

Generations

What has been sown in my family line and what am I walking in agreement with? What needs to be broken and what new, good seed, needs to be sown? Scriptures tell us that God is generationally minded. He wants to bless us, our children, and their children's children.

What is generational?

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV) - Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Deuteronomy 7:12–15 (NKJV) - "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. ¹³"And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴"You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. ¹⁵"And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

Genesis 9:12 (NKJV) - And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations..."

Blessings and curses/consequences/judgement

Exodus 20:4–6 (NKJV) - "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 34:6–9 (NKJV) - And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷"keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth

generation.”⁸ So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.⁹ Then he said, “If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance.”

Jesus died for you and for me to fulfill the payment for the wages we earned by sin. (Ro 6:23) He wants to deal with sins effects to us and our families too. This is a process of sanctification. We must be healed fully from sin and the trauma caused by sin.

Jack Hayford said this in the New Spirit-Filled Life Bible notes -
*DELIVERANCE. This text notes more than the obvious possibility of a great-grandparent's living presence having an influence on his/her offspring. It is a warning that the spiritual impact of decisions made or actions taken does transmit to successive generations. According to God's Word, there are spiritual genetics as well as physiological ones. Just as Adam's sin transmits to the present in a hereditary as well as a legal way (we are born with a disposition to sin, not only with the fact that sin casts its shadow over us as human beings: Rom. 5:12–21)—so, while no child is held responsible for the sins of his forebears, he or she may inherit a propensity to a bondage, the power of which perpetuates its evil impact on the offspring (even if they had never met). Apart from repentance and consequent deliverance through Jesus Christ, any believer may be a “carrier,” as it were—transmitting to future generations “spiritual genetics” of the past. But the opposite can take effect in Christ: blessings to future generations are assured for those who love God and keep His commandments (Ex. 20:6); and no earlier generation's influence is ever a fatalistic predeterminant of the present, where God's power and grace are invoked. (See Mal. 4:6; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.) (*Deut. 7:22, 23)*

Jack W. Hayford et al., eds., *New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Bibles, 2002), Ex 20:4–6.

Numbers 14:18–23 (NKJV) - ‘The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.’

¹⁹“Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”²⁰ Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹“but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord—²²“because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³“they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall

any of those who rejected Me see it.

V18 **naqah** (nah-kah); Strong's #5352: To clear, acquit, cleanse, make clean; to make blameless; to free, exempt; also, to empty by pouring out the contents of something. It's interesting that the adjective **naqi** means "innocent, blameless, and guiltless." **Naqi** occurs 42 times and refers to innocent people, innocent blood, and to those who are exempt from an oath.

Countless Psalms tell us of His generational faithfulness and love. (Psalm 90:1, Psalm 100:5) His righteousness and salvation are forever (Isaiah 51:8) His people, the joy of generations (Isaiah 60:15) His throne and dominion last forever (Daniel 4:3,34)

What are we establishing for generations to come?

John 3:6 (NKJV) - "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

As Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, who was an expert teacher in the law, even he was amazed when Jesus said this. He thought Jesus spoke of natural birth. WE must understand that our actions affect both the natural and the spiritual, in fact I believe that the spiritual is more important than the natural. If our words have the power of life and death, do we give care to how we speak, even in the mundane? Are you speaking spiritual things to life for generations?

1 Corinthians 4:15 (NKJV) - For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Whose Image?

We need spiritual mothers and fathers to help temper our faith and strengthen our walk. We need them to encourage us and correct us. Timothy was Paul's true son in the faith. He was His spiritual successor and He worked alongside him. When Paul was gone, he helped guide and lead the churches that Paul began.

Here's what I heard the Lord say to me as a warning - As we develop relationships within the body of Christ, we should not seek to make people in our image, but we must allow God to make them in His. This requires that our chief relationship and focus is on Jesus. I believe this matters with our natural children as well. We should guide them to Holy Spirit and allow Him to shape them. So many get frustrated because they just won't do what you want them to do, or be what you want them to be. We've never been instructed to make clones, making disciples and pointing them to Jesus means that they may do things differently than you or I.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV) - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. (or follow me as I follow Christ)

How do we walk in His way and see the blessings?

Romans 8:12–17 (NKJV) - Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

I love this portion of scripture. Here's the thing, we must believe it. You can have head knowledge of what the text says and not hear the rumble of His voice as He is actively speaking this over you. You can know of it and not live it. We must yield to His process of transformation (spirit, soul (mind, will, emotions), body) and allow Him to lead us. It's remarkably different to say, "God change me!!" vs. "God teach me how to be like You". It involves our partnership and it takes a little work. This is His desire, not a bunch of mindless slaves...

A generation of blindness

Matthew 12:39–45 (NKJV) - But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. ⁴²"The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here. ⁴³"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴"Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵"Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

The generation that Jesus was speaking to wasn't just a fixed point in time or a specific people. This was a spirit that was in operation over regions and in some places, is still in operation today. It was their ruler! Why, how? Because people give it the power to do so!

What's a principality?

Principle – a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or reasoning. (Mindset)

Principal – the most important or senior person in a group or organization. (Ruler)

Principality – a state ruled by a prince (region)

Because their principles were not of God, they allowed an evil spirit to become ruler and establish a principality that governed the region and their mindsets. So, what do we need to do?

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV) - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV) - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Here's a sad picture that the Lord gave me for what some are doing - He said some are trying to tear down strongholds while they are still in agreement. The picture I got that I want to illustrate is removing a brick and throwing in a pile, then going to that same pile to build again. You need to break your agreement with the stronghold, the evil mindset, so that you and your generations can walk in the full blessings of God. What are you building, is it something just for you or will it last for generations to come?