

Introduction:

- Children hold a very dear place in the heart of parents and especially grandparents. Outside of lavishing love on their lives, prayer is up there in the tops three of what we can do for them.
- In Luke 2:18,19, Mary ponders in her heart what the Shepherds have said. "to give careful consideration to various implications of an issue—'to reflect on, to think about seriously, to think deeply about.'" Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 349). She ponders the things that the angel, shepherds, Simeon and Anna have said. But I am very sure that when you are raising the Son of God you have a prayer life. We are raising children that have a God given destiny!
- We see children all through the scriptures from Adam a son of God, Able and Cain, Adam's sons. Children of Israel - those who obtained the promised land to those who died in the wilderness. To the birth of Christ. It is obvious that God loves children.
 - The Lord fights for our children. This tell us much about the heart of God towards us and especially towards our children. *"But the Lord says, "The captives of warriors will be released, and the plunder of tyrants will be retrieved. For I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children." (Isaiah 49:25, NLT)*
 - *"But God says, "Even if a giant grips the plunder and a tyrant holds my people prisoner, I'm the one who's on your side, defending your cause, rescuing your children."* (Isaiah 49:25, The Message)

I. The Promise Runs Deep

- A. God's Covenant with Abraham was for him and all his descendants. What this tells me is that God thinks generationally. If we want the best for our children! How much more God wants that for us and for them.
 1. *"So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said, "I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—" (Genesis 15:18, NLT) Covenant is binding.*
 2. *"Then God said to Abraham, "Your responsibility is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility." (Genesis 17:9, NLT)*
- B. How deep does the promise run?
 1. How deep does the love of God go? *"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is."* (Ephesians 3:17-18, NLT)
 2. *"Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands."* (Deuteronomy 7:9, NLT)
 3. The covenant is big and the commitment is just as big. *"Remember his covenant forever— the commitment he made to a thousand generations." (1 Chronicles 16:15, NLT)*
 4. *"you children of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land. He always stands by his covenant— the commitment he made to a thousand generations." (Psalm 105:6-8, NLT)*

- a) Commitment is two Hebrew words: debar - command as in Word. sawa - command, as in to cause to do.
 - b) "What God commands to be done, he provides the means to accomplish, e.g. he instructed Moses concerning the building of the cultic furniture and buildings; then he inspired Bezalel and Oholiab with the Spirit of wisdom to be able to accomplish the work (Ex 31:2-6; 35:30-36:1). Hartley, J. E. (1999). [1887 צוה](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 757). Chicago: Moody Press.
- C. If you are to pray for your children and grand children you have to know that God is for them more than we are! Therefore when we pray for them we must bring ourselves into agreement with God who has already provided and is well able to carry it out. In short: All we have to do is show up in prayer! The promise runs deep! Tap it!

II. Therefore I Pray:

- A. In Agreement with what God has said. He wants our kids saved. (That none would perish 2 Peter 3:9). He wants to protect them from sin and the one who seeks to destroy them.
 - 1. *"We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them."* (1 John 5:18, NLT)
- B. Interceding on their behalf.
 - 1. Though Job is a challenging story to digest, at the start we find him regularly offering sacrifices on their behalf...just in case they may have sinned. He was doing what they should have been doing for themselves. And he was doing it as a regular practice. The beauty of the chapter is that satan had no way to get to Job or his family because God had them 'hedged' in.
 - 2. When we pray and intercede, it gives God access to work on our behalf, and on behalf of those we intercede for. You surround your children with intercessory prayer because you want them to be saved, born again, spirit filled, obeying God and following Jesus all their lives.
 - a) Jesus stepped into the gap for us. He bridged the way for man to get to God.
 - b) We step into the gap for others when we intercede. Through prayer and fasting we bring ourselves into agreement with God has done through Jesus Christ. Heaven and earth agreement is found in that place.
 - c) We, through faith in God and His word, build a hedge around our children and grand children.
 - d) You must be relentless in interceding for your children and loved ones. It's something you'll need to do the rest of your life while you are on this earth, no matter how spiritual or godly you think your children are. Look at it this way: no one is going to intercede for your children more than you are. This is not something you leave for someone else to do.
- C. Without ceasing. Who will pray for your children and grandchildren if you do not?
 - 1. To pray with out ceasing means that something is on your heart.
 - a) *"Never stop praying."* (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT)
 - b) Romans 1:9 without ceasing...
 - c) *"Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers."* (2 Timothy 1:3, NLT)
 - 2. Sometimes you have to use reminders to pray for your children and grandchildren.

3. When you know that the promise runs deep you will also pray often and not wait until crisis.

D. In faith believing

1. *"Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.'" (Mark 11:22-24, NLT)*
2. Do not be moved by what you see...good or bad. Be moved by the Word!

III. How Do I Pray for My Children and Grandchildren?

- A. Just do it. Talk to God about your children throughout the day. Do it in the morning during devotions. When it becomes a familiar ritual to you, pick a new scripture. To pray over them.
- B. Remember prophetic words spoken over them/impressions give to you by the Spirit. And pray into those words. Scripture that God has made known to you pray them. IE. Eph 1:17 *That God grant to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...*
- C. Everyday. Make it your habit. As was His custom Jesus went to a solitary place to pray. Establish your custom as one to pray for your children and grandchildren.
- D. Find another parent and or spouse and share regularly scriptures you find life giving that you can pray.

(see Handout: **How to Pray for Your Children and Grandchildren**)