
Generational Blessings

Grandparents Day 2020

God's Plan for Every Generation

God is carrying out His purposes through the generations of the righteous. God's plan involves every generation of the church playing its part to see God's Kingdom come and His will be done.

We each need to have a sense of destiny in our heart and we must see ourselves as part of the unfolding plan of God throughout the ages of time, not as a separate entity without a past or a future, but a continuous link of God filled activity bringing life from one generation to the next.

Three responsibilities of every generation:

To discern and accomplish the will of God for their generation. (Acts 13:36; Acts 71:18)

Every generation needs to understand the time they are living in and discern what the Lord is doing in their time.

We each have a race to run and a role to play in carrying out God's purposes. We must give ourselves to discovering and passionately pursuing our unique destiny.

- + Caleb (Numbers 13:30; Joshua 14:10-13)

There are some core things that are the will of God for every generation

- + Love God with everything we have and love others
- + Declare and demonstrate Christ's Kingdom
- + Go and make disciples of all nations

As you go about doing those things that everyone is called to do as a follower of Jesus, what is your unique contribution, large or small, that He has equipped and empowered you to do?

To rebuild the foundations from past generations. (Isaiah 58:12; 61:4)

Every generation is responsible to reach back and receive an inheritance from those who have gone before.

We are to build on the truths and experiences of those who have gone before.

In a very real sense, we *'honour the past by building the future'*.

We need to appreciate values and vision that are shared amongst the generations instead of focussing on the appearances and cultural differences that often come with a new generation or that a new generation has of the previous one.

To pass on truth and authentic spiritual life to the next generation.
(Psalm 71:18; 78:4; Psalm 145:4-6; Judges 2:7-11)

Each generation is responsible to pass on God's purposes and to bless the next generation by guiding them into a personal experience of God's glory.

God requires us to leave a heritage and an inheritance for those who follow after us.

There is a great cost to pay when we don't fulfil this third part of God's plan for every generation (Joshua 24:31; Judges 2:7-11).

Moses had successfully led him into God's presence where he lingered and learnt to stay in the intimate place, but he failed to do that with someone from the next generation and the cost of not passing this blessing on is costly. (Exodus 33:9-11; Judges 2:10).

The true blessing, we pass on to the next generation is one where we help bring them into God's glorious presence. Where not only does the glory of the Lord becomes our fixation and determines every decision we make – we find ways of inviting the next generation into this place.

Take them with you into His presence. Declare to them God's greatness and let them experience His glory. Pass on to them the living example of God's magnificent splendour and the miracles he has done in your life. It is God's awe-inspiring acts of power that will get everyone talking!

What are you doing to fulfill the responsibility of every generation?

1. To discern and accomplish the will of God for your generation
2. To rebuild the foundations from past generations
3. To pass on truth and authentic spiritual life to the next generation

Discussion Questions

1. Share your thoughts on the concept of an intergenerational spiritual family in relation to the church.
2. Given that the church should and needs to minister across the generations, how can this happen with such wide differences between them?
3. What is required from the older generation to enable and release the emerging generation? What makes this difficult and how could you overcome any obstacles?
4. How can a greater culture of honour, respect and love be demonstrated from a younger generation to the older generation in our church?
5. Joshua had a presence-based lifestyle but didn't pass it on. What are you doing to both live a presence-based life of intimacy with God, and how visible is this to the next generation?