

“INTERGENERATIONAL”

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(NOTE: One of the central themes of the Minor Prophets is “restoration.” One key to spiritual restoration is a spirit of cooperation between generations.)

Malachi 4:1-6- “Hearts (of fathers & children) restored to one another”

Joel 2:28- “I will pour out my Spirit on all people...old...young.”

“What God has planned for us is much bigger than we think—and impossible to achieve through determination alone! In fact, it will take the sanctified efforts of multiple generations to accomplish our God-given assignment.” –Bill Johnson in “Momentum”

Some key components:

1. HONOR PREDECESSORS

- ***“Honor father & mother—life will be long”*** (i.e., you will not dread your later years because you will still be an honored part of the move of God on the earth; you won’t be “put out to pasture”—but you will have “a place among the elders”)
- ***Isaiah 51:1- Honoring “the rock you were cut from” (Hx)***
 - ***Isaiah 51:2- “Abraham & Sarah”***
 - ***Romans 4:18-22- “father of faith”***
 - ***Hebrews 10:23- “not wavering”*** (How God writes Hx)
 - ***Celebrate their victories—learn from their mistakes.*** (*Focus on what’s been passed on to us—rather than on what’s been dropped*)

2. ENCOURAGE SUCCESSORS

- ***Joel 2:28- The young have valuable revelatory input (NOTE: They will both “prophesy (and) have visions”)***
- (Relay Race—in the “passing zone” receive the pace & persistence & (most of all) the encouragement of the runner passing you the baton)

3. EMBRACE CHANGE

- **Willing to let go of “traditions of men” that served us well “for a season”—but are now “out of season”**
- **Willing to “keep in step with the Holy Spirit”; current with the “proceeding word” (i.e., Abraham & Isaac at the altar)**
- **NOTE: Many needless “doctrinal divisions” have simply been an unwillingness to adapt & adjust.**

- “Don’t ‘lose your temper’” (*Lit.- the capacity to remain firm on convictions, yet adaptable to circumstances*)
- “New wineskins” are not “no wineskins” (i.e., w/o boundaries). It involves receiving “new wine” (a fresh intoxication with Jesus) with a willingness to expand & adapt (“New AND old treasures” Matthew 13:52)
- We can get stuck in “our ways”—and miss His ways!

4. DREAM & ENVISION TOGETHER

- OLDER “DREAMERS”
 - “DREAMS”- to see from afar; an overarching perspective (Root- “that which produces strength & health & longevity”)
 - Stop lying awake at night with the enemy’s “little nightmares”—and start resting deeply & dreaming BIG with God!
 - Dreams outlive us. They must be passed on to our successors!
- YOUNGER “VISIONARIES”
 - “VISIONS”- to perceive immediate opportunities (Root- “that which invigorates”)

NOTE: **FEAR & FRUSTRATION** will perpetuate **unhealthy clashes, division and independence**. In fear, visionaries can push & dreamers can procrastinate. [i.e., Satan’s 5 “I will’s” (Isaiah 14:13-14) & God’s “Let US make...” (Gen. 1)]

BUT...where there is **HONOR & LOVE** there will be a **healthy interdependence**. *Dreamers bring peaceful wisdom & security, freeing the visionaries to risk & learn.* HOW we get along with one another will leave as lasting an impression as WHAT we accomplish together.

EXAMPLE:

Joel Juene (Carrefour, Haiti)- Gave his sons favor, momentum, encouragement, connections, and room to risk. His sons- Honored their father, sought training, were innovative, and adventurous. Their “dreams” & “visions” are working—transitioning the nation from “hand outs” to a “hand up.” From pitching tents on someone else’s property → building houses on their own.

EXAMPLE:

Milton Wright, bishop of the United Brethren in Christ Church, after his first flight in his sons’ plane (preceded by years of apprehensive distance from his sons’ visions) commented: “I only wish I would have encouraged you to soar higher.”

“May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!” (Romans 15:6 MSG)