not understand the

gift God had given Dad. He would pray in the morning on his knees and start bouncing up and down until the house shook. Dad would walk up to a total stranger who had cancer or a goiter and say, 'You don't want that (sickness) do you?' They would reply that they did not, and Dad would offer prayer on the street. Many times, the person was healed at that instant."

### **Fred Stone begins to experience the same anointing**

Because Elisha remained faithful, he received Elijah's double portion prior to Elijah's departure (2 Kings 2:9). Experience has demonstrated that the anointing of the mentor can come upon the student, if the student will remain true to God and learn the secrets of flowing in God's presence. By observing Rufus, Dad soon discovered that the keys to experiencing miracles were long seasons of fasting and hours of prayer. When traveling with Rufus, my father observed that Rufus did much of his praying in the prayer language of the Holy Spirit. He believes to this day that this was one of the important keys that made the prayer of this man of God so effective.

As a teenaged minister, my father and several other young ministers built a small cabin in the mountains to spend time in fasting and prayer. It was during a season of prayer that Dad received a supernatural call of God to enter the full-time ministry. Almost immediately, he began to experience many of the same spiritual gifts and manifestations he had seen in the meetings with Rufus. Once he saw a woman whose face was eaten to the bone with cancer receive her healing. On another

occasion, a man who was blind in one eye received his sight. Dad also began to experience the same gift of divers tongues.

One such example was when he set out to witness to a sixteen-year old Greek boy named Tony, whose parents owned a restaurant in the town of Welch, West Virginia. Tony could speak broken English, and Dad felt a burden to bring God's Word to Tony. On this occasion, he and his minister friend, Truman Smith, stood before Tony and said, "Tony, I want to read to you from the Bible." Dad opened the Bible to Psalms 23 and, as he began to read, the anointing came upon him. Suddenly, he began to read the Psalms, verse by verse, in another language.

After listening to the entire passage, Tony looked at Dad's minister friend and said, "You lie to me Truman."

Truman said, "I don't lie, Tony. I am a minister!"

Tony replied, "Yes, you lie. You tell me this man never go to college to learn to preach! He go to school! He speak to me in Greek, German, and Italian! You tell me the Lord is my Shepherd in Greek, then you change language to German and then Italian!"

Dad said, "Tony, that is the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from God." He had spoken in the three languages that Tony could speak!

About twenty-seven years later, my father encountered Tony's sister while he was visiting a church in Pearisburg, Virginia. As Dad was relating the story of himself and Tony, a woman jumped up and said, "That is my Tony! That is my Tony!" She said, "You are the man who spoke to my brother, Tony. He always talked about the young minister who spoke to

him about the Lord in his three languages!" Tony's sister said Tony had accepted the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit. He died of a heart attack at age forty-one.

By building a personal relationship with Rufus, sitting under his ministry, and praying together, the same type of anointing began to function in my father's ministry.

### **You can't impart what you don't have**

I have witnessed some "impartation services" and went away realizing the people didn't receive because the minister had nothing to give. I have also seen ministers attempt to impart the anointing to an entire congregation at one time. This is futile for several reasons:

#### **The anointing is a product of the Holy Spirit.**

The anointing abides with us upon our receiving the Holy Spirit baptism (1 John 2:20 and 27). The anointing is the tangible power of God that we experience when the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us. While there are levels of anointing, you cannot impart an anointing that already abides within a believer.

#### **God will not allow His anointing to abide in a person who is practicing sin.**

To pray over an audience and claim that everyone is receiving an impartation may sound exciting and seem spiritual. But the fact remains that, if people in the



audience are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit and are filled with iniquity, the Holy Spirit will avoid them until they are clean (1 Corinthians 3:15-16).

**God is very selective as to whom He gives a special anointing.**

God desires to see integrity, honesty, and humility before he brings a special unction with unique gifts to a vessel. Other-wise, a novice will be lifted up in pride and fall into the snare of the devil (1 Timothy 3:6).

**God links people together in a relationship before He allows impartation.**

It is easy to impart to a family member because you are related by blood and carry the same DNA. It is more difficult to impart to a person with whom you have little or no relationship.

# I want your anointing

Several times people have come to me in an altar service and said, "Pray for me; I want your anointing." They should be saying, "Pray for me; I want more of the Holy Spirit," or "Pray for me; I want to learn how to listen and hear the voice of God." You see, it is not *my* anointing; it is *His* anointing. Often I will reply, "So, you want my anointing. Do you also want my battles?" The person often stares at me as if to say, "That's not what I asked for!" Yet, if you consider a minister your mentor, you may experience the same type of battles.

One man who prayed for me many years ago was a great man of God, but he experienced seasons of depression. For three years, at the beginning of my ministry, I also experienced depression. Years later, I realized that I was picking up on the same attacks that one of my mentors had experienced.

David was anointed (1 Samuel 16:13). He became a giant killer, and he had thirty-three mighty men who traveled with him. These men helped destroy the race of giants (2 Samuel 21:22). King Saul made twenty-one attempts to assassinate David. The enemies of David became the enemies of David's mighty men. His battles became their battles, and his victories became their victories. Everything was going well in David's life until he was anointed to be the next king.

# The anointing attracts attacks

The anointing attracts attacks. As a teenager, David was anointed with oil to become a future king. This ceremony occurred in the "midst of his brethren" (1 Samuel 16:13). Weeks later, his own brothers were mocking and criticizing him (1 Samuel 17:28). His anointing caused a separation among his own family, as it seemed his brothers were jealous of the anointing on David's life.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, He was immediately placed into a conflict and was tempted by Satan for forty days and nights (Mark 1:9-13). Christ's anointing thrust Him into a spiritual conflict.

Following His temptation, He preached His first public sermon in Nazareth. Jesus took His text from Isaiah 61:1-3 and emphasized, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" (Luke 4:18). When Jesus said He was anointed, the hometown crowd went into a frenzy, saying, "This is Joseph's son...who does he think he is" (Luke 4:22)? Someone recommended they push Him off the cliff (Luke 4:29). Jesus' first sermon was a failure by man's terms.

There is an anointing in every believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20, 2:27). That anointing is increased through prayer and fasting. Transferring a special ministry or a special anointing is more than speaking or praying for someone. It involves a spiritual relationship with God and a personal relationship with the person imparting. At the Jordan River, when God said, "This is my beloved Son" (Mark 1:11), Jesus immediately received the anointing from the Holy Spirit

(Matthew 3:16). Timothy received an impartation of gifts from Paul. The apostle wrote, "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son" (2 Timothy 1:2). A personal relationship with the mentor is what creates the possibility of receiving a special anointing.

Jacob, Moses, Elijah, Paul, and others "imparted before they departed."

# 6



## Impart Before You Depart

*"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established."*

(Romans 1:11)

We must impart before we depart! Elijah was an anointed prophet who imparted a double portion anointing on Elisha (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha performed twice as many miracles as Elijah.

At the end of Elisha's life, there was no one for him to impart his double portion to; therefore, when he died he took this anointing to his grave. We read where a dead man was thrown into Elisha's grave, where he hit Elisha's bleached bones, causing the soldier to come back from the dead (2 Kings 13:21). Someone could have asked for a triple portion of the anointing of Elisha, but instead, the prophet died, retaining the anointing in his bones.

There were many great men and women of God who did not mentor someone to fill their shoes. They preached to the masses but missed the opportunity to impart their anointing to someone who could carry on the work.

The act of imparting before departing can be observed with Moses, who imparted his wisdom to Joshua (Deuteronomy 34:9). Jacob, before his death, blessed his sons and worshiped God (Hebrews 11:21). Elijah transferred a double portion of his spirit to Elisha moments before his ascension into heaven (2 Kings 2:11-15). Days before David's death, he ensured his successor by having his son Solomon anointed at the pool of Siloam (1 Kings chapter 1). Before Christ's ascension, He breathed upon His disciples and said, "*Receive ye the Holy Ghost*" (John 20:22). Christ commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until power from on high was imparted to their ministry (Luke 24:49).

In the Biblical cases, the person receiving the impartation was personally acquainted with or followed closely the ministry of the one imparting the blessing. Joshua spent forty years ministering to Moses before he received the transfer of authority to lead Israel into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34:9). King Jehoshaphat stated that Elisha had poured water on

the hands of Elijah (2 Kings 3:11). Washing someone's hands seems insignificant; yet, God noticed the faithfulness of Elisha meeting a need in Elijah's life. The sons of the prophets stood at a distance to view Elijah's departure, but Elisha refused to back away from the prophet and followed him across the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:7-8). In our time, some stand at a distance waiting for a blessing to fall on them, while others pursue the blessing.

Many individuals desire an impartation without spending time around anointed people. Others seek a quick hit of God's blessings without spending quality time in His presence. When I was a teenager, a dynamic minister, Floyd Lawhon, told me, "Perry, if you want spiritual results, you must spend more time with God than with people." I did, and the revivals began to stir entire communities and extend for many weeks.

It was this time alone with God that birthed a hunger for more of Him. This hunger led me to a spiritual encounter that would transform my early ministry.

# My personal encounter

It was March of 1979, and I had concluded a twenty-three-night revival in Pulaski, Virginia where many souls accepted Christ and were baptized in the Holy Spirit. While in deep prayer, the Holy Spirit impressed me that I should travel to War, West Virginia and have Rufus Dunford pray a special prayer for me. I felt an urgency and knew I must make the trip when the revival ended. I had not seen Rufus in about six years.

I invited a friend named Paul and my brother Phillip and we set out on the three-hour trip. When we arrived, I went to the area where Rufus lived, only to discover that his house had burned down. I inquired and was told that Rufus had moved across town near the railroad tracks. His wife Mamie answered my knock on the door. She said, "Oh my, look who is here!" I felt a little odd not having announced my visit, but mountain folks are not offended when you just drop in. When I walked in the door, I spotted Rufus with his eyes closed, lying on a hospital bed. Suddenly he shot his right hand into the air, and said, "I perceive a man of God has come into my house!" This sudden reaction surprised me, since he did not know who had entered his house.

I pulled up a chair and began soaking up every word as this aged prophet began to unfold the story of his call of God and his miraculous healing, and of how the gifts of the Spirit operated during his ministry. Several hours passed. Toward the conclusion of our conversation, I told him I had come for prayer. I humbly asked this seasoned general of faith to lay his hands upon me and pray.



As I leaned over his bed, he placed both hands upon my head and immediately began to pray in the prayer language of the Holy Spirit. My entire body trembled as the anointing began to flow into every part of my being.

Suddenly, Rufus paused and said, "Son, do you know what the Spirit is saying?" I replied, "No." He said, "He is speaking the Latin language and you need to discern the language of the Spirit and what He is saying."

I was embarrassed at my lack of spiritual discernment. Rufus picked up the words of his prayer and continued praying in the Spirit. This time, my face, hands, and arms began to tingle as though a liquid fire was burning within me.

Rufus stopped again and asked, "Son, what is the Spirit saying?"

I suddenly sensed a word of knowledge and replied, "He is praying for my ministry. He is asking the Lord that when you depart that I will receive your anointing!"

Rufus shouted, "That's it, that's it!" and began praying again. As he fervently prayed, the strange sensation began to move down my spine, and soon my entire body was covered, like a warm blanket, in an anointing I had never experienced. It was the most tangible presence of the Lord I had ever encountered. I remember thinking, "Is this what happened when Elijah imparted the anointing to Elisha?"

# **From that moment forward**

The warm, tingling sensation continued as I left the house. I drove home and could feel a closeness to the Holy Spirit that I had never felt before. That night, as I prayed in my room, I felt closer to the Lord than at any time in my life. A desire to pray long hours and to fast came over me. Mom and Dad noticed the change, as I seldom ate a meal. I was not struggling to fast, study, or spend hours in prayer. There was an immediate change in every part of my spiritual walk. Three months later, Rufus passed away.

Neither my father nor I knew that Rufus would die in July of 1979. That day, we were both attending a regional church convention in Roanoke, Virginia. At four o'clock in the afternoon, Dad walked over to me and was weeping profusely. He said, "Son, I felt impressed of the Lord to tell you that you are going to begin to experience miracles in your meetings!" We embraced and both began weeping. When we returned home, we learned that Rufus had passed away about the same time my father and I embraced and began weeping. I remembered the impartation and was curious to see what level of anointing I would now experience.

# **The miracles begin**

Three weeks after Rufus' death, in July of 1979, I was conducting a revival in Seven Mile Ford, Virginia. On Tuesday night, a man carried his fifteen-year old grandson into the service. He had been to Johns Hopkins Hospital for surgery. His feet were bandaged and he was unable to walk without crutches.

During the altar service, I felt impressed to pray for the young man. As we prayed, again I felt the strange, warm, tingling sensation I had sensed when Rufus had prayed for me three months earlier. After prayer, I headed back to continue ministering in the altars. Suddenly I heard a scream, turned to the right, and saw that the young man was standing and walking down the aisle without any assistance! God's healing power had touched the boy. The following day we shot basketball together at the pastor's house. The pastor's wife was related to the boy and his family and was amazed at the healing touch God brought to the young man.

Following that miracle, the anointing of the Holy Spirit began to manifest in a new way. More people were being saved, healed, and filled with the Holy Spirit in the crusades. The operation of the gift of divers tongues began to manifest in the meetings. One of the most dramatic stories relating to this gift happened in 1981 at the Bob White Boulevard Church of God in Pulaski, Virginia.

**An archaeologist translates a message in tongues**

It was Saturday night, October 31, 1981. A great revival was breaking forth and the crowds were filling the 850-seat sanctuary. I went to the pulpit prepared to preach, but felt led to sing and to exhort the congregation. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came mightily upon me and I began to pray in the prayer language of the Holy Spirit. I could tell I had never heard this dialect before. The service was being taped, and I laid down the microphone, left the platform, and began praying for people who had formed a prayer line.

After the service, the youth choir director, Shelby Mitchell, approached me. She said, "Perry, when the Holy Spirit was speaking through you, I thought I recognized a few words in French. I would like to take a cassette tape of you praying in the Spirit to my former French professor at Radford University, and see if he can understand the language."

The revival was extended and the following week, Shelby arrived at the church and said, "I gave the tape to my former professor. I didn't tell him it was a preacher in a church service. I just asked him if he could tell me what language was spoken on the tape. He told me it wasn't French, but a Middle Eastern dialect. He told me about a professor from Syria who was in America studying Indian artifacts who may be able to translate what was being said."

Shelby had returned from lunch with her former professor and the Syrian archaeologist named Mikkel, who had listened to the tape. He asked Shelby at lunch, "What were you doing listening to a rabbi give a lecture, when you did not understand the language he was speaking?" Shelby replied, "I will tell you the answer to that when you tell me what is on the tape."

At that point, Mikkel pulled out a piece of paper with

information written on it. He said, "There were two dialects of Assyrian spoken on the tape. Both are spoken in Syria today. One is an older form that was possibly spoken by Abraham in the land of Ur. I recognize it because a few people in Syria speak this Chaldean form today."

Mikkel said that the Books of Ezra and Daniel and the Babylonian Talmud were written in Aramaic, which was the official language in Palestine until Hebrew supplanted it. Mikkel said, "I translated the language and have written the translation on this paper." He handed her the paper and Shelby read the following translation:

*"The messenger of the Lord has interrupted to deliver to a people the message of the Highest Father. His love is everlasting, His mercy is longsuffering and enduring. His grace pours (flows) freely. Healing was blood-bought by His Son. Deliverance power is sent forth by Jesus Christ to all people who will hear this day."*

Shelby was amazed. Both professors were astonished when she informed them, "It was not a rabbi giving a lecture. It was a twenty-two year old evangelist, born in West Virginia, who often butchers the English language when he preaches!"

That is not the end of the story. In a letter dated September 12, 1983, Shelby tells the story of Mikkel's supernatural conversion to Christ!

**Original letter by  
MIKKEL MIRTAHERI**

# **Blacksburg -Archeologist**

Mikhail Mintaberi — Blacksburg - Archdeacon

Armenian - spoken in Mesopotamia, Chaldea, Assyria - (Spain today) 2 dialects spoken today (East / West) (on tape)  
Chaldean / Syrian

ESRA - Daniel - Babylonian Talmud was written in Aramaic  
— official language in Palestine until Hebrew supplanted it.

The messenger of the Lord has interrupted to deliver to a people the message of the Highest Father. His love is everlasting, His mercy is long-suffering & enduring, His GRACE (power) flows freely, Healing was blood bought by His Son. Deliverance Power is sent forth by Jesus Christ to all people who will hear this day.

September 12, 1983

Dear Brother Stone:

On October 31, 1981 at the Pulaski Church of God I attended a revival service. On this night you began singing under a heavy anointing. During the song service sinners began running to the altar crying for repentance. A heavy flow of the Spirit started falling and you started exhorting the congregation in tongues. I recognized a few words that the Spirit had spoken.

Having studied French I took the tape with the message in tongues only, to a professor who speaks French fluently. He proceeded to tell me the language was not French but he knew someone who could interpret the message. He took the tape to Mikkel Mirtaheri, an Archaeologist who at the time was studying Indian Artifacts in Blacksburg, VA. Mikkel was born and raised in Assyria. He has been in the United States for approximately ten years studying archaeology formations. Two days later I met Mikkel and he interpreted the tape for me.

Mikkel proceeded to tell me that the language was an ancient form of Aramaic. It was spoken in Mesopotamia, Chaldea and Assyria (which is Syria today.) The books of Ezra, Daniel and the Babylonian Talmud was written in the Aramaic language. Mikkel asked me why I had been to a lecture by a Rabbi. I replied I had not been to a lecture, but a revival service and the tape was a message in tongues. Mikkel stated that it was remarkable because this ancient form of Aramaic was no



longer spoken or taught. He attended the revival service Friday Night and was amazed at the supernatural move of the Holy Spirit. The tape was interpreted as the following: "The messenger of the Lord has interrupted to deliver to a people the message of the highest Father. His love is everlasting, His mercy is long suffering and enduring. His grace (pours) flows freely. Healing was blood bought by His Son. Deliverance power is sent forth by Jesus Christ to all people who will hear this day."

Months later I received a phone call from Yakima, Washington. Mikkel was calling to tell me of his close encounter with Jesus Christ. He was at an archaeological convention in the state of Washington when he and five other men were stranded in a blizzard on the interstate. Traffic was paralyzed. After spending several hours in the car they got out to stretch. Mikkel made the statement that they were going to die and if there was a Hell they would go there. The other men laughed and stated: they didn't believe in God, or Heaven, or Hell. Mikkel then silently prayed and asked God to spare his life if He really existed. As Mikkel turned to get into the car he looked up and saw a man dressed in a white garment, his face was illuminated. As he Mikkel got back into the car that moment knowing he had met the Savior. Fifteen minutes later a rescue team was sent out and the group was saved after about five hours of being stranded. Mikkel went to his motel room got on his knees and accepted Christ as his Savior.

Mikkel told me of his miraculous New Birth. In our conversation he stated that the message on the tape was for his knowledge from an almighty God, but he was so blinded by

and through science that he refused to hear the voice from Heaven that was sent to speak to him.

Thank God for a mighty move of His power.

**Sincerely,**



Shelby G. Mitchell

# God seeks results

At age nineteen, I was beginning to experience the same type of miracles and operation of the gifts that Rufus had experienced. I was aware that God wanted results for His Kingdom. The emphasis of each service was the preaching, but the highlight was the altar service. I began preaching to see spiritual results in the altars. The purpose of any gift is to bring people to Christ. This is why the Bible teaches that *tongues are not a sign to those who believe, but to those who believe not*" (1 Corinthians 14:22). The gifts of the Spirit are not for personal gain or show, but to produce spiritual results.

# Sit under anointed ministries

I would encourage you and your children to sit under ministries that preach the Word with the unction of the Holy Spirit, and allow the incorruptible seed of God's Word to be grafted into your heart. Just as parents brought their children to Jesus to be blessed, we should ask men and women of God to pray a blessing over our children.

Often, little girls and boys will come up to Pam or me with a childlike drawing of a stick man preaching. They will say, "Give this to Brother Perry. I like him. He is funny." Others will come to the altars and wait until we pray for them. Do not discourage this activity. I began praying when I was about six years old at the altar in Dad's church.

Remember that it is all about the seed. The seed of God's Word must be planted in the hearts of your seed (children) in order to produce a harvest. This is one way the blessings are handed down from parent to child.

In summary:

- There are men and women today who carry a special anointing.
- To experience the anointing of a mentor, one must build a relationship.
- The mentor should impart before he departs.
- The impartation takes place through prayer and laying on of hands.



## The Blessing on the Fourth Generation

*"And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in my eyes, and has done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."*

(2 Kings 10:30)

Those who minister on the subject of generational curses often point out that a curse can persist into the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20:5; 34:7). Likewise, spiritual blessings can be passed on to the third and fourth generations and even beyond.

Abraham was the first generation, and he passed the blessing to his son Isaac, the second generation. Isaac blessed Jacob, who was the third generation. Jacob passed the blessing on to his twelve sons who became the nation of Israel. By the time of the fourth generation, Israel was expanding into a great nation.

Christians need to understand this principle and pass spiritual wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to their children and grandchildren. Each generation that serves the Lord should have additional blessings heaped upon them. This should especially be true in the lives of ministers of the Gospel.

### **The tale of four young ministers**

The evidence of blessings being handed down from generation to generation is evident with four ministers. They are Jentezen Franklin, Marcus Lamb, Randy White, and myself. There are some unique generational parallels that can be traced in our lives:

- We were all from the same denomination.
- We all began ministering in our teenage years.
- We all have several generations of Christians in our

families.

- We all began ministering about the same time.

All four of us began ministering as teenagers. I received my call into the ministry at age sixteen in Salem, Virginia at an all night prayer meeting. At age eighteen, I met Marcus Lamb, also a teenager, who was traveling throughout Virginia conducting extended revivals in churches. Marcus began ministering at age fifteen and, by age nineteen, had finished college. We would often minister, months apart, in the same church or the same area. We often spoke on the phone and corresponded by mail, sharing the results of the revivals and the wonderful miracles we were experiencing. In the early 1980's, Marcus and I were experiencing some of the greatest spiritual results of any evangelists in our denomination. It was Marcus who called and warned me not to marry a girl I was engaged to. He said she was not the right one, and he was correct. I met the right one two months later in a four-week revival in Northport, Alabama.

In April of 1982, several days after my wife and I were married, we conducted a three-week "honeymoon" revival in Gastonia, North Carolina. During this revival, we met two very talented young men who had recently accepted the call into the ministry. They were Richie and Jentezen Franklin, two brothers whose father was a well-respected minister. Several nights during the revival, Jentezen played the saxophone and ministered in song. I told my wife, "God is going to use this young man. He has a strong anointing."

Both Jentezen and his brother were gifted by the Holy Spirit, and one could sense God's power when they stood

before the people. Months later, we began to hear about the Franklin brothers and how churches were experiencing great revivals under their ministry. Shortly thereafter, Jentezen was married and continued traveling, experiencing tremendous results with his dynamic preaching and singing. Eventually, Jentezen felt impressed to accept a pastorate at a church in Gainesville, Georgia.

In the mid-1980's, while conducting a revival at the National Church of God in Washington, D.C., I became acquainted with a very gifted young man named Randy White. Randy had served the church in the youth department and the children's ministry. Randy had gone through a difficult divorce and was working a secular job. He had a love for God and a burden for souls, and he was very loyal in his personal walk with God and his faithfulness to the church. One evening before service, Randy and I were sitting in his car and he was sharing with me his burden for ministry. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came upon me and I gave Randy this word: "The rod of Aaron that looks dead will blossom again and produce fruit." The Lord was speaking of Randy's ministry. We both began to cry and rejoice, knowing God's hand was upon Randy and that He had special plans for him in the future. As time passed, Randy and his dedicated wife, Paula went to Tampa, Florida to start a new church.

All four young men were part of the same denomination and were chosen by the Lord to enter the ministry as teenagers.

**Now the rest of the story**



Many years have passed since those early revivals with four zealous teenage preachers. Today, our ministry, Voice of Evangelism, has progressed from small local churches to an international ministry, reaching millions through television and through our seven-point outreach.

Marcus Lamb is President of Daystar Television Network, the second largest Christian network in America. In 1985, Marcus started his first television station in Montgomery, Alabama. Marcus is now headquartered in the Dallas-Forth Worth Metroplex. He and his wife, Joni, are loved by hundreds of thousands of loyal viewers. On October 18, 1993, I was honored to be on the set the night Marcus pulled the power switch and the Daystar Network was placed on the air! That night, only a handful of viewers knew that a new network was born. Today, the network reaches from coast to coast and is considered one of America's outstanding Christian networks.

Jentezen Franklin was told by his peers not to leave the evangelistic ministry. He was informed in a phone conversation that he was being groomed to one day become an executive in the national youth department of our denomination. I recall telling him, "Obey God instead of men. If you feel led to pastor, then God is in it!" Jentezen went to Gainesville, Georgia to Free Chapel Worship Center, a church with about 350 members. I was honored to conduct one of Jentezen's early revivals at the old sanctuary. Each year we would return and see the astonishing growth under Jentezen's ministry. Today, Jentezen has a weekly television program, a Bible School, and over 5,000 members at Free Chapel Worship Center, one of America's most exciting churches.

Randy White organized a church in Tampa, Florida with

about three families. He called me and asked if I would come and preach a weeklong revival. Pam and I were honored to preach the first revival at Randy's church, with about forty members in attendance! Today, I am amazed at the growth and the powerful outreach ministries at Without Walls International Church in Tampa, Florida. The new sanctuary seats 4,500 people and there are over 250 major ministries connected with the church. From famous sports athletes, lawyers, and doctors, to former strippers and ex-drug dealers, the church is impacting the city with a message of restoration.

Can anyone explain how four young fireball preachers, ministering in small local churches, can experience such phenomenal spiritual results and growth in their ministries? After all, hundreds of men and women accept a call into the ministry each year, yet never experience the level of results that others do. Is God playing favorites, or is there a key we need to understand?

## **We have discussed this**

Marcus, Jentezen, Randy, and I have discussed why we believe the blessings are so great upon our ministries. It would be easy in the natural to say we all work long hours and have certain gifts that God is using to reach the nation. But we all understand that the seeds that were planted in us by our parents and grandparents are producing a harvest in our ministries. Paul said, *"I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase"* (1 Corinthians 3:6). The first generation planted the seed, the next generation watered the seed, the following generation cultivated the field, and the fourth generation reaped the harvest.

Our parents and relatives before us were tithers, just as Abraham was. In elementary school, Marcus began setting aside five cents out of a fifty-cent weekly allowance his father gave him. At age eleven, I began practicing what I saw Mom and Dad do each week. I remember giving one dollar out of ten that I had in a small wallet. All four ministers continue the same principles of giving, but I believe our financial blessings are not just a result of what we are planting today. They are the result of a harvest we are enjoying that was planted by our fathers and mothers. Isaac enjoyed a harvest during a famine because he again dug the wells of his father Abraham (Genesis 26:18). Abraham worked hard, and Isaac was blessed because of Abraham's hard work. The seed I am planting today will bless me and will also prepare a harvest for my children and grandchildren.

Each of us can recall being raised to tithe, honor God, and

study the Word. As a child or a teenager, you don't realize the impact the seed of God's Word is having on your life. The older we all become, the more appreciative we are of our Full Gospel Christian heritage and family legacies.

Family members who are outside of covenant with God need to understand that godly parents and grandparents have prayed for them from the time they were infants. They may believe their success is due to their education or some special ability. In reality, they are like the sons of David. They have no present relationship with God, but the Lord is faithful to answer the prayers of their family members because of the covenant they carry.

This does not mean they can live in sin and disobey God without consequences. If they continue to be disobedient, they will experience chastisement and eventually be brought under some form of God's judgement, especially if they were raised with the knowledge of the truth. Individuals who were raised in Christian homes, but who today are prodigal sons, have lived under the prayer covering of several generations and God has extended mercy for the sake of praying parents and grandparents.

The four of us understand the impartation of the blessing. But what are the important principles in passing the blessing on to your children and grandchildren?

# **Three important principles**

These three spiritual principles are the vital links to building the foundation of your spiritual house and building character and faith in your descendants:

# Plant seeds through giving

Giving involves both finances and time. It has been said that what we make happen for others, God will make happen for us. If we plant for someone else's needs, then in the future, someone will plant a seed to meet our needs. Your giving today is a seed for future blessings upon your descendants.

## **Plant seeds in the form of the Word of God**

The Bible is a Book of seeds. Each promise is an incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23). Jesus taught that the Word of God is planted into hearts as a seed is in the ground (Mark chapter 4). Christ said, "*My words shall not pass away*" (Matthew 24:35). When we hear, the Word is planted in our spirit. As we act upon the Word, the seed is activated to produce results. When we speak the Word to others, we are planting into their lives.

## **Transfer the blessing through prayer and the laying on of hands**

Prayer and the laying on of hands are twins that cannot be separated. To pray without touch may limit the transfer. To touch without prayer could void the transfer. Both should be exercised, along with the anointing in faith.

**You will always gain by planting seeds**

As previously stated, all four ministers had family members who were tithers. There is a special blessing placed on the giver (Malachi 3:10). In fact, God has a special covenant for those who offer sacrifices (Psalms 505). I truly believe that the financial blessings our ministries are experiencing are the increase from past generations. When I was growing up, the needs of our family were always met, but today our ministry is exploding in growth and financial increase. The same is true with Marcus, Jentezen, and Randy.

Not only are the churches that Jentezen and Randy pastor very generous in their giving, the ministers themselves practice sowing into the lives of others. Pam has given away a car, a van, furniture, and other tangible assets to those in need as the Lord directed.

The Bible says that Abraham paid tithes for Levi while Levi was still in his loins. Abraham's obedience impacted his children who were yet to be born. God honors the seed and gives the harvest.

### **Keep them in the house of God**

Paul wrote to Timothy saying that the same faith that was in his mother and his grandmother was also in him (2 Timothy 1:5). We eventually become what we associate with. As children, all four ministers sat in Sunday School classes, learning the Word of God. In fact, most of us were in church every time the doors were open, including revivals, conventions, and prayer meetings. Today, some would think this is too much church, but the results speak for themselves.

So much of the Word was placed in our hearts that it was

difficult to stray from God without severe conviction striking our hearts. When we grew up, our denomination was very strict in their practical commitments. Some objected to these strict teachings, but the fact was that our families (including grandparents) were very godly people whose only desire was to please God in their appearance and actions.

Get into such a habit of going to church that if you don't go, you feel like something is wrong. Get into a routine of prayer so that when you miss it, something seems wrong. Develop a system of giving so that you automatically sow before you are asked.

### **Find a spiritual mentor for your family**

Those who experience a transfer of the generational blessing all say there was at least one person in their family who was a strong "prayer warrior." These special people became our mentors, people whom we looked up to with respect and admiration. These individuals spent hours in deep intercession, calling for the salvation of their children and grandchildren.

As a child, I recall my father spending extended seasons in prayer. He would sometimes pray so loudly that you could hear him in the back yard! Often, I could hear him call the names of his children and hold them up before God's throne. The Bible indicates that prayers are stored in golden vials before the throne of God (Revelation 5:8). At appointed times, these vials are opened, the prayers are released in God's Presence, and the answers are sent back to earth.

Find a mentor and discover everything you can about



prayer, worship, studying the Word, and giving, and then act upon what you learn. We learn by example. Don't talk the talk without walking the walk. Teach your family how to pray by praying, how to give by giving, how to love by loving, and how to care by caring.

### **The full measure of the blessing**

In Matthew chapter 20, Jesus gave a parable of a man who hired workers for His field. He selected people at different times of the day, but offered them the same amount of money. One group was hired at nine in the morning. A second crew came in at twelve noon, and the third group went to work at three in the afternoon. A final crew was hired at five o'clock, just one hour before the workday concluded.

When payday came, those who worked one hour received the same amount of pay as those who worked all day. Those who worked longer were angry with those who only worked one hour. Their attitude was that if you worked longer you should receive more pay. One application of this parable could be that those working near the return of the Lord will receive the full measure of God's blessings, including the combined blessings of the past generation.

# A heritage of ministers

You can see how the spiritual blessings increase by examining my family heritage. My great-grandfather, Robert L. Rexroad, was a pioneer Full Gospel minister in the early 1930's. He organized one of the first traveling bands and pioneered churches throughout West Virginia and Virginia.

My grandfather, John Bava, married Lucy, a niece whom Robert and his wife, Lillian, raised. Granddad Bava founded a company that recorded and published music, and through the company, he published over 1,000 songs. One of his most noted songs, "Don't Overlook Salvation," was recorded by Ricky Van Shelton in 1993. Granddad was called "The Singing Coal Miner," and was active in Gospel radio in the early days of the industry. He passed away on April 11, 1997 at age eighty-four.

My father, Fred Stone, is an anointed minister. Dad served as an evangelist and pastor throughout his forty-eight years of ministry. At one time he could quote entire books of the New Testament. Years ago, during our family vacation, Dad said, "Go to the Book of James." He began with verse one and quoted the entire book. His personal experiences with the Holy Spirit are stories that captivate both young and old. Dad is a humble servant of God who knows how to listen to and obey the directions of the Holy Spirit.

The spiritual seeds planted for three generations have created a great harvest in our ministry. In twenty-four years of full time ministry, I have personally witnessed over 18,000 souls come to Christ and over 31,000 receive the fullness of the Holy

Spirit. Having written over fifty songs that have been recorded, I can see the influence of Granddad Bava. The desire to pray long hours, read, and study are a product of my father's influence. Dad always had the Bible or a religious book in his hand. Granddad Bava once printed a magazine called *Musical Echoes*. Today, we print the *Voice of Evangelism* magazine and have printed over twenty books. Grandmother Bava once said to me, "Perry, you are now doing everything your granddad wanted to do, but was never able." The blessing was passed on! Since 1977, our ministry has accomplished the following:

- preached in thirty-five states and seven foreign nations
- published a bi-monthly magazine, *Voice of Evangelism*
- written and published over fifty gospel songs which have been recorded
- produced a large video and cassette outreach ministry
- written and published over twenty books and booklets
- organized and supported missionaries and mission crusades
- hosted a weekly television program, Manna Fest, which is seen in over 110 cities
- built and paid for a 25,000 square foot ministry center

Please understand that this is not a brag sheet. God receives all the glory for these results, and I am grateful and humbled for God's blessings. Yet, I am aware that the finances, prayers, and time planted by previous generations are coming full circle in our ministry. Nothing has been given to me on a

silver platter. It has come through obedience, hard work, and commitment to Christ. These results have come over twenty-four years of ministry.

I will add that it has not been easy. At age eighteen, my singing sounded like a frog with laryngitis. I practically flunked English in school, and our first "magazine" was a small piece of paper sent to thirty close friends. The offerings barely covered my gasoline expenses, and I prayed half the day that enough people would be interested in my revivals to fill up just half the church. I owned one blue suit jacket. My grandfather told me he hoped that I could one day pastor a church with a hundred members.

As I began to fast, pray, and devour the Word, changes began to occur. I began to sing on key (a miracle in itself). Despite men laughing at the "magazine," persistence paid off and today the *Voice of Evangelism*, a twenty-page, bi-monthly publication, is sent throughout the United States. Over the years, our offices have moved from an apartment to a 25,000 square foot ministry center. My first song, *Close to the Cross but Far From the Blood*, written in Bulgaria in 1992, was recently recorded by the McKameys and released on national radio. The attendance at the local churches has gone from fifteen people a night to as high as 5,000 in one service. To God be the glory!

# Gifts will create other gifts

A parable of Christ in Matthew 25:14-30 speaks of a businessman who called three servants to him and entrusted them with silver coins. The first man was given five talents (coins), the second man was given two talents, and the third man was given one. The businessman took a long journey, expecting his servants to invest their money while he was gone. When he returned, the man took an account of his servants. The servant with five talents had doubled his investment to ten coins. The man with two had doubled his investment to four coins. The man with one coin had, out of fear, buried his coin.

The businessman, who represents the Lord, commended the two men who doubled their money (Matthew 25:21). The fellow who hid his single coin was reprimanded, and his coin was given to the man who had ten (Matthew 25:28). Why did the Lord give the one coin to the man who already had ten coins? Didn't the fellow with ten have enough?

The spiritual application of this parable is important. If people do not use the gift God gives them, the Lord will transfer the gift to someone who will use it! God can transfer money, gifts, and ability from one who is inactive to one who is willing to use the gift for God's glory. Once you step out and use what God has given you, he can quickly multiply what you have to create what you need.

People do not see the sacrifices others make to have what they now have. We live in a town with a major Christian University. Often, young ministers tour our facilities and ask

me the key to building a global ministry. I reply, "Learn to clean bathrooms and knock on doors to invite people to church." When I was eleven years old, I became the janitor of the churches Dad pastored. On Saturdays, I would knock on doors inviting people to church. Some people seek a shortcut to the blessings without making a sacrifice. Don't ever criticize someone's blessings because you don't know the sacrifices they have made to arrive at their present destination.

At age eleven, I began playing drums in Dad's church. At age fifteen, I assisted a local minister in his print shop and, at age seventeen, I traded my drum set to the printer so I could get my first book, *Precious Promises for Believers*, printed. God used the drums as a seed to grow our printing ministry.

According to Proverbs 18:16, "*A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.*" The word room in Hebrew means *to open up and to broaden*. As you begin to obey the Lord, He will begin to broaden your gifts and talents.

For example, playing the drums eventually led to my singing in church. Singing eventually led to song writing, and over time the songs were recorded on tape. Nationally known singers heard the recordings and selected songs for their own albums. Recorded songs produced royalties that became a personal blessing to my family.

Messages were birthed in seasons of fervent prayer. The messages were recorded on cassette tape and the tapes were placed into albums, which then became a seed planted in the lives of thousands of people. The finances from the albums were placed back into the ministry, thus enabling the *Voice of Evangelism* magazine to be printed and mailed throughout North America.

Prophetic messages were birthed through intense study, and the messages were placed on videotapes. The videotapes became special offers during telethons on Christian television stations. The stations began inviting me to speak on the subject of Bible prophecy. By offering a special package of prophetic tapes, the people, the stations, and our ministry were blessed. The financial seed we received over several years was planted into new digital video production equipment. As a result, we now have a weekly television program, Manna Fest, which is seen in over 110 cities in America.

Each gift was a path leading to a new area of ministry. Consider using your gifts as a farmer would use seed. Plant yourself in God's will and begin to sharpen your skills, unlocking the God-given abilities hidden behind the doors of opportunity.

Discover the gifts and motivations in the life of your children. Encourage them to follow through with their gifts. At age eleven, when I would practice playing the drums at home, it almost drove my family and the neighbors insane. Boom, boom, crash, crash, boom, boom ...it sounded like wild men in the jungle preparing for war. If my mother and father had discouraged me, they could have stopped the seed that would be planted in the future to birth the outreach ministry.

Let the children play their instruments. Allow them to play sports. Encourage them to write stories and poems. Help them use the computer to create graphics. Develop their creativity. My son, Jonathan, plays the guitar. He carries it with him everywhere, even when we take a trip thirty miles away to the mall. I tell him, "You will be one of the best in the nation. One day you may direct the worship at your dad's services!"

The power of the blessing, coupled with special gifts, can bring forth much fruit. In summary:

**Each person has certain gifts or abilities.**

Paul spoke of the gifts of the Spirit and said that God divides to every man severally as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). We each have certain gifts and abilities. Some are spiritual and others are natural abilities.

**Those abilities must be developed and used.**

According to the parables, a person must use his or her abilities, or God will allow another to receive their blessing. The Bible says, "*...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*" (Revelation 3:11). What you do may seem insignificant, but if you will be faithful in the small responsibilities, God will eventually give you greater responsibilities.



# **Your gifts will open doors.**

Men and women in business and in ministry are always looking for dedicated people with gifts of communication, leadership, organization, administration, and helps. Not everyone is a pulpit minister and not everyone's gift is a spiritual gift. But natural gifts can be used by spiritual people to open doors for you.

## **Gifts can be imparted to the next generation.**

One man said that the world's greatest songs, ideas, and inventions are lying in a graveyard. They died with the person. Everything God created gives and reproduces itself. Paul laid hands upon Timothy and imparted spiritual gifts because he desired a man of God to carry on his ministry (Romans 1:11). Impart before you depart. Become a mentor and leave the blessing to someone who can use what you have learned.

The Bible promises, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6). Training is most effective when done by example and not just by words. The home is where it all begins.



## **In Your Down Sitting and Your Uprising**

*"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,  
and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,  
and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest  
down, and when thou risest up."*

(Deuteronomy 6:7)

Raising children and training them are two branches on the same tree. Your physical presence alone does not guarantee that your children will be godly. Watching them grow is not imparting into their life. God gave the Hebrew nation clear instructions in both raising and training their children to serve the Lord.

I have always been impressed with Hebrew customs and how dedicated the orthodox Jewish men are in rearing and instructing their sons and daughters. Consider the following:

- When a Jewish male child turns eight days old, the child is circumcised as a token of covenant with God (Genesis 17:12).
- At age thirteen, Jewish boys experience a Bar Mitzvah and the girls a Bat Mitzvah. This ceremony introduces the children to their responsibility of being a son or daughter of the covenant (Mark 5:42).
- During the Sabbath, the entire family attends Synagogue and enjoys a large meal together. The Sabbath is still considered holy (Exodus 20:8).
- There are special feasts throughout the year, such as Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, as well as other celebrations such as Purim and Hanukkah. Jewish children actively participate in these celebrations.

Spiritual training begins early. The father will take a small wooden stick and dip it in honey while reading the Word of God (Torah) to the child. He wants to create the mental concept

that the Torah is sweet. Each orthodox home has a mezuzah placed on the right side of the doorpost. This object holds a piece of parchment with scriptures from the Torah. The child is taught to kiss the mezuzah when entering and exiting the house. During the celebration of Hanukkah, certain foods are enjoyed and special games are played. The entire family enjoys these celebrations.

These customs are not based on modern concepts but are rooted in the Torah (the five Books of Moses). God instructed the Hebrews to write His Word on the doorpost or the entrance to their homes after possessing the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 6:9). He also instructed that they wear fringes on their outer garments as a reminder of God's commands (Numbers 15:38). This instruction led to the development of the Hebrew prayer shawl (tallith).

These traditions, customs, and commandments were to be taught to the children at a very early age. Rabbi Yehuda, the son of Tema, wrote in the Jewish Mishna about training up a child. He lists the progression of the age and expected level of training a child should receive:

- Age 5: to read the Bible
- Age 10: to read the Mishna
- Age 13: bound to the Commandments
- Age 15: to study the Talmud
- Age 18: the age of marriage
- Age 20: pursuit of business
- Age 30: full of vigor
- Age 40: maturity of reason
- Age 50: a counselor

Age 60: commencement of age  
Age 70: the gray age  
Age 80: advanced old age  
Age 90: bowed over  
Age 100: as he were dead and gone

He further stated that a child's growth is revealed by these Hebrew words:

*Jeled*, meaning a newborn baby (Exodus 2:3, 6 and 8)  
*Jonek*, meaning a suckling (Isaiah 1 1:8)  
*Olel*, meaning to ask for bread (Lamentations 4:4)  
*Gamul*, meaning a weaned one (the end of 2 years) (Isaiah 28:9)  
*Taph*, meaning to cling to its mother (Ezekiel 9:6)  
*Elem*, meaning to become strong and firm (Isaiah 7:14)

In our western culture, Christians dedicate their children to God in a special service. Most Christian children receive Biblical training in Sunday School or children's church and are usually taught how to pray a simple prayer. However, by the time a child reaches eighteen years of age, many who were raised in church are unable to quote ten scriptures and cannot lead a group in spontaneous prayer. The television was their babysitter while Mom and Dad worked. Despite our fast paced lifestyle, we are to teach our children in our uprising and in our down sitting. This means that spiritual instruction should be given first thing in the morning and the last thing at night.

We are blessed as a family that our son Jonathan is home schooled. Every day he spends thirty minutes hearing

instruction from the Bible. Recently, he began quoting an entire chapter from the Bible. We have taught Jonathan to bless his meals and we direct him in prayer at bedtime. Some of our best conversations occur before he goes to sleep. We have talked about heaven, death, and the coming of the Lord, and answered many thought-provoking questions.

As a child, Mom taught me to pray a prayer before going to sleep, and Dad seemed to pray constantly. As a child, my mind was on childish things, but the seed was planted and memories were formed that laid a foundation for my future. Many times, when one of the kids became sick, Dad would pray a prayer of faith for us. We believed he had a direct line to heaven.

### **Teaching must be mixed with prayer**

When your children hear you praying, it will impact their heart. In Steve Farr's book, *Point Man*, he talks about a man named George McCluskey who decided to spend one hour each day in prayer for his children. He later extended his prayer to include his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Years passed and his two Christian daughters married men who were in full-time ministry. Between the two couples, they had four girls and one boy. Each of the girls married a minister and the boy became a pastor. The first two children born to this generation were both boys. One chose the ministry, while the other was the first one in four generations not to do so. He decided to pursue his interest in psychology. This man was James Dobson, the most influential and significant leader in the pro-family movement today. Four generations ago, a man's

prayers impacted Dobson's life!

On the opposite side, a lack of spiritual guidance, prayer, and values will destroy generations. In the 1800's lived a man named Mat Jukes, an alleged moon shiner. Neither he nor his wife ever attended church. According to Dr. Tim LaHaye in his seminar *You and Your Family*, Jukes had 1,026 descendants. Three hundred died prematurely, one hundred were sent to prison, one hundred ninety were prostitutes, and one hundred were town drunks. Is there hope for anyone in a family with such bad seed? What if you have no church background and are the first Christian in your family?

### **What if you are from four generations of heathen?**

Paula White introduces her husband as the fifth generation of Christians, then states that she is from four generations of heathen. Yet, this woman has become one of America's premier female ministers, preaching in the greatest churches in North America and abroad. At some point, she became determined not to allow her past to control her future.

People often ask my wife, Pam, if her dad was a minister. She tells them her parents were divorced many years ago and that her father did not attend the weddings of his three daughters; yet, Pam is a stable wife and mother. She is the executive secretary of the Voice of Evangelism and has assisted in building and maintaining our ministry for almost twenty years.

Paula and Pam could have chosen to dwell upon the failures of the past, but instead, they chose to pursue their purpose in Christ. In the words of Paul, they forgot those

things which were behind and reached for the things that are before them (Philippians 3:13).

You may be the only person in your family who believes the Gospel and has accepted Christ. Perhaps you feel disappointed that there is no person in your lineage with an anointing or a gift to transfer into your life. If this is your case, you have a unique opportunity to begin a new legacy for your descendants.

### **What if I am a single mom?**

Today, many mothers are raising their children without the father. How can a mother effectively train her children and impart a blessing when the priest of the home, the father, is not present?

One example of this is Mary, the mother of Christ. We read where Joseph took Mary for His wife after Christ was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20). When Jesus was in the Temple at age twelve, Joseph was mentioned again (Luke 2:42-50). The next time frame is age thirty, when Christ was being baptized in water (Luke 3:21-23). Most scholars believe that Joseph passed away years before Christ began His public ministry. This would mean that Mary was involved in Christ's ministry, but Joseph was not present.

Mary was present at the wedding at Cana where Christ performed His first miracle (John 2:3). Mary was with Christ's disciples during His earthly ministry (Matthew 12:46). She was standing at the foot of the cross prior to Christ's death (John 19:25-27), and she was also present in the upper room and when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 1:14).



It is easy to say that, since Jesus was the Son of God, He had little interest in His earthly mother. The scene at the crucifixion proves otherwise. At the cross, Jesus cried out to His mother, "Behold thy son" (John 19:26). Christ then looked at John and said, "Behold thy mother" (John 19:27). From that moment, John took Mary to his house to care for her. It appears that Jesus did not want to die with His mother watching.

Mary became a single parent. Christ impacted her life and, certainly, He honored Mary for being the vessel God used to bring Him into the world. The angel Gabriel said Mary was blessed among women (Luke 1:28). Elizabeth said Mary was blessed among women (Luke 1:42). Mary began to prophesy about the future and said, "*All generations shall call me blessed*" (Luke 1:48).

Although many Catholics disagree, Mary had other children after Christ was born (Matthew 13:55). Mary was blessed, although a widow. She carefully followed the ministry of Jesus and was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Being divorced and raising children without a father is similar to being a widow. I have said that a natural widow has lost her companion through death, and a spiritual widow has lost her husband through divorce or separation. The good news is that God becomes the husband to the widow. The Lord said:

*"Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For*

*thy Maker is thine husband: the Lord of hosts is his name*  
..."

(Isaiah 54:4-5)

If a man is not present to impart spiritual knowledge, then God will give you, the mother, the special grace and spiritual authority to carry on the blessing in the family. Throughout the Bible, God used women to fulfill His plan. You can begin a spiritual legacy, despite your circumstances.

# 9



## How to Begin Your Personal Legacy

*"We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony..."*

(Psalms 78:4-5)

Many secular sociologists believe the era of the family as we know it is finished. With divorce, single parents, cohabitating unmarried couples, and the homosexual lifestyle, they believe the traditional family is history. Yet, other research indicates that many Americans have a strong desire to rebuild the family structure.

Before my wife and I were married, she spent Christmas with my mom's family in Davis, West Virginia. This small, peaceful town located in a mountain community was home to my grandparents, John and Lucy Bava. Christmas at their home was a tradition each year. It reminded me of an old-fashioned Christmas, with laughter, food, and a house filled with several generations of children, busy with holiday activities.

We both agreed that we wanted a loving and enduring marriage like Granddad and Grandmother Bava. I had never seen them angry with one another. They were both in their 60's at the time of our marriage, but they still acted like two teenagers who had just fallen in love. Grandmother kept an immaculate house and Granddad complimented it with his humor and hard work. Their positive Christian character and living made an impact on all who met them.

Others are not as fortunate to have Christian family members. Some may believe that a generational blessing cannot be passed on because of a negative family history. Before you believe you have no hope, consider the mess many saints of old found themselves in.

# The house of dysfunctional saints

Noah, who spent a hundred years building the ark and saving his entire family from destruction, left the ark, planted a vineyard, then got naked and drunk (Genesis 9:20-22). Lot heeded the warning of two angels, fled from Sodom and Gomorrah, hid in a cave, and was seduced by his two daughters (Genesis 19:33-38). Gideon was a mighty man of valor, leading three hundred men into battle and defeating a huge nation. Years later, this same man created a gold ephod that led Israel into idol worship (Judges 8:22-28). Sampson could take the jawbone of a donkey and make it as deadly as a sub-machine gun. Sampson had strong arms and a weak heart. He spent too much time at Delilah's hair salon and she clipped his hair, thus cutting off his anointing (Judges chapter 16). David could defeat bears, lions, giants, and Philistines, but a good-looking woman by the name of Bathsheba did more damage to David's family than a giant named Goliath and an army of Philistines (2 Samuel chapter 11.) And you think your family has had problems?

Yet, read the famous hall of faith passage in Hebrews chapter 11. Paul lists names of men and women who were considered people of great faith and who pleased God. It reads, "*By faith Noah ...being warned of God...prepared an ark...and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith*" (Hebrews 11:7). In Hebrews 11:32, Paul mentions Gideon, Sampson, and David and states, "*And these all, having obtained a good report through faith ...*" (Hebrews 11:39).

It is clear that God did not emphasize their failure, but

recognized their repentance, humility, and actions of faith. When Peter was speaking about Lot, he called Lot a righteous man whose soul was vexed day to day by the actions and conversations of the wicked. (2 Peter 2:7-8).

God did not excuse their sins and failures. In several cases, the sins of these men presented problems for future generations. But this truth is evident: God did not hold their past over their heads but blessed their future, despite their past.

### **The church was built with this bunch?**

Consider the twelve men Christ chose to help organize the church. Judas was the treasurer of the group and was siphoning off funds. The Bible calls him a thief (John 12:6). Peter, the most outspoken, was in competition for a position in the Kingdom (Luke 9:46). James and John brought their mother into the discussion with a request that her two sons be allowed to sit upon Christ's throne in the kingdom. John rebuked anyone in ministry who was not ordained in their small group (Luke 9:49). James and John became so angry with the Samaritans, they requested that Jesus scorch the place with fire, in the same manner that Elijah did against the prophets of Baal (Luke 9:54). Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief (Luke 9:41).

During an all night intercession service, these future world changers were caught napping and couldn't pray for one hour without snoring through the prayer meeting (Luke 22:45-46). Judas decided to defect from the twelve and was rewarded with thirty pieces of silver. One disciple appeared at Christ's arrest

scene draped in a bed sheet and ended up running back home naked (Mark 14:51). Peter jumped up from a deep sleep and began to swing a sword, whacking off Malchus' right ear. (John 18:10). The remaining disciples headed for the hills as Jesus was led away. Peter, who promised to be faithful to the end, went on a cursing binge in order to convince folks that he had nothing to do with Jesus (Matthew 26:73-74).

With these types of disciples in today's church, few people would be standing in line to join as members. "The First Church of Dysfunctional Saints" would be an apt name for this group. But something happened that changed their destiny and their lives forever.

Jesus took this group of men (without Judas, of course), and promised to impart supernatural power to them through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Apparently, Christ saw potential that others missed. These eleven original disciples not only helped birth and organize the Christian church, but ten out of the eleven died as martyrs!

If Christ can use these uneducated fishermen and former businessmen to shake the world with the Gospel, certainly He can place His hand upon you! I have often said that if God can use Perry Stone, there is hope and encouragement for anyone!

Remember that many of these first disciples were not in covenant with God when they received the call from Christ. Each man built a legacy from the foundation up.

### **When you have no legacy from your past**

Perhaps your family background is so bad that you just hope your relatives' pictures are not hanging on the wall in the

post office. Maybe you have relatives who are more like outlaws than in-laws. It is easy to feel left out of the loop and tell yourself that it must be nice to have relatives who are Christians and several generations that were in ministry, while believing that nothing good will ever become of your family. The Bible once again nullifies this thought. One woman from the Bible proved that the power to change your destiny is in your hands.



# The hooker who turned happy

The sign on the wall could have read "Rahab's House - Strangers Welcome." Jericho was the gateway to the Promised Land. The harlots of the city lived in apartments located on the wall, which ensured them a clear view of the men passing through the land of Canaan on business trips.

Rahab owned a house of ill repute. Business was booming, but news from the desert had the town people's nerves on edge. It seemed that the Hebrews had broken Pharaoh's hold in Egypt and their God had cleared a path through the Red Sea. Hebrew SWAT teams had assassinated two giant men named Sihon and Og, and the inhabitants of Jericho knew they were next on the hit list. Rahab recognized that she and her family would be destroyed.

Forty years passed, and suddenly the inhabitants of Jericho saw thousands of tents pitched in the Jordan Valley. The Hebrews were coming! Late one night, Rahab heard a knock on the door. This time, instead of pleasure seekers, it was two godly Hebrews who sought secret refuge in the harlot's house. Certainly, a stranger stopping here wouldn't arouse suspicion. (Joshua 2:2-5).

Rahab knew her moment of destiny had arrived. She testified to the spies of how she knew the reputation of their God's power and of how their God would give them the city. She confessed, "*...For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath*" (Joshua 2:11).

It was a simple confession that changed her heart and her way of thinking. She was still a harlot by reputation, but

something within her made her take a step of faith and ask the men how their God could protect her and her family! (Joshua 2:12-14). By placing a scarlet thread in the window and remaining in the house during the siege, she and her family came out alive and were received within the family of the Hebrews. Scripture says it this way:

*"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."*

(Hebrews 11:31)

The real miracle of the story is this: Rahab's house was built upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall" (Joshua 2:15). During the siege, the walls of Jericho fell flat, but Rahab's house remained intact (Joshua 6:20). The two spies went into her house, removed Rahab and her family, and sent them safely into the camp of Israel. Her simple confession and act of faith changed her destiny and set her on course for a special legacy.

### **If they could see me now**

Before her conversion, the name Rahab was symbolic of prostitution; however, her name is also listed in the genealogies of Jesus in the New Testament.

Jewish tradition teaches that the two spies Joshua sent to Jericho were Caleb and a man named Phineas. Joshua knew that Caleb would never doubt God's ability to capture the city. Other sources teach that Rahab married one of the two spies that helped save her life. If this is true, then the other spy

would have been named Salmon, based on Matthew 1:5.

How could an ex-harlot have her name engraved in the greatest list of genealogies in history? If you study the names listed in Matthew chapter 1, you will discover that Rahab married Salmon, and they had a child named Boaz, who married Ruth. He and Ruth had a child named Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Therefore, Rahab was the great-grandmother of King David. Talk about a legacy!

It doesn't end there. According to the *Encyclopedia of Biblical Personalities*, there were eight prophets who were also priests who were descendants of Rahab. They were Neriah, Baruch, Seraiah, Mahseiah, Jeremiah, Hilkiah, Hanamel, and Shalum. Look at the great men of God who came from the marriage of Rahab and Salmon. The inhabitants of Jericho would have never believed that a former prostitute could change her life and produce such a spiritual genealogy.

The story of Rahab demonstrates three great truths:

- God will take any person of any race or background and accept them into the kingdom of God.
- You have the ability to change your destiny. You don't have to remain in the place you are now.
- The choices you make today can either build or destroy your legacy.

# Destroying your potential

Just as an immoral person can become moral, a moral person can become immoral. It all stems from the choices we make. A story of three Baptist ministers illustrates this concept quite well.

In 1945, the Baptist denomination had three young evangelists who were beginning to blaze the trail with revival. They were Chuck Templeton, age twenty-five; Bron Clifford, also in his mid-twenties; and Billy Graham, who was then twenty-seven years of age. An article that appeared in a leading Baptist magazine noted that Templeton was attracting the largest crowds of any Baptist minister. The 1945 article called Templeton the "next Babe Ruth of evangelism." Clifford was also mentioned as a powerful young minister with extraordinary potential. The name Billy Graham was never mentioned.

Ten years later, things had changed. By 1955, Templeton had left the ministry to pursue a career in radio and television. Clifford was no longer in ministry. He became an alcoholic and died from cirrhosis of the liver at age thirty-five. Graham went on to have the greatest revivals and the largest crowds of any minister in America. He became globally recognized for his integrity.

This demonstrates that you can begin well and end in ruin, or you can begin as an unknown and become a blessing. The end result will be in the choices you make.

# Time to make the break

Several years ago, when we were building our international ministry center, we needed someone to paint the 25,000 square foot facility. Kelvin McDaniel and his brother, Wayne, filled the position. Wayne had been away from God for about twenty years. In a previous marriage, his wife had fallen into sin and he was bitter at church people, preachers, and just about everyone else connected to Christianity.

Wayne later confessed that he was apprehensive about painting for a ministry. After a few weeks, Wayne discovered that I collected sports cards and autographs. Pam and I invited Wayne to our home for dinner, and I showed him my collection. Wayne was also a collector and we found a mutual point of conversation. For several months, we developed a friendship with Wayne and invited him to several revivals. One afternoon, my wife Pam said, "Wayne, why aren't you serving the Lord?" Wayne explained all the bad things he had gone through. Pam said, "It's a pity that your wife and little girl are going to heaven and you will die lost and never see them!" Wayne came under conviction.

On May 14, the night before dedicating our new ministry center, I was ministering at our home church in Cleveland, Tennessee. That night, Wayne came to the altar and repented. Weeks later, he was baptized with the Holy Spirit and soon his smoking habit was broken. Today, Wayne is happily serving God and traveling several times a year, assisting with missions crusades in foreign nations.

Wayne had to choose between living in his past or

choosing a new destiny. You will never begin a family legacy if you always remind yourself of how badly you were treated and how the world has done you wrong. Life is a matter of choices, and you can choose to obey God, be happy, go to church, and not to allow the enemy to choose for you!

# It begins with you

You can do nothing about where you have been but everything about where you are going. The Apostle Paul knew this. Paul (formerly named Saul) was a highly educated Pharisee who trained under the noted teacher Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Paul considered followers of Christ heretics and carried documents for the arrest of leaders in the church. He was responsible for the death of Stephen, one of the first martyrs of the church (Acts 7:58-59). This was Paul's resume before his conversion:

*"And for Saul he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and hailing men and women committed them to prison."*

(Acts 8:3)

Christ Himself suddenly interrupted Saul's anti-Christian persecution. I call it a Son stroke on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-7). God changed his name from Saul to Paul and melted his stony heart. When people attempted to remind Paul of his past, his attitude was to forget those things which are behind and reach for those things that are before (Philippians 3:13).

The only time Paul spoke of his past was to use it as a testimony to demonstrate the changes God made in his life. Although Paul wrote that he was not married, he mentored a number of spiritual sons, including a young man named

Timothy, whom he called "my dearly beloved son" (2 Timothy 1:2). Paul poured his soul into training and raising up young ministers. You might say that he reproduced himself through their ministry.

### **What if you don't have children?**

When a man and woman have no children, how can a legacy be carried on? The answer: Impart into the lives of your "spiritual children." A perfect example of this is Bea Ogle, the director of our Daughters of Rachel ministry. Affectionately called Aunt Bea by hundreds of friends, she and her husband Elroy never had children. For many years, Bea served her local church in Pulaski, Virginia in leadership positions, including as an outstanding Sunday School teacher.

To the many young couples who sat under her teaching, Bea has been a spiritual mother. Often, they would come to Bea's house for spiritual counsel or call her for times of prayer. Some would share personal information with Bea that they would share with no other. People knew Bea would never use any information against them and that she would pray a hole in the heavens on their behalf.

I once asked Bea why she and Elroy never had children. She said, "I guess because God wanted me to have spiritual children that I could help raise in spiritual things." Bea now directs a group of eight hundred intercessors that are linked to our ministry. Hundreds of women follow her example in prayer and intercession. She is reproducing her gift of intercession in the lives of those she is mentoring.

You can pass on a spiritual legacy by imparting into the



lives of those around you. There are several ways to do this:

**Teach classes and have home Bible studies.**

You may never travel as an evangelist, but you can impact one person in a local church or a personal Bible study. That one person could change the world.

**Spend personal, quality time in prayer and intercession.**

Prayer is a seed. You plant your words before God's throne in order to produce a future harvest. Your prayers may save the life of another or stop an assignment of Satan. Your prayers will endure long after you have departed this life.

**Give of your finances, and if you have no heirs, leave a will or trust for future ministry.**

Few people consider leaving a portion of their assets in a trust or a will to be used for ministry. This ensures that spiritual benefits will continue to be laid up long after they have departed.

**Don't let this happen to you**

Pam and I have known of people with no children or immediate family, and we have sometimes wondered how they will impact the future after they have departed. There are

people who have spent a lifetime investing and accumulating money. They have no children or close family members and have made no plans to invest in the work of the kingdom of God when they depart.

I told Pam, "Do people not realize that if they would build an orphanage, start a foreign Bible school, or leave a trust for a major ministry that their money would continue to work for the kingdom of God and produce spiritual fruit long after they have departed?' The Bible teaches that a good man will leave an inheritance for his children (Proverbs 13:22). It is Biblical to ensure the security of your family after you depart. Yet, how many believers are sitting on finances that will go into the pockets of unbelieving, distant relatives and never bring forth eternal fruit for the Kingdom of God?

What do you think of when I say Mother Theresa? Do you visualize a petite woman working among the poorest of the poor in India? Years after her death, her legacy lives on in India and around the world. She was never married and never gave birth to her own children; yet, she was "mother" to thousands of lepers and poor children in India.

What pictures come to mind when I say Howard Hughes? In his day, Mr. Hughes was the wealthiest man in the world, yet I personally do not know of one thing that he did to cause his legacy to continue. In fact, most young people today wouldn't even recognize his name.

One lived in wealth and is not remembered. One lived in poverty and became a legend. The memory of the just is blessed (Proverbs 10:7).

# Dead people rule the world

The reason your legacy is important is because dead people rule the world. The communists of China still follow the teachings of a dead man named Karl Marx. The Buddhists on the Asian continents are strict observers of the "enlightened one" who departed this life thousands of years ago. Mohammed, the prophet of Islam, is buried in Medina in Saudi Arabia and his beliefs are written in the Koran, Islam's holy book. Radical Muslims will die over the words of a dead man. The Mormons claim six million adherents and base their teachings on an alleged gold bible discovered by Joseph Smith. He is dead, but millions hold the book of Mormon as truth. The Constitution that governs America was penned by men whose graves are memorials.

Libraries are filled with the words of dead people. Colleges teach from books that were written by dead men, and students receive degrees after studying and researching the words of men whose names are engraved on weather worn tombstones.

Christianity is the only religion that is governed by a living Lord! It is the only religion where the leader does not rule from His grave, but rules from His throne! The fact that dead men rule the world reveals the importance of the things you say and do. People will remember your words and deeds. Your impact on the lives that you touch today will carry on tomorrow.

## **Righteous people whose impact is greater after their death**

Almost two thousands years after their deaths, we are still

reading the words of Peter, James, John, and Paul. The Bible is still the world's best selling book, and lives are still being changed because of it. Religious songs continue to be sung many years after they were written, while most secular songs come and go each month. The words of the righteous contain life.

Jonathan Edwards' sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," is considered one of the greatest soul-winning messages ever preached. The writings of Charles Spurgeon are still held in high regard among ministers. The writings of Smith Wigglesworth are more popular now than when he was living. Christian books published two hundred years ago are being reprinted and sold in bookstores.

The secular millionaire is soon forgotten as his wealth is scattered, but the memory of the righteous is blessed. The world is dealing with corruptible seed, while the church has incorruptible seed. The Word of God abides forever and will not pass away (Matthew 24:35). You can begin now to make a difference in your life, the life of your seed, and the lives of those around you.

### **Are you ready to begin a legacy?**

Here is where you need to begin:

**Make the decision not to live in the failures of your past.**

Don't talk about it any more unless using it as a testimony to reveal how God has delivered you. You

cannot walk forward while looking backwards.

**Make choices that will lead to a good outcome.**

Every road of choice has an end. When you make a choice, think of the long-term effect and not the short-term pleasure. The seed planted today becomes the harvest of tomorrow, and we do reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7).

**Make your life an example to follow.**

The greatest testimony is one that is acted out. You are not what you were, and not yet what you will be. Your old habits and "stinking thinking" are gone and you are a new creature. Live a life that emphasizes the change, and live in such a way that people will want to imitate you. Live so that you are appreciated and not just endured. Be such a blessing that you will be missed and not forgotten when you depart this life. It is all a choice!



## **Never Give Up on Anyone as Long as They are Breathing**

*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."*

(Hebrews 10:23)

One of the most remarkable stories I have ever read was told by Ted DeMoss in the book *The Greatest Lessons I Have Ever Learned*, compiled by Bill Bright. At the time, DeMoss was a young insurance salesman. One day he visited an apartment to call on a man whose name had been sent to his office as a direct mail response. DeMoss went to the third story apartment and knocked on the door. The man, who spoke through the door without opening it, refused to let DeMoss in, and even threatened to throw him down the stairs. After some effort, DeMoss convinced the man to let him in so he could talk to him.

DeMoss fully intended to talk with the man about insurance, but when he opened the door, before him stood an old blind man with a white beard. DeMoss said, "I hadn't been in the business long, but I knew he was too old to buy any insurance I might sell him."

The Spirit of God impressed DeMoss that he needed to talk to this man about Jesus Christ. When the man asked what he wanted to talk about, DeMoss replied, "I want to read the Bible to you." Of course, DeMoss didn't have a Bible with him and had to look around the apartment to find one. He finally found one covered with dust on top of a stack of books and opened it to read the third chapter of John.

When he looked up, the old man was crying. DeMoss said, "Sir, would you like to invite Jesus Christ into your life right now, right here?"

The man said, "Well, I would like to do it right now, but not here." He wanted to go to the kitchen and do it with his mother.

Puzzled, DeMoss thought perhaps he had a photograph of his mother in the kitchen and wanted to go there for

sentimental reasons. He followed the man to the kitchen and, to his surprise, there was his ninety-eight year old invalid mother sitting in a canvas-backed chair.

The old man said, "Mother, God has sent a man to our home. He's been reading the Bible to me, and I'm going to accept Jesus Christ."

The woman screamed and, when she regained control, said, "Mister, I don't know who you are, but I have prayed for my boy every day for over eighty years!"

This story reveals the great truth: Never give up on anyone as long as they are still breathing! Your prayers will long outlive you. The words of your prayers are stored in heaven in golden vials before the throne of God (Revelation 5:8). Your words do not fall to the earth unheard. During certain seasons, your prayers (and giving) will come up before the throne of God (Acts 10:1-4). Though you may pass from this life, your prayers continue to live in the presence of God. Often, saints of God will die without seeing their family members receive Christ. Years pass and suddenly they receive the gift of salvation.

This is why many children accept Christ after the death of their Christian loved ones. It is not some emotional moment, or the desire to make others feel better by a professed conversion. It is often the prayers of that mother or dad coming up before God, who supernaturally moved on their behalf.

### **Curses and blessings continue for generations**

A curse can continue for generations. Joshua prophesied that the man who would rebuild Jericho would lose his



firstborn son when he laid the foundation and his youngest son when he hung the city gates (Joshua 6:26). Hundreds of years later, this curse was fulfilled in the days of King Ahab when he issued a decree for Hilel to rebuild Jericho. Both of Hilel's sons, Abiram and Segub, died while the city was being rebuilt (1 Kings 16:34). The words of Joshua's curse held for several generations.

Blessings can also continue for generations!

*"He hath remembered his covenant for ever; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."*

(Psalms 105:8)

I conclude by giving you the following instruction:

**Pray consistently for your children and grandchildren.**

Praying is like planting seeds in a garden. The more you plant the greater the harvest. James tells us that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much (James 5:16). Consistency attracts the attention of God (Luke 18:7). We are told we will reap if we faint not (Galatians 6:9). You may not see the results instantly, but God is faithful with his promises.

**Pray for those who are yet to be born.**

God often spoke of Abraham's seed years before his first child was born. God is a planner, always

looking into the future. If Abraham paid tithes for Levi hundreds of years before the Levites received tithes, then we can begin speaking and planning in the spirit realm for the blessings of our children and grandchildren. Seek God that not one of your descendants will be lost without Christ. Make a verbal decree that your house shall be saved (Acts 16:31).

**Speak blessings over your seed and never speak curses.**

Speaking blessings should begin when the child is in the womb. Tell your seed, "You are blessed and highly favored. You are God's creation." Say it often and in their presence. Never curse what God has blessed (Numbers 23:8).

**Lay hands upon your children and bless them.**

It has been proven that touching and hugging produces a more emotionally stable child. Jonathan Edwards would allow his smaller children to sit in his lap each evening as he spent quality time with each child. Jesus blessed the children by laying his hands upon them. This serves as our example.

**Fight your spiritual battles with the covenant.**

Are you born again? Have you been baptized in water? Are you a giver? Do you seek God in prayer? Do

you believe the Bible and practice its spiritual principles? Then you have a covenant with God. The Almighty will stand with you in your day of adversity. Quote scriptures when fighting a battle. Print out copies and hang them in your house. Keep the promises ever before you.

### **Teach the covenant by example both morning and night.**

It is God's will that you experience the fullness of His covenant promises. It is also His plan that these blessings you are experiencing will flow into the next generation. Set the example in personal prayer. Your "seed" should hear you pray. Set the example by reading the Word with your family. Set the example by being a worshiper in church and by tithing and giving. If we say we believe the written Word, then we must be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only (James 1:23-25).

Children learn by example. Most children are in school an average of thirty-five hours a week. They watch television an average of twenty-eight hours a week, sleep an average of fifty hours a week, and attend church an average of two hours a week. If you depend upon a church service alone to impact your children, you will fall short. The best example is to observe you in action.

The Catholic Church once said that if they could take a child from birth and train him for the first seven years, that child would remain in the Catholic Church for life.

A person's beliefs for life are established during the first seven to ten years of their life.

It is time for you to begin to plant the seed within your seed. Impart before you depart.

## **My Prayer for You**

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God, I approach your eternal throne on behalf of my special friends and partners of this ministry. Lord, you see their sincere heart and their obedience to you, According to the promises in your covenant Book, the Bible, I am asking you to bless them spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially. Let them be blessed and highly favored. Let the works of their hands increase and the desires of their heart come to pass, according to your will. Let their seed be great in the earth. Bless their children and grandchildren and the children that shall be born. Give them a godly heritage. I ask this in Jesus name. AMEN.

## Special Photo Session



One of the early Full Gospel camp meetings in the 1930's where my grandfather and grandmother Bava were ministering.



R.L. Rexroad was one of the early pioneer preachers. He was my great grandfather on my mother's side of the family.



My great grandfather Pete Bava (left) standing beside his son John Bava (my grandfather) posing for this picture prior to a church service. Pete immigrated from Italy as a young man and spoke with a strong accent.





The entire family has been musically gifted for many generations. Here my mother Juanita Stone, age 17, is sporting

a new Gibson guitar.

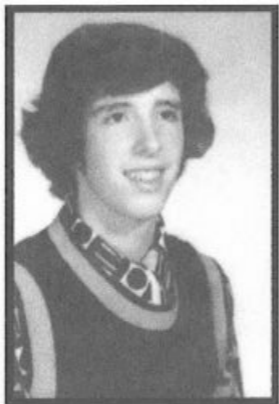


One of the highlights of grandad's songwriting career was

when noted singer Ricky Van Shelton recorded grandad's song "Don't Overlook Salvation" on his Gospel album. Grandad wrote the song in 1949. Ricky said it was one of the first Gospel songs he learned to sing in church and was his parent's favorite gospel song.



This church was organized and built by my Grandfather John Bava the day I was born (June 23, 1959). It is where I preached my first revival in 1977.



I received my call into the ministry at age 16 during an all night prayer meeting.



This was a prayer altar I built as a teenager on a mountain behind a church campground in Roanoke, Virginia.



Perry Fred Stone Jr., is an 18-year-old single evangelist, who is relatively new in the field of evangelism, having felt the call of God upon his life a little over a year ago.

His dedicated life and ministry has already had a great impact on those who have heard him. Many souls have already come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through his ministry.

He just closed a 5 night revival at Elliston, Va. where Reverend Ronald King is pastor. There were 13 saved, 9 sanctified and 10 received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Perry has a great burden for the lost and spends much time in fasting and prayer. Any church will be very fortunate to secure him for revival.

Brother Perry is the son of Reverend and Mrs. Perry F. Stone, Sr., Pastor of the Salem Church of God. You may contact him at his home address:

Articles related to the early ministries of my father, Fred Stone, and me.

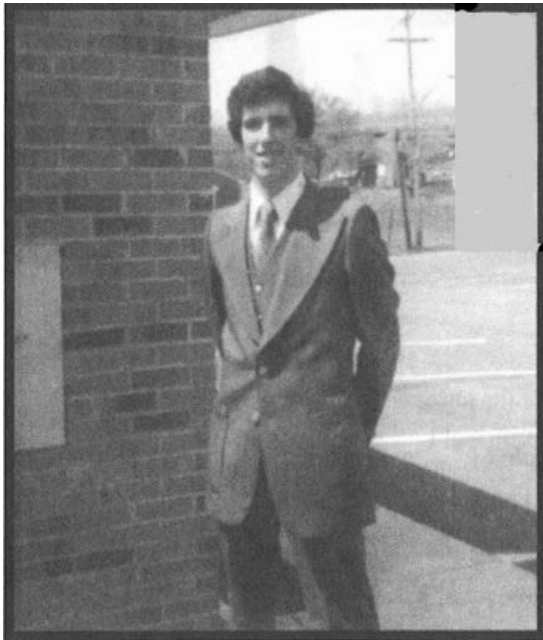
## Youth Revival Scheduled At Aracoma Church



Beginning Easter Sunday night at the Aracoma Church of God the Rev. Freddie Stone of Bartley will conduct a two-week youth revival, sponsored by the young people of the church.

The services in the local church will be held simultaneously with services in every Church of God over the nation, according to the church pastor, the Rev. Earl J. Gilbert.

Special singing by the Kinder Family Trio and the youth trio of the church, composed of Donetta Hale, Roberta Wilson and Anna Ruth Hale, will feature the services, beginning at 7:30 p. m.



This was the only suit I owned when I started my ministry.



Through our extensive travels we have been blessed to meet and build friendships with many noted individuals. Here are a few from my personal collection.



*The Voice of*

# EVANGELISM

THE WRITTEN VOICE OF PERRY STONE MINISTRIES • VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 4

## THIS ISSUE:

\*THUNDER OVER ISRAEL

\*WHO OWNS THE TEMPLE MOUND?

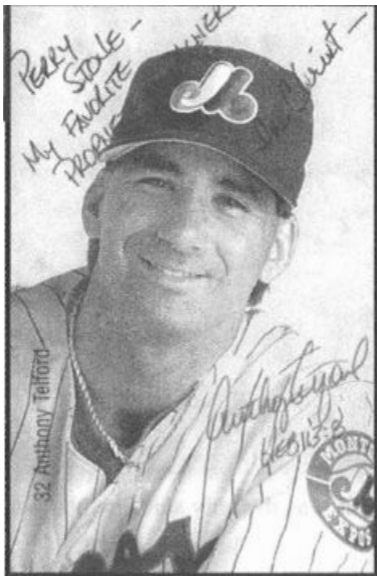
\*GEORGE WASHINGTON'S VIRGIN

\*MIRACLE IN THE ISULP



Perry Stone Meeting Former  
Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres

In 1988, I had the privilege of meeting the Prime Minister of Israel, Shomon Peres, during one of our Holy Land tours.



Anthony Telford is one of the pitchers for the Montreal Expos. Pam and I met him and his family at Without Walls Church in Tampa, Florida.



On November 29, 1998, we met then Governor George W. Bush at the Western Wall in Israel. Our people encouraged him to run for President.



Presents

# Sacramento Kings GameTime



Your Prophetic  
Interpretations of the  
Bible have been  
tremendous.

*Sam Feld*

KINGS vs. LAKERS  
March 22, 1998

**NBA** basketball star, Lawrence Funderburke, saw us ministering on television in the mid-nineties. He has since become a friend and partner in our ministry. Today Lawrence plays for the Sacramento Kings and enjoys the study of Bible prophecy.



**F**or many years, Christians in North America have heard teaching on breaking generational curses. The time has come to bring the message on how to impart generational blessings upon you, your children and grandchildren!

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, author Perry Stone will reveal the spiritual keys that unlock the door to imparting blessings to your "seed." Read about:

- The DNA of a covenant
- Unusual Biblical accounts of imparting the blessing
- The tale of four young ministers
- How laying on of hands is used to transfer spiritual blessings
- Is there a prophet in the house?

Perry will share a dramatic personal story of a spiritual impartation that changed his ministry. You will discover vital truths for your personal impartation in the chapter "How to Begin a Spiritual Legacy."



Evangelist Perry Stone Jr. is founder and president of Voice of Evangelism Outreach Ministries in Cleveland, TN. He has produced an extensive library of books, CDs and DVDs, and hosts *Manna-fest*, a weekly television program airing on hundreds of Christian stations nationwide. The Voice of Evangelism has a Monthly Message CD club, Partner Strike Force, and a bi-monthly magazine, which is mailed out across the nation.

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