

## SESSION TEN

# Healing of Generational Sin

PRAYING WITH OTHERS | LEVEL TWO



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# Healing of Generational Sin

## THE DOORWAY



### Is there a 'Generational Curse' for Sin?

Ezekiel 18 assures us God doesn't punish children for their parents' sins. God clearly says, "I will judge you, each one according to his ways" (v. 30). I believe God is numbering or reviewing those who have been adversely affected by the sins of their parents and grandparents. For instance, if a pollster took a census of the number of alcoholics in three generations of an alcoholic patriarch's family, the head count likely would be very high. Why? Because alcoholism was deposited in the family line. It came calling, and an unfortunate number of children and grandchildren answered the door. Can you think of any negative traits or habits in your life that have been in your family line for generations? Perhaps you can identify negative patterns such as alcoholism, verbal or physical abuse, pornography, racism, bitterness, or fear. These areas of bondage are anything you may have learned environmentally, anything to which you may be genetically predisposed,

or any binding influence passed down through other means. Whatever the bondage may be, the Lord wants to rebuild, restore, and renew these areas of devastation.

We must face generational strongholds head-on. If we don't, they can remain almost unrecognizable—but they don't remain benign. Family strongholds continue to be the seedbed for all sorts of destruction. Oftentimes we've grown up with these chains and they feel completely natural. We consider them part of our personality rather than a strangling yoke.

Thankfully, Christians aren't doomed to live with our families' sins. The Cross of Calvary is enough to set us free from every yoke; God's Word is enough to make liberty a practical reality, no matter what those before us left as an "inheritance."

Before we parents die of fright, let's remember God is the only perfect parent. He's not cursing three or four generations over a

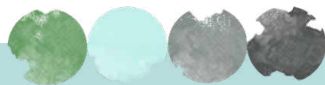
little parental irritability. In fact, I don't believe he's calling a curse down on anyone. As believers under the New Covenant who have been cleansed by Christ's blood, I think the concept of generational sin applies to us through its powerful repercussions instead. I believe God is referring to a natural phenomenon described poignantly in Hosea 8:7, "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind." Parents and grandparents must be

very careful what they sow because it may reap the wind in their own lives and a whirlwind in the lives that follow.

Never underestimate, however, God's power to redirect and bless an entire family line for generations to come when we humble ourselves before him, confess our sins, and petition him for full redemption.

—Beth Moore, *Today's Christian Woman*, May 2004

## Sins, Curses and Patterns



### Generational Sins, Curses and Patterns

*Circle the generational sins, curses or patterns which may be a struggle for you. Write in additional things from last week's survey.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Abandonment                                | <input type="radio"/> Physical infirmities                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Abuse: emotional, physical, mental, sexual | <input type="radio"/> Pride, Rebellion                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Addictions                                 | <input type="radio"/> Rejection, Insecurity                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Anger, rage, violence                      | <input type="radio"/> Religious bondage, Cults                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Control, possessiveness, manipulation      | <input type="radio"/> Sexual sin and perversion                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Emotional dependency                       | <input type="radio"/> Unbelief                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Fears (all kinds)                          | <input type="radio"/> Unworthiness, Low self-esteem, Inferiority |
| <input type="radio"/> Idolatry                                   | <input type="radio"/> Satanism, Witchcraft, Occult               |
| <input type="radio"/> Money extremes (greed, lack)               | <input type="radio"/> .....                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Not caring for children                    | <input type="radio"/> .....                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Parents and children exchange roles        | <input type="radio"/> .....                                      |
|  | <input type="radio"/> .....                                      |

### What is a generational sin, curse or a generational pattern?

Generational sins, curses and patterns are attitudes, actions, beliefs, behaviors, and/or habits that we have inherited from our family or relatives. We then "enter into" the same sin pattern and make it our own. It is usually repeated throughout our life as well as by individuals in successive generations.

Generational curses do not make us sin, but they can cause us to be drawn to particular types of sins. The enemy seems to know our weaknesses and those areas where we have not yet received God's healing and freedom in our lives. He also knows when we sin. Satan willingly takes advantages of any openings we give him to come against us.

What is the difference between sin and iniquity?



# STUDY



## EXODUS 20:5

*<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me...*

The word **punishing** in this verse proves a stumbling block for some people. The King James Version translates this as **visiting**, which is more reflective of the original Hebrew word *paqadh*, meaning to inspect, review, number, deposit, or visit in the sense of making a call. It's also used for taking a census.

—Beth Moore, *Today's Christian Woman*, May 2004

How does this scripture change for you if you substitute the word *visiting* for *punishing*?

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How do you feel about God being jealous?

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## Personal Responsibility

People frequently ask, "Why do we have to suffer for what our relatives did?" The answer is that we don't have to if we deal with sin God's way. We will suffer only if we enter into the same sins. Although our ancestors caused us to be "set up," we are now held accountable by God for our own sins. We cannot shift the blame. The bad news is that we are affected by our parents' sins. The good news is that God has provided the way for our freedom from all the effects of their sin as well as ours.

# DISCUSSION



Do you believe that there are patterns in past generations that have positively or negatively affected you?

Have you ever thought about a sin as specific to your heritage?

Do you believe there are generational sins or patterns that you can't break out of?

List generational blessings and patterns that you have experienced (abilities, character traits).

# Generational Sins Survey



Know therefore that the LORD your God is God;  
he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand  
generations of those who love him and keep his commands.  
—Deuteronomy 7:9

Before you start your personal inventory, take some time to ask the Lord to bring to mind some specific unhealthy patterns that have existed in your family for generations. We ALL struggle with these patterns! Pray for breakthrough in your own life and in your family. Be desperate for freedom....not only for yourself, but for your children and their children. You can start new patterns of blessing today by bringing these unhealthy old patterns before the Lord! Read through the following lists and check all that apply to your family of origin.

## Passivity

- ☐ **Withholding words of blessings**  
*[parent to child]*
- ☐ **Withholding affection**  
*[parent to child]*
- ☐ **Lack of discipline from parents**  
*[caused turmoil physically/ spiritually because discipline was not done right]*
- ☐ **Pattern of backsliding into sin**
- ☐ **Hesitation in obedience to God or other authority**
- ☐ **Laziness/procrastination**
- ☐ **Sloth/apathy**
- ☐ **Irresponsible**
- ☐ **Self-focused**
- ☐ **Lack of male leadership in the home**
- ☐ **Female dominated home**
- ☐ **Other:**

## Worldly Values

- ☐ **Love of money and possessions**
- ☐ **More concerned with physical comfort than godly obedience**
- ☐ **Parents more concerned with self and positions or possessions than their children**
- ☐ **Children not honored, seen as a burden**
- ☐ **Little concern for God's truth**
- ☐ **Value of people based on income/ education/position**
- ☐ **Poverty**
- ☐ **Greed**
- ☐ **Materialism**
- ☐ **Lack of contentment/ always looking for more**
- ☐ **Other:**

## Unbelief

- A general distrust in God which leads to distrust in authority
- Ignoring God completely saying, *"There is no God"*
- Blaming God saying, *"Where was God when...."*
- Love of knowledge *[dependence on human reason and ingenuity vs. the truth of God]*
- Cult activity *[Witchcraft, Wicca, voodoo, secret societies such as Masons]*
- Non-Christian religious practices *[Islam, Buddhism, etc.]*
- New age activities *[yoga, astrology, fortune telling, Ouija boards]*
- Self-hatred; self-criticism
- Feelings of unworthiness
- Control, manipulation, domination
- Competitive in order to prove significance
- Other:

## Rebellion

- Overt disregard of conscience and/or knowledge of Christ
- Critical heart/speech
- Adultery/sex outside of marriage
- Illegitimate pregnancy/Abortion
- Divorce
- Blaming
- Any sexual immorality
- Drug addiction
- Alcoholism
- Pornography
- Gambling
- Murder *[not just the physical act, but a heart of hatred]*
- Hatred of authority *[parental authority, civil authority]*
- Overt disobedience
- Other:

## Pride

- Argumentative
- Boastful/arrogant
- Self-sufficient/self-reliant/aggressively independent
- Inflexible
- Comparing
- Competitive
- Religious prejudice
- Selfishness
- Judgments
- Other:

## Illness

- Mental health issues
- Physical illnesses *[patterns of cancer, heart disease, headaches, diabetes, etc.]*
- Obsession over physical problems
- Untimely deaths
- Miscarriages
- History of obesity
- Spirit of Infirmary
- Other:

## Anger

- ☐ Verbal abuse
- ☐ Physical abuse
- ☐ Sexual abuse/incest
- ☐ Fits of rage/violence
- ☐ Hatred/bitterness
- ☐ Unforgiveness/revenge
- ☐ Prejudice *[racial, gender, cultural, age]*
- ☐ Biting sarcasm, tearing down, gossip
- ☐ Withdrawal because of inverted anger
- ☐ Blaming, finding fault, being critical of others
- ☐ Other:

## Fear

- ☐ Anxiety/Worried state of mind
- ☐ Perfectionism/fear of failure
- ☐ Restlessness
- ☐ Skeptical/lack of trust
- ☐ Negative attitudes
- ☐ Fear of not being provided for *[not having enough money, food, etc.]*
- ☐ Need to control
- ☐ Keeping unhealthy family secrets
- ☐ Obsessive compulsive behaviors
- ☐ Lying and deceit
- ☐ Other:

## Insignificance/Rejection

- ☐ Loneliness, despair, sorrow, and depression
- ☐ Patterns of abandonment
- ☐ Being born as an illegitimate child
- ☐ History of suicide
- ☐ Value based on performance
- ☐ Other:

## Shame

- ☐ Self-condemnation
- ☐ Comparison to others
- ☐ Withdrawal
- ☐ Secrecy
- ☐ Avoidances
- ☐ Feelings of inferiority/insecurity
- ☐ Other:

## Unhealthy family "mottos"

- ☐ "What happens here stays here."
- ☐ "That's just the way we are."
- ☐ "Just do your own thing."
- ☐ "We just don't talk about such things."
- ☐ "Never let anyone see you cry."
- ☐ "Keep the peace at all cost."
- ☐ "Never let anyone see you cry"
- ☐ Healthy mottos taken to excess *[i.e. "If it's worth doing it's worth doing well."]*
- ☐ Other:



# Generational Healing Prayers & Declarations

Before beginning, the prayer minister helps the prayer seeker name what is to be addressed in prayer by having them fill out the Generational Sins Survey (p. 32-34). Additional copies can be found in the Generational Sin Resource Box outside the Place of Prayer.

## Repent & Renounce

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask for your forgiveness for any and all sin that has been a part of my family through all generations. I acknowledge the patterns of sin in which I or my ancestors have participated.

I repent of and renounce each of the following:

- Passivity
- Worldly Values
- Unbelief
- Rebellion
- Pride
- Illness
- Anger
- Fear
- Insignificance & Rejection
- Shame
- Unhealthy family mottos

## Declare

By the full authority of Jesus Christ, I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. I sever every ungodly tie to these sins and cancel out all demonic working that has been passed down through my family. I renounce every curse associated with these sins and declare to Satan and all his forces that Christ became a curse for me when He died for my sins on the cross (Galatians 3:13). I declare myself to be fully and eternally signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. By the authority I have in Christ, I now command every familial spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave my presence. I declare that I and my children and my children's children and all future generations will no longer be bound by these curses.

## Receive

Lord I thank You and I receive your free gift of forgiveness. Thank You for releasing me and the generations to follow from these sins and the effects of these sins in my family. I am so grateful. Lord, I ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit you would now help me and my family to walk in the freedom which You have granted. I rejoice in You Lord Jesus! Thank You Lord!

# MINISTRY



Give thanks for Generational Blessings. Using your own Generational Survey, write in the section below.

I repent and renounce the sin of (topic of generational sin or pattern):

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## Read Your Prayer

Then read aloud all three parts.

- 1—**Repent and Renounce** (from above)
- 2—**Declare** (page 29)
- 3—**Receive** (page 29)

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# RESOURCES

## Books

***Blessing or Curse:  
You Can Choose***

by Derek Prince

***The Blessing: Giving the Gift of  
Unconditional Love and Acceptance***

by John Trent and Gary Smalley

