

**Introduction:**

- Review: This is third in a series entitled: Through The Generations.
  - Serpent crushers - covered generations gaps and what God sees in the generations
  - The Battle Rages - this is the reason for serpent crushers. Our weapons with focus on the book of destiny.
  - Living with Eternity in Mind - Strategies for winning the battle by partnering with God.
- We are fearfully and wonderfully made Ps 139:13-16:
  - The devil hates us. We are born looking like God...innocent, pure, created in His image.
  - We are awesome and distinct. Each one unique! No copies all originals, and all valuable.
  - And we have a BOOK...of our destiny!
- *"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."* (Psalm 139:16, NLT)
- *"And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant (δουλη"slave) of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."* (Luke 1:38, ESV)
- Luke 19, Mt 25 parable to stewards/slaves functioning as managers in the master's house.
- What is the Father's strategy? For us to be like the Father, living with eternity in mind.

**I. Living With Eternity In Mind**

- A. How different would our choices be if we did everything with eternity in mind? IE. A great book to accompany this is Bruce Wilkinson's A Life God Rewards. Two things affect our eternity: what we believe and how we behave.
1. So often we think that our choices do not hurt anyone. That mindset comes from not having a view of eternity. If you knew that your choices would give legal ground to demons coming at the birth of your children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren to bring accusation...do you think you might choose differently?
  2. IE. Why did God choose Joseph and Mary? Bible says they both were righteous. They both were holy and pure. Do you think it made a difference to God whom He chose to bare the Christ child? Do you think it mattered to God who the parents of His Son were going to be? Do you think it matters to God who you are as a parent to the children God has given you?
  3. Let me ask another sobering question. If you were asked to raise the Son of God how differently would you parent? What changes would you have to make? Put yourself in Joseph's shoes....or Mary's shoes.
    - a) How do you raise the Son of God?
      - (1) Exceptionally carefully! Yes! The bar is being set high! Feeling bad? Repent! Get up and go!
      - (2) You find every scripture in the scrolls that pertaining to Him to make sure He knows them and that you are imparting them to Him. You would not want to miss anything!
      - (3) You would pray all the time.
        - (a) Lord help me to do this.

- (b) Lord help me train Him in the Word
- (c) Lord help me to equip Him
- (d) Lord, don't let me mess this up. Let me walk awesomely in the fruit of the Spirit.
- (4) You live in very intimate relationship with Him. (Communication closes the generation gap.) You take the Word. You live the word. You explain why we don't do as others down the street do.
- (5) You keep close watch on the relationships that He has.
- b) How would you measure the success of what you are doing?
  - (1) Strictly according to the Word.
  - (2) By the way that Jesus was living according to the Word.
- c) How would you live before this baby? You would make sure there is nothing in your life opposing the ways of God. (I mean, you have God living in your house. And you know how freely little kids talk! And what He might say to the Father!)
- B. If I am going to impact a generation, I must be aware of the book of destiny and I must (by body, soul and spirit), live and walk according to the Word of God. Because, who I am literally becomes very very important to the following generations! So I must live with eternity in mind.

## II. My Mission: See My Family As God Sees Me and My Children

- A. I was created to be a serpent crusher. I must see myself that way and therefore I must cooperate with God/Work with Him and not against Him.
  - 1. When Adam and Eve sinned, death entered the picture. It looks as if the serpent had won. Eternity had been halted in Adam and Eve. They died spiritually and they would die physically.
    - a) But God had already released a plan and that had not changed. Reproduce and take dominion!
    - b) That man and woman would reproduce. Their seed would carry a specific purpose.
    - c) A purpose aimed at crushing the serpents head. Can you imagine hells joys and Eve's heartbreak when their child Able is murdered and their first born Cain wanders away? Satan laughs for the plan of God has been shut down. Sin was at work!
    - d) Then comes Seth! - appointed by God! The purpose of God would continue! A serpent crusher!
  - 2. Two purposes of the generations:
    - a) First to ensure that a Messiah would enter the world in the 'fullness of time' and totally destroy the power of the enemy! 1 Cor 15:55 *"Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NLT) No more sting of death. Serpent Crusher prevails!!!

- b) The second purpose of generations is to bring God's life and light into the dark world of humanity from generation to generation. This can only be done by sons of the Second Adam, Jesus Christ!
  - c) When God looks on a newborn child He sees the promise of the seed! He sees the hope of generations...a seed with the potential to continue crushing the serpents head.
3. I must live to be a serpent crusher! I must be the first impacted by God, before the generations that follow me. To be a serpent crusher I must live in and with the presence of God.
- a) Have your own intimate personal relationship with God...up to date. Filled with Zoe (life)!
  - b) Walk in his ways. Heb. Halak - *halakhah* refers to walking out your life in a way that reflects/expresses God's Word. You develop *halakhahs* according to how you apply biblical truths to all facets of your life...education, finances, ethical decisions, and expressions of your faith. Halakhah is your visible walk with God that affects every area of your life. It is the life your family sees you living out.
  - c) Ie. Church on the sofa will never be as good as church in the sanctuary.
- B. I must be able to recognize His voice
- 1. Ministry to children, our own or others is mechanical if it is without the voice of God. When ministry to children is mechanical our children hear echos and not a Voice!
  - 2. John the Baptist lived with his ear to the ground. He was listening for the sounds of heaven. Listening for the footsteps of God. Listening for the Word of the Lord. The crowds came not because he had a 30 minutes message...they came because he fire. When he spoke, a mans spirit would be stirred in him. We can do that with our children. If you have been in the fire you will come out with the fire on you!
  - 3. IE. Jim Durf, John Mongerson, - they impacted my life. When they spoke it went beyond a lesson book. VBS - song. Mrs. Nielson: When a man loves the word of God.
  - 4. Eli in 1 Samuel could not recognize God's voice. But Samuel did! He heard what Eli could not.
    - a) 1 Sam 1:11 Samuel ministers to the Lord– v22, grew before the Lord. v3:1 He ministered to the Lord, v3:19-21 He grew before the Lord and none of his words fell to the ground. All Israel knew He was a prophet and the Lord revealed himself to Samuel. v4:1 and the Word came to all of Israel.
    - b) Samuel was raised up for David/for the purposes of God.
- C. Prayer: George Barna–*Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* He studied the churches that had the best results of seeing children find God, grow through teen years, and become young adults that were still serving God.
- 1. 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."

2. Make sure you place a premium on prayer. Our Lord answers the prayers of the righteous – those who love, trust and obey Him. Your greatest source of power and hope for parenting is Jesus, and your prayers evidence that you believe this.
- D. Be a good steward of my life and my children's.
1. A steward takes care of valuable assets that are not his own. Joseph and Mary were stewards of Jesus.
  2. Faithfulness is required of stewards. *"Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful."* (1 Corinthians 4:2, NLT)
  3. Luke 19:11-27; Mt 25:14-30 The stewards who were rewarded were those who presented the Master with a return on His investment.
  4. David served the purpose of God for His generation. *"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,"* (Acts 13:36, ESV)
    - a) The word 'served' means to serve as an assistant. Assisting God in accomplishing His plan.
    - b) Generation - speaking of those living in his time.
- E. Evaluate where I am at as a parent. George Barna in his book Revolutionary Parenting describes three types of parents.
1. Revolutionary - these are 'radical believers'. Meaning that God is first and foremost in their priorities of life. Everything comes from their deep conviction to love, obey and serve God. They have deep intimate relationships with their children. This kind of parenting is intentional.
  2. Evangelical - The main focus of these parents is to see that their children are born again. They are not intentional about relating with their children because they are so wrapped up in 'godly' activities. (Church, christian school, etc) They are actively religious but not actively being transformed.
  3. Nominal - These people consider themselves "Christian" but have neither a life-changing relationship with Jesus nor a hunger to grow in His ways. They could be described as passively religious rather than being actively transformed by the Spirit into Christ's likeness.
  4. The most important faith practice your children can glean from you is your dependence on Lord Jesus, and equally important, your desire to daily yield to His Spirit and grow more like Him daily.

### III. Our Goal: Crush the Serpent's Head! Making Changes

- A. If we are to live with eternity in mind it will require changes.
  1. IE. Herman made changes to spend more time with the boys in their teen years.
  2. I saw anger issues in me that had to go as the boys entered jr high years.
- B. If we are to live with eternity in mind we will have to close the generation gap starting with communication with our children.
  1. Do be to busy to spend quality time with them.

2. Be intentional to talk about spiritual things in a non preachy mode. And don't be afraid to talk about things they like.
- C. It we are to live with eternity in mind we are going to have to live in the fire of God.

### Conclusion:

- Be willing: to work really hard. There is no 'magic' wand of change; to overcome ruthless resistance; to cry often; to enjoy and rejoice over little movements forward; to endure long nights and times of nothing happening.
- Prayer regarding the courts of heaven/books of destiny. Robert Henderson.

*"Lord, as I come to stand before Your Courts, I thank You that I have a book in heaven. Thank You so much that You thought of me before time began and wrote my destiny and purpose in a book in heaven. As I stand before You, I declare in Your Courts, "I want all that is in my book. I want to fulfill my destiny that is connected to Your purposes on the earth." Lord, that which you saw concerning me before time began, I ask that this might be "my life." I choose that which you have chosen for me. As I stand before Your Courts, Lord, I lay down my life. As best I can, through the power of Your Spirit according to Romans 12:1, I present myself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. I ask also that according to Ephesians 4:1, I might have a walk worthy of the calling that was determined for me, written in the book in heaven." I also ask, Lord, that any case or accusation the devil would have against me before Your Courts would be silenced by the blood of Jesus. Lord, I thank You that Your blood speaks for me, and I agree with its testimony according to Hebrews 12:24. Lord, I thank You that Your blood grants God the legal right to forgive me, remember me, and redeem me to the purpose that is in my book. Just as Peter's destiny and purpose was secured from the Courts of Heaven, so, Lord, I thank You that my destiny is secured as well. Lord, I declare before Your Courts that I am Your servant, so please use me. I ask that my life might count for the kingdom of God as it is recorded in the books of destiny in heaven. Lord, I also ask that according to Ephesians 2:10, I might walk and live as Your workmanship. I realize, Lord, that Your grace makes me Your work of art and a display of Your splendor and glory. I ask before Your Courts that I would live in the rhythms of Your grace. I ask, Lord, that You would take me "out of the grind of life, and put me into Your groove." Lord, would You now bring about my empowerment through Your Spirit that from Your strength, I could fulfill all that is written in the books of destiny for me. Lord, I desire with great passion to fulfill Your will. Please accept my request before You and let all that would resist my petition be revoked. Thank You, Lord, so much for loving me. I look forward with expectation to fulfilling all that is in my book in heaven. In Jesus's name, Amen!" ~ Robert Henderson; Courts of Heaven.*