



*Divinely Blessed & Restored*

# Generational Blessings<sup>©</sup>

By Sis. Doris B. Ryans



As I contemplated upon what topic I wanted to use for this month's article, I was knee-deep in finalizing the plans for our Family Reunion that will be held this month in Detroit. In reflecting upon our family and the lineage from our Patriarch, Norman Turner and our Matriarch, Mabel Coleman Turner, I was drawn to how their lives have ultimately impacted mine. You may ask how? Because of "*Generational Blessings*".

What is *Generational Blessings*? To understand my definition of generational *blessings*, we can begin by defining what *generation* and *blessings* mean. *Generation* is the act or process of natural descent, the evolution of, and passing down. *Blessings* are defined as a special favor, mercy or benefit. I combined these two definitions and came up with my definition of *generational blessings*:

***Generational Blessings*** – “*The passing down of favor and benefits (blessings). These blessings being; knowledge, attitudes, ethics, religious doctrine, and character; generation to generation, and applying these in our daily living. The application of which has led or will lead to our having blessed lives; generation after generation.*” **Sis. Doris B. Ryans**

As I prepared for this reunion the thought that we are a blessed family kept coming into my spirit. No, we have not been without the pain of losing loved ones. No, we have not been without the disappointment of wayward behavior in children. No, we have not been without the challenges of keeping the family unit intact. However, we are still blessed. Why? Because God has continued to be faithful to us, and as the song says; morning-by-morning, new mercies we see. He has brought us through our tests and trials, dangers seen and unseen. You know what that means? There were some dangers, problems, situations that we never even saw in the natural realm, because God handled it with His divine intervention in the spirit realm. Therefore, we are a blessed family.

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The question then becomes, what has led to our being a blessed family, generation after generation? I would like to suggest to you that it is due to three factors:

- Humility
- Religious doctrine and fear “reverence” for God
- Choices we make in our lives

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV) reads: *“Humility and the fear of the Lord, bring wealth, and honor and life”*. Webster defines humility as “the quality of being humble; modest, meek, having a modest sense of one’s own significance.” My parents, as their parents, as their parents knew the importance of a religious upbringing. The teaching received through Sunday School, Sunday Church Service, Baptist Training Union, Revivals, and Bible Study instilled a fear and respect of the Lord. It led to us realizing and accepting there is a higher power “God” to whom we must answer. I would like to suggest that these religious roots, this type of religious instruction has played a significant part in the blessings this family experience and will continue to experience.

Deuteronomy 30: 15-16 (KJV) tells us: *“See, I have set before thee this day life and prosperity; and death and destruction. In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes, and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply; and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it”*.

God’s word is telling us that we all make choices in our life. We can choose life and prosperity or we can choose death and destruction. Praise God, the Patriarch and Matriarch of this family, my parents, and I have chosen life and prosperity over death and destruction. But that choice must be more than mere words to see the blessings the Word promises us, it must also be shown in the life you live. What are some examples of an individual who has chosen life and prosperity:

- *Upholding our duty to our parents: Deuteronomy 5:16 ( NIV) tells us to “Honor your father and mother, as the Lord, your God has commanded you so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” We witnessed our parents honoring their father and mother. We saw the respect given them in how they listened when they spoke and how they answered them, yes, Sir, yes, Ma’am. We saw the commitment to them as they aged to ensure they lived out their lives comfortably.*

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- *Knowing who is our help in time of trouble: Nahum 1:7(NIV) tells us: “the Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.” He cares for those who trust in him. We know whom to call upon in times of trouble. We know who to place our trust in. We keep the proper perspective and keep God first in all that we do.*

Just as our forefather’s actions laid the foundation for the blessings the following generations have experienced, we must ensure the same. What must we do?

- *Tell our children about our grandparents, our parents and our experiences.* That is what reunions are all about. Our children must know from whence we came in order to appreciate where we are and to understand the sacrifices made by those before us. We must boldly talk about God’s goodness and mercy and how he provided for us, in spite of difficult times in our life. Sharing of this type of information is necessary to preserve our legacy as a family.
- *We must remain steadfast in ensuring the proper foundation is laid in our children and in our homes.* We must be responsible parents and grandparents and ensure that God remain at the forefront of our lives and in that of our children. As Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) tells us: *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”*. Ask yourself, what type of training is your child(ren) receiving?

Each and every one of us is the bounty, (or fruit) of our forefathers and mothers harvest. St. Luke 6:43(NIV) tells us: *“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.”* Sow the seeds to sprout trees that will bear good fruit. Do your part to ensure a bountiful harvest in your family, generation after generation. Take a moment and ask yourself, ***“Am I tending the garden and nourishing it with love, joy, kindness, peace, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity, self-control and most importantly, sprinkling it with respect and reverence for God and His Holy Word?”*** Whether a gathering near or far, reflect upon this as you prepare for your next family gathering.

God Bless!!

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# September

**2<sup>nd</sup> – TEEN CONFERENCE**

"Abstinence"

TBA

# November

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Retreat

November 16-17, 2007

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!**