

Equipping Your Child for Destiny

Introduction:

- This month we have been focusing on how God sees our children. We have been looking at them as seeds. In their inside is written the plan of God in each succeeding generation. We have seen that the each child also has a specific plan given for their lives. There are no mistakes!
- Last week we looked “Discovering Your Child’s Destiny” and specifically at four things:
 - The purpose of Godly seed
 - The intention of God for this specific seed
 - What is my role as a parent
 - Does God still bless generationally?
- I want to share some things from the heart that I believe are God talking to this church, our church, us.
- *“I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.”* (2 Timothy 1:5, NLT)
- *““Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant—all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel. “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.””* (Malachi 4:4–6, NLT)

I. Three Keys to Help Shape Parents

- A. Parents must know that they can hear the voice of God and that they can train their children to hear God. When you do, you are equipping a generation to walk in the blessing.
 1. John the Baptist lived with his ‘ear to the ground’ listening for the footsteps of the Bridegroom God!
 - a) His parents began imparting to him at a young age what they had been given about this child.
 - b) John learned to hear God and he heard from heaven and began preparing a people for the arrival of Jesus.
 - c) He raised a standard and released an anointing that ushered many into the Kingdom of God.
 2. Children want to hear God for themselves. They get bored with the lifeless stories of David and Goliath. But you put some Holy Spirit on that story with the voice of God resonating from it and they will eat it up! Not as entertainment but as God moving on their inside.
 - a) They want to know what that looks like in their neighborhood, their school, and on their streets. And they see that by watching God in you touch people that they know.
 - b) They want to see that you hear from God and they want to be taught how they can hear from God. God talks to children! Don’t think he doesn’t.
 - (1) Samuel and Eli. Samuel was hearing God’s voice but thought it was Eli. Eli, the priest had lived so long without the voice of God that he could not recognize that God was talking to Samuel.
 - (2) Parents, grandparents, can you hear God’s voice? Can you hear clear enough to recognize when God is talking to you children. Can you sense His voice resonating through their words? When you do, you are equipping a generation to walk in the blessing.
 - c) Children want to ‘feel God’ in the teaching. You know when a song or a sermon has God on it. Children know too! Ie. Jim Durf the 10-11 year old Sunday school teacher. He would cry as he taught us the word of God. It wasn’t just the tears it was the sound of God in his voice! Parent must go after this. I need some people out of this congregation to help Pastor Joshua out in our children’s ministry with this!
 3. That Voice is found in the place of prayer!
 - a) George Barna - a studier of churches, *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions* did a study. He studied a number of churches over the years tracking children, on through teen years and in becoming adults who were still serving God. He wrote: “The most important resource we believe was the amazing amount of prayer for children and parents that was evident at the most effective ministries to children.”

- b) We must model that voice before our children. Words of knowledge, prophetic words, discernment. Children easily hear from God.
 - c) YOU must cherish prophetic words and pray over them with care.
 - (1) *“Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you.”* (1 Timothy 4:14, NLT)
 - (2) *“Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord’s battles.”* (1 Timothy 1:18, NLT)
- B. Parents must become more generational in their thinking about their children and about their children in the local church. When you do, you are equipping a generation to walk in the blessing.
1. We must long to impart to our children, not long to depart from them.
 2. We are a major key in connecting our children and grandchildren to their destiny. We have to learn to think generationally, knowing that our life will out live us into the next generation.
 - a) If we are self-focused, we will not equip them for what lies ahead...good or bad.
 - b) Church cannot be about us, adults now, and them later. That paradigm has to shift! As adults and Sr. adults, we must model, mentor, disciple and train the next generation.
 - c) Ie. I can remember many a morning getting up for school or for work on the farm and find my dad’s Bible open and his prayer list in it. I can also remember many a morning hearing him pray over the farm, the church, my sister and I, and for mom. Those memories imparted something. Don’t think for a moment you spiritual life is something private not to be seen by family. You make a difference!
 3. There are two facets of generational living.
 - a) Connecting the generations
 - (1) Connecting the generations leaves profound marks on the younger generations.
 - (2) Sister Clawson, Porter and Beulah Sharp, Jim Durf, Jerry Stipp, Mike Stipp. All of these people were a cross cut of generations that impacted my life spiritually. None of these people are ones that I would say were really close but they were close enough to make impact, make a mark on my life. They modeled a relationship with Christ before me. Better said, they lived a Christian life before me.
 - (3) There are children around here right now that need generational presence and generational impact. Ie. Sister Clawson was vividly engraved on my memories from prayer meeting that my dad took me to. That memory would not have existed had he not made the effort to get me to the prayer meeting. He purpose was to pray. God’s purpose was to write into my ‘operating system Kingdom Code!”
 - b) Imparting of generations to one another.
 - (1) Each generation that has gone before has something to leave me.
 - (2) I have something to deposit to the generations that follow me!
 4. God works through generations
 - a) Dan 4:3 “His Kingdom will last forever His rule though all generations.”
 - b) Gen 3:15 Serpent head crushing seed!
 - c) Each generation must be equipped to crush the serpents head.
- C. Parents must train their children to do the work of the ministry and not to be entertained by ministry. When you do, you are equipping a generation to walk in the blessing.
1. Children are not given a junior Holy Spirit. They are given the same Holy Spirit as everyone else who believes. Let God be God to these children. Ie. Joshua F. prophesying to adults age 6.
 2. Children love to be coached by their parents in how to do things. Learn to coach them spiritually. They love to be included, conversed with, and shown how to do life.
 - a) Watch me do...ministry to people.
 - b) Help me do...ministry to people.
 - c) Let me watch you...minister to people.
 3. Children must be released to do the work of the ministry. They should get to do the ‘stuff!’
 - a) Parents, train and be ready to release your children to minister. Let them see how they can do the work of God in the midst of living in a secular society. Or do the work of God while not being in full

- time ministry. Let them see that they are the church, they are minister and they have a mission just like every believer has.
- b) Hear my heart on this one, “When sports, school activities, community clubs take preeminence over God and His work, then the Great Commission becomes the ‘great’ concept. I am not advocating not doing these things, I am advocating that give God pre-eminence in our children’s lives. “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Prov 22:6. When you do, you are equipping a generation to walk in the blessing.

Conclusion:

- God is a generational God. He is a God who has chosen to work through the generations!
- Let live to open doors in our children's lives that God can minister through.
- Invite God to come into your generation today.

II. Learning To Be An Imparting Parent

- A. The Power of Instruction
- B. The Power of Blessing
- C. The Power of Christ In Me