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## BREAKING THE GENERATIONAL CURSE

By Mark A. Fox

### Introduction:

**GOOD NEWS:** Parents and Grandparents can pass along a positive legacy: "...when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." 2 Timothy 1:5

### Key thought:

#### JESUS IS OUR PERSONAL SAVIOR:

Jesus came to save us FROM sin. Matthew 1:21

**Key verses:** John 8:31-38 Jesus has set us free from the rule, dominion, tyranny, grip and control of sin and has given us...

- New motives. – Hebrews 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:14; John 13:34,35; 1 John 3:22; Ps. 40:8
- New desires. – Mark 11:24; Matthew 5:6
- New life. – John 10:10; Romans 6:4
- New thoughts. – Phil. 2:5; 2 Cor. 10:4,5
- New heart. – Ezekiel 36:26; 11:19
- Clean heart – Psalms 51:10
- Renewed mind – 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 12:2
- New creation – 2 Cor. 5:17
- Changed life – 2 Cor. 3:18
- "Such were some of you" Corinthians



### What is the last amazing prophecy of the Old Testament?

Malachi 4:5,6. God will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers.

- A. **UNITED FAMILIES** - Jesus wants to spiritually unite Fathers and Mothers with their children.
- B. **FAMILY WORSHIP** - Elijah repaired the altar of worship. Family worship must be revived in the home.
- C. **HEART TRANSFORMATION** - This prophecy is about repentance and restoration to God. Returning to the faith of our spiritual fathers.  
This is all about a deep profound heart transformation and conversion – the greatest miracle of all!
- D. **REVIVAL** - There will be a true revival and heartfelt conversions in the last days in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in the sky.
- E. **This is a clear call for Fathers to lead the way back to true worship of God.**
- F. **Where are all the fathers?** Emotionally? Spiritually?
- G. **Ours is largely a "fatherless" generation.** This is part of the intensifying and harvest of the curse of sin.



### How does PAUL describe the condition of mankind in the last days?

2 Timothy 3:1-5,11

- A. Paul lists 19 prevailing glaring sins that would dominate in the last days.
- B. Paul predicted that the wicked would grow worse and worse.
- C. It is evident that the curse of sin is growing worse. **The CURSE is becoming WORSE.**

- D. **HARVEST OF THE EARTH:** Consider that when Jesus comes again it is called “the harvest” and all of mankind is ripening, becoming more and more either like Jesus or like the enemy, wicked and lawless. See Revelation 14:14-16
- E. **HABITS OF THOUGHTS:** Technology and the advent of the television, movies, music, internet, and more accelerates and speeds up the ripening process because mankind is faced with a constant barrage of **MORAL CHOICES** whether or not they will watch and think upon evil and thus become more evil or avoid, shun and turn away from all evil and look to God’s Word and behold Jesus and become more and more like Him. Repeated choices and decisions of what to think, good or evil, become HABITS and Habits define who we are. Habits make up our character. See Revelation 19:7-9.
- F. To be separate from the world is to be different from these sinful characteristics. In the world but not of the world. (John 17:15-17)
- G. Ours is a planet in open blatant rebellion against God.
- H. To make a difference you must be different.



#### How does ISAIAH describe the condition of the world in the last days?

- Isaiah 60:1,2 - Gross darkness upon the wicked but light shining brighter for the righteous.
- It is darkest just before dawn.

#### How did JESUS describe mankind in the last days?

- Matthew 24:11,12 – Lawless. Cold hearts. Calloused. Insensitive. Hardened.

#### How does the Book of REVELATION describe mankind in the last days?

- Revelation 12:9 – Deceives the whole world.
- Revelation 12:12 – Everyone is under severe attack by the devil now more than ever.
- Revelation 13:3 – Majority will follow the antichrist beast in the last days.
- Revelation 13:15-17 – Majority receive the mark of the beast and persecute those who do not.
- Revelation 11:18 – Nations are angry at each other.
- Revelation 16:9 - Unrepentant. Hardened hearts. Defiant.
- In Daniel 12:10 – The wicked do wickedly and do not understand.

#### What is the ORIGIN and nature of the curse of sin? ADAM & EVE

- Genesis 3:16-24 – Sin brought thorns etc. Ushered in the all encompassing curse of sin.
- Romans 5:20 – Good News: Where sin abounds grace much more abounds
- Make no mistake about it: Sin has, is and will continue to be the curse until Jesus purifies the earth by fire. (2 Peter 3:10-14)
- As soon as there was sin, up came hurting, jagged, wounding, painful, ugly thorns.
- Up came unsightly weeds. The blight of sin was everywhere!
- Flowers wilted, faded and died.
- Plants withered and died.
- Trees died.

#### What WARNING regarding the curse of sin did God speak and write with His finger in the Ten Commandments?

- Exodus 20:4-6 – Punishment for the sins of the fathers upon the third and fourth generation if the children repeat them instead of repenting of them.
- Deuteronomy 4:15-19;27:15 – Punishment for sin
- Leviticus 26:40 – Confess and forsake all sin.
- John 14:15 – Loving obedience is the result of the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 1 John 2:3,4 – The person who says they love Jesus but break His commandments is a liar.
- Revelation 14:12 – Faith of Jesus and loving obedience to God’s commandments go together.
- Revelation 12:17 – The enemy assaults the women, the church that uplifts all of the Ten Commandments.
- Revelation 22:14 - Only those who truly loving obey God will be saved.

#### So what is the generational curse?

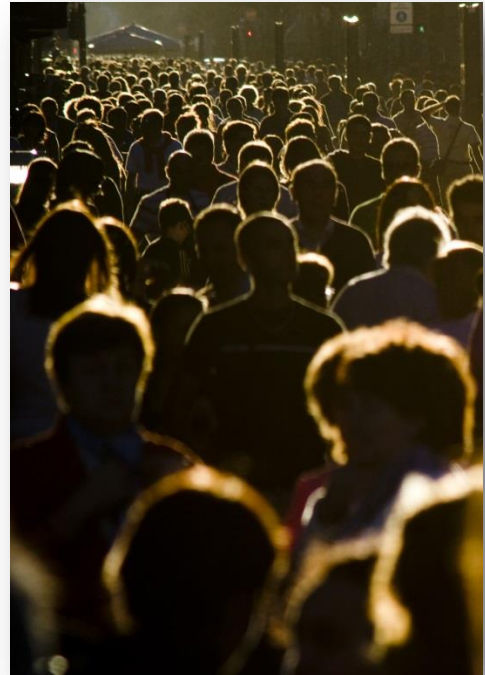
- First what is it not? We do not inherit the guilt of the sins of our parents.
- So what is the generational curse?
- How can it be broken?

### What is the **THREEFOLD** curse of sin?

- a. The ongoing curse of **INHERITED** evil tendencies from our parents. – Psalms 51:5
- b. The ongoing curse of the evil **EXAMPLE** of parents. Example: Eli's spiritually weak parenting.
- c. The ongoing curse of indulging and **CONTINUING** to perpetuate these evil tendencies.
- d. Key point: **CHOICE** is clear for everyone to either **REPENT OR REPEAT** sins of the fathers.

### This threefold curse dominates our world today.

- This lethal combination is controlling our generation today.
- **DEGENERATION**: Another sobering fact is that with each successive generation mankind degenerates, declines and worsens. The ability of resist evil is lessened. The sins of the parents are multiplied by the children.
- Bottom line: Each successive generation gets worse. The cup of sin is filling up fast.
- **METAL IMAGE**: Just like the Metal man of Daniel is described as various metals with descending value and worth. So our world is rapidly deteriorating physically, mentally, spiritually like never before.
- **LONGEVITY**: After the flood we can see the steady decline in longevity.



### What have you **INHERITED**?

- Psalms 51:5 – Sin's affects, influence, corruption, degradation, dispositions, tendencies, inclinations, desires, bent.
- Romans 5:12 – The dreadful far reaching impact of Adam's sins effects everyone.

### What **EXAMPLE** and legacy have you been giving?

- Proverbs 22:6 – Train your children to love and obey God.

### How can you **OVERCOME** and **BREAK** the generational curse?

- Ezekiel 18:14 – Observing the sins of the parents but not repeating them or repenting of them.
- Revelation 12:11 – Blood of the Lamb. Word of their testimony.
- Revelation 3:21 – Following the example of Jesus who showed us how to overcome by faith and obedience to God's Word.
- John 16:33 – Be of good cheer and expect tribulations.
- 1 Cor. 15:57 – Claim victory in the name of Jesus.
- 1 Cor. 10:13 – We can overcome all temptations. God is faithful to help us to resist temptations.
- Matthew 26:41 – Watch and pray.
- John 8:31-36 – Jesus set us forever free from the control of sin.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – You were delivered from your past life of living in sin.

### What do you need to do in order to **CONFESS** and **REPENT** of sin?

- **A KNOWLEDGE or SELF AWARENESS** of your sinful condition. – Jesus said repent of sin. – Mark 1:14,15
- Rev. 3:14-21 – Laodicea does not know its **DESPERATE** spiritual need. **BLINDNESS** is a symptom and result of sin.
- Matthew 5:3 – Blessed are those who feel their need and spiritual poverty and come to Jesus for salvation.

### Why is this so important to know? **SELF-DECEPTION**

- Jeremiah 17:9,10 – **SELF DECEPTION**: Our heart lies to us and cannot be trusted. God promises to search our hearts.
- Luke 22:31-34 -- Peter did not know his own heart but Jesus did.
- Jeremiah 11:20 – **GOD TESTS OUR HEARTS**: God is the one who is "Testing the mind and the heart." (See also Psalms 17:3)
- Psalms 139:23,24; - **PRAYER**: "Search Me, O God." Because only God knows our heart.
- Lamentations 3:41; Search our ways.
- Lev. 23:26-29 - On the **DAY OF ATONEMENT**: everyone was to humble themselves searching their heart and repenting of any known sin. Every day we want to walk before God with a clean conscience. We must believe that God is "ready to forgive" Psalms 86:5. "Ready to pardon." Nehemiah 9:17.

- 2 Cor. 13:5 – **EXAMINE:** Examine yourselves to see if you really are in the faith of Jesus. Many people who go for a medical examination are shocked when they discover that they have cancer, or heart disease or some other chronic disease. The examination can mean life or death.
- John 16:8 – **GOD’S SPIRIT:** Convicts of sin.
- Revelation 2:23 – **GOD’S SPIRIT:** “I am He who searches (examines) the minds and hearts.” Jesus alone truly knows everything about our heart, motives, thoughts, imagination.
- Hebrews 4:12,13 – **GOD’S WORD:** The Word of God is alive to penetrate the deep recesses of our mind and even our motives. In other words the Word of God helps us to know our true spiritual condition.
- James 1:23-25 – **GOD’S LAW:** The Law of God is like a mirror that gives us a knowledge of ourselves.
- **KNOWLEDGE OF SELF:** In order to become like Jesus we must allow the Holy Spirit to help us to have a knowledge of ourselves, a conviction of any sin harbored in our hearts and of our sinfulness in order that we might repent and overcome all inherited and cultivated tendencies toward evil.
- **ANTICIPATE/BE READY:** We must anticipate the enemy to press his personalized temptations where we have least resistance. But weak points can become strongest points.
- **REFLECTION:** Reflecting honestly upon things we have inherited both bad and good from our parent’s helps us to know specifically what we need to work towards overcoming.
- **THE GOAL:** The goal is that our weak points can become our strengths.
- We need to know what **CHANGES/CONVERSION** we need to make through the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Everyday we need to pray: “Lord Jesus, what **CHANGES** do You want me to make with your help today?”

#### What does God **PROMISE** to do in your heart? **DAILY CONVERSION**

- 2 Cor. 5:17 – New creation
- **2 Cor. 3:18 – Changed into Christ’s likeness by beholding His loving character.**
- John 3:3,8 – Born again
- **Ezekiel 36:26,27 – New heart**
- Psalms 51:10 – Clean heart
- Phil. 3:13,14 – Forget the past mistakes and sins
- Romans 12:1,2 – Renewed mind
- Jer. 13:23 – Changed by the power of Jesus because we are powerless to change on our own.
- John 15:1-8 – Abide in Jesus and you will have much fruit.
- Matthew 18:1-5 – Converted and become like humble little children.
- Acts 3:19,20 – “Repent and be converted”

#### What must we do in regard to sin? **REPENT OF SIN**

- Confession and Repentance. Hate sin and love righteousness.
- Luke 3 – John the Baptist called everyone to repent of sin.
- Proverbs 28:13 – Repent and forsake sin.
- 1 John 1:9,7 – Confess sin.
- **Acts 5:31 – Repentance is a gift from Jesus.**
- Romans 2:5 – The goodness of God leads us to repentance.
- Acts 2:38 – Peter on the Day of Pentecost called upon everyone to repent.
- 2 Cor. 7:1 – Cleanse ourselves from all the filthiness of sin.
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 – “Turn from their wicked ways”
- Isaiah 55:6-8 – Seek the Lord with confession and repentance and God will “abundantly pardon.”

#### What happens when the world’s cup of iniquity is full? **THE WRATH OF GOD.**

- Rev. 18:5; Eccl. 8:11 - Because of this two fold curse of sin, the world’s cup of iniquity is beginning to brim.
- Isaiah 26:9,10 -- The judgments of God are already falling.
- The door of human probation is about to swing shut on the hinges of time. See Revelation 22:11,12; 3:7

#### How are the **JUDGMENTS** of God manifested?

- The natural disasters, floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes are judgments of God.
- Isaiah 26:9,11 – Judgments of God.
- Daniel 9 9-12 – “Israel has transgressed Your law...therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.” (Also see Lev. 26:14; Isaiah 1:3-6)
- Acts 7:51-60 – **STUBBORN:** “You stiff-necked (stubborn) and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit as your fathers did, so do you.” The punishing judgments fall upon the children who follow in the sinful ways of their parents.
- 2 Tim 3:1-5,11,13 – Exceeding sinfulness of mankind.



- Daniel 12:10 – Wicked do not understand.
- Revelation 6:14-17 – The wrath of the Lamb is manifested fully when Jesus comes again the Second Coming.

#### What did Jesus take on the CROSS?

- Galatians 3:13 – The curse of sin symbolized by the crown of thorn on His head.
- 2 Cor. 5:21 – Took all our sins and received the wrath of God.
- Isaiah 53:3-5 – Jesus bore the punishment for all of our sins.

#### How can you fight for your FAMILY in the last days?

- Isaiah 49:25,26 – Jesus fights for your family.
- Eph. 6:1-4 – Lovingly command and maintain obedience from your children. But do not provoke them to wrath.

#### Faith Action Steps:

Identify what sinful ways you have inherited from your parents.

For example: Explosive temper. Depression. Impulsiveness. Laziness. Alcoholism. Etc.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Write down at least five **CHANGES** or more you feel the Holy Spirit is convicting you to make:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Add more as you feel impressed.

Ask Jesus for His overcoming power. John 1:12

**You can overcome!** See John 16:33; Matthew 24:13; Rev. 3:5,21; 1 John 4:4; 1 Cor. 15:57; Romans 8:37. Jesus gave us an example of how to overcome the enemy, sin and temptation.

**CREDIBILITY:** Remember if you want to have credibility with your children and others they must see you making progress.

**BEWARE IF YOUR CHILDREN FEEL HOPELESS:** You do not want your children to tell others or even think: **“Dad will never change!” or “Mom will never change!”**

May sanctification, or growing into Christ’s likeness, His image, His character become the primary goal of your life. Romans 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 3:18; Hosea 6:1-3; Prov. 4:18; John 6; 1:12.



**LOOK AND ACT LIKE JESUS:** May people who observe you recognize that you have “been with Jesus.” Acts 4

**FATHER’S NAME:** May we have the Father’s name or character on our foreheads. See Revelation 22:4

Nothing is impossible with God. **“Who then can be saved?”**  
Matthew 19:26

**LIFE CHANGING MIRACLES:** Jesus can change the most unpromising, hard hearted, stubborn, sinful person. Those who are forgiven the most will love the most. Luke 7:47

**YOU ARE A NEW PERSON IN CHRIST:** 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

#### **How to fight successfully for your family.**

1. Teach your children to obey, respect and honor their parents. Eph. 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12
2. Teach your children the Bible. 2 Tim. 2:15; Deut. 6
3. Teach them practical lessons from God’s Word.
4. Teach them to hear God’s voice speaking as they read His Word.
5. Help them memorize God’s precious promises. Psalms 119:9-11
6. Teach them how to pray in the mighty name of Jesus. John 14:13-16
7. Teach them all about the life and death of Jesus. John 12:32
8. Tell them every day that Jesus died on the cross to show how much He loves them. John 3:16
9. Teach them to bring their little sins to Jesus. 1 John 1:9
10. Teach them to believe that confession of sin and receiving forgiveness always brings a fresh start. Proverbs 28:13
11. Bless your children with words of faith and love.
12. Seek to be bonded to the little hearts of your children.
13. Teach them to keep their minds off of themselves. Phil. 2:5
14. Teach them to want to make others happy and to be a blessing to others. Luke 6:38; Prov. 11:25
15. Teach them to want to be like Jesus. Rev.19:7-9
16. Teach them to live an unselfish life like Jesus. Matthew 20:28; John 13; Luke 9:23; 2 Cor. 5:17
17. Guard them from wrong associations. Help them choose their friends wisely.
18. Be willing and ready to lovingly apply discipline. Hebrews 12
19. Limit, monitor and counsel with media usage. i.e. Internet, television, music etc. Psalms 101; 2 Cor. 3:18
20. Help your children to realize that their body belongs to God. 1 Cor. 6:19,20; 1 Cor. 10:31
21. Train your children to never waste time. Proverbs 27:1
22. Help your children to not settle for what is acceptable but what is the best.
23. Help your children to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and not by feelings. Romans 8:14-16
24. Help your children to learn self control. Galatians 5:22,23
25. Teach your children to be reverent in God’s house and during Family Worship.
26. Pray WITH your children. Matthew 18:20
27. Know where your children are at spiritually and emotionally. Never take anything for granted.

#### **The Father’s Role & Responsibilities**

##### **Father’s Role:**

- Be a good husband to his wife. - 1 Cor. 7:1-5; Eph. 5:25-30; Col. 3:19; 1 Pet. 3:7
- Headship – Eph. 5:24-30; Col 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7
- Speaks on behalf of his family – Joshua 24:15
- Recognizes his responsibility and accountability to God to command and direct his children. - Gen. 18:19 Protector – Eph. 5:25-30
- Spiritual leader/teacher - Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6
- Seeks to make his children wise - Prov. 23:24
- Law Giver - To see that his children obey him as father and his wife as their mother. - Eph. 6:1-4; Hebrews 12:3-11; Ex. 20:12; Prov. 23:22; Col. 3:20
- Disciplines – Prov. 13:24; Hebrews 12:3-11
- Priest – Deut. 6:5-9
- Intercessor – Prays for his children. – James 5:16
- Counselor – Prov. 22:6
- Seeks to establish and maintain a bond with his children. To avoid emotional barriers. To be aware of the feelings of his children and to seek to encourage rather than discourage them. -- Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4

#### Traits of character:

- Fruits of the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:22-25 (Includes love, joy, peace, kindness, self control)
- Patient – 1 Cor. 13:4
- Humble – Eph. 5:25-30; Phil. 2:5
- Strong – Eph. 6:10; Joel 3:10; Ps. 27:14; Phil. 4:13; Joshua 1:9; 1 Cor. 16:13
- Discernment – 1 Cor. 2:14; Rev. 3:18
- Compassionate and forgiving – Psalms 103:13
- Integrity - Prov. 10:9
- Even tempered – Restrains words - Prov. 17:27

#### Danger:





























- Proud / Dominating/ Lustful/ Impatient

**The main goal of both parents must be to spend eternity with their children in heaven!**  
**Don't be discouraged in the work of overcoming and helping your family to be overcomers. See Galatians 6:9**

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