

Passing the Faith Along **Psalm 78:1–7 (NKJV)**

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, 3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; 6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, 7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

The children of Israel had a divine command to train up their children in the knowledge of the Lord.

When the children of Israel came into the land and conquered it, they encountered many other people groups.

All of these other groups worshiped false Gods.

Even before they crossed over Jordan they were led astray by the women of Moab in Numbers 25.

There have always been snares in which we might fall.

The whole of the book of Judges is a series of failures on Israel's part and God sending judgment and then the Lord leads them to repentance by raising up a new judge.

But for all their failures they endured and even today there are many orthodox Jews.

How did that happen?

Because they made a conscience effort to pass the knowledge of God on to their children.

The founding fathers of this nation were careful to do the same.

Once they established themselves in the new world they built universities or if you will seminaries to train the people.

The number of our founding fathers who had a Divinity Degree would amaze our present generation.

Now those venerable institutions are hardly a shell of what they once were.

But for the children of Israel this was a family affair.

They did not leave the training of their children to the synagogue, or any other entity.

I. Our fathers have told us.

A. Those before us have been faithful or else we would not be here.

- B. Unless we are faithful there will be none to follow.
- II. We will not hide them from their children
- A. Deuteronomy 11:19 (NKJV)
 - 1. ¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 - B. It is not a burden but a blessing that we can save the children from the things that plague the world.
 - 1. I remember a few years ago when we had some new children show up for AWANA and we began to tell the about Jesus.
 - a. They had no idea of what we were talking about.
 - b. I was amazed, that in our country we had produced a generation that knew nothing and I mean nothing about Jesus.
 - 2. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)
 - a. 6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - 3. Much of what our generation knows about Jesus they did not learn from a church or youth group.
 - a. That is why we have a secularized Jesus that has little resemblance to the Jesus of the Bible.
 - b. The secularized Jesus has no problems with the moral issues of our day. And the generation that has normalized every form of moral impurity has also developed a Jesus that has no problems with that.
 - C. Our ultimate purpose is the salvation of their eternal souls.
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)
 - a. 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - b. I remember when Victoria was about 4 or 5 and she was on the stairway in the parsonage crying and when I asked her what was wrong she said that she didn't understand how anyone could kill Jesus.
- III. Telling the generation to come
- A. Psalm 71:17-18 (NKJV)

1. ¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works. ¹⁸ Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to everyone *who* is to come.
- B. It isn't just the job of the church but the people who go to church.
1. We live in the day of books and magazines, podcasts and video.
 2. Use those things to reach your children and grand children.
 3. Can you visualize Lois and Eunice talking to young Timothy as he grows up to be come a companion of the Apostle Paul.
- C. And Sunday School, AWANA, VBS.
1. I had such a great time every year doing the Bible Story time for VBS.
 2. And what a blessing to help with AWANA and see these young people get a grasp for the love that God has for them.
 3. But it encourages me greatly to see others take the time and effort to join in this great task.
 4. You see my parents never sat me down and taught me about Jesus.
 - a. That was left to SS teachers and others.
 - b. And although I was a rascal in class yet the stories sunk in.
 - c. Sad to say much of what I needed to know about Jesus did not come until later, yet the foundation was laid.
- D. When D.L. Moody was converted he wanted to teach a class.
1. But they told him they didn't need him.
 2. So young Moody started his own class.
 3. He worked tirelessly to bring young men and women to Jesus.
 4. His legacy is Moody Memorial Church and the Moody Bible Institute.
 5. When Moody started out in life he wanted to amass \$100,000.00 which at that time was a fortune.
 6. What was best a fortune or Moody Church and the Moody Bible Institute.
- IV. What do we tell them?
- A. Tell of His works.
1. His direct actions.
 2. His heros

- a. Abraham
 - b. Joseph
 - c. Moses
 - d. The judges
 - e. The prophets
 - f. The apostles
- 3. Creation
 - 4. His judgment upon nations and individuals.
- B. God's word.
- 1. Commands
 - 2. Precepts
- C. Jesus
- 1. His life
 - a. His love for us.
 - 2. His death
 - a. How He died in our place.
 - 3. His resurrection
 - a. How His accepted sacrifice secures salvation for all who believe.
 - 4. His return
 - a. In power
 - b. In judgment
 - c. To set the world right.

We have 66 books of material.

We have the greatest message ever given.

We can make a difference, an eternal difference.

But we must speak.

We must act.

Our time is short.