EXPRESS GRATITUDE
THE POWER OF PRAISE
BY TERRI SAVELLE FOY

CAROLYN SAVELLE SHARES HER SECRETS TO:
LEAVING A LEGACY THAT COUNTS
RAISING A GODLY FAMILY

EVERY DAY A BLESSING DAY
EXCLUSIVE FROM DR. SAVELLE’S NEW BOOK!

MASS DISCIPLESHIP
OUR MISSION BY 2017: TO DISCIPLE EVERY AFRICAN NATION WHICH GOD HAS CALLED US TO!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HIM? ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PRAY THE PRAYER BELOW WITH A SINCERE AND TRUSTING HEART, AND YOU WILL BE BORN AGAIN.

**DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN, I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS TO RECEIVE SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS YOUR SON. I BELIEVE THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS AND THAT YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. I RECEIVE JESUS NOW INTO MY HEART AND MAKE HIM THE LORD OF MY LIFE. JESUS, COME INTO MY HEART. I WELCOME YOU AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR.**

**FATHER, I BELIEVE YOUR WORD SAYS THAT I AM NOW SAVED. I CONFESS WITH MY MOUTH THAT I AM SAVED AND BORN AGAIN. I AM NOW A CHILD OF GOD.**

IF YOU PRAYED THIS PRAYER, PLEASE WRITE IN AND TELL US ABOUT IT. WE WANT TO SEND YOU A FREE BOOK, YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL TO GOD.
I recently read where all new hires at Disneyland experience a multi-day training program where they quickly learn a new language.

- Employees are cast members.
- Customers are guests.
- A crowd is an audience.
- A work shift is a performance.
- A job is a part.
- A job description is a script.
- A uniform is a costume.
- The personnel department is casting.
- Being on duty is being on stage. Being off duty is being back stage.

This special language reinforces the mindset and experience of Disney!

As Believers, we speak a different language too! I’ve noticed that successful Christians are very proactive. They do not wait to see what happens with life, they voice their dreams. They act as if their dreams are happening. And they give thanks to God before the dream is realized. Unsuccessful people just wait to see how life unfolds, complain along the way, expect the worst and oddly enough, they seem to get exactly what they expected.

I am seeing a pattern here.

Our team at Jerry Savelle Ministries takes a proactive approach to our dreams. We speak a different language around here. Each year, Dad receives a word from the Lord, and as soon as he communicates that prophetic word with us, we proactively go after it. What I mean by that is we voice our gratitude to God for what He is about to do in our lives, our ministry and in the lives of our partners.

The prophetic word for this year is that 2013 is a year of unprecedented favor!

Unprecedented is a pretty big word, so I looked it up and one definition is “record-breaking”! I can believe for that! All year long, you will hear our team declaring this prophetic word over our ministry and you our partners and friends! Consequently, it’s happening!

As you know, our worldwide missions focus is Africa. We have been reaching this continent since 1979 with the Word of Faith. This year, the year of unprecedented favor, God has opened doors for us in additional countries to train pastors and ministry leaders. We are in the process of ordering media tablets containing our entire Bible school course to train another 400 pastors in African nations! That’s unprecedented!

Keep in mind, each pastor represents a village. Train a pastor – reach a village! This is an outreach of our ministry which means we provide everything free of charge. As we began researching additional cost effective ways to train more pastors, we discovered a 60% cut in expenses by providing our entire program on a media tablet! That’s unprecedented!

In addition to our missions focus, we are receiving countless stories of our partners experiencing pay raises, bonuses, family restorations, IRS debt-cancellations and more! That’s unprecedented!

Dad is known across the globe for his messages on the favor of God, and we honestly believe that, as our partners, you tap into that same favor that’s on our ministry. I want to encourage you to declare it consistently, as we do, all year long. Put it as your screen saver on your computer or phone so you’re reminded to declare it. And thank God ahead of time before you ever see it happening.

What you repeatedly hear, you eventually believe. If you will adopt this discipline of voicing gratitude rather than complaints, you will experience greater favor. 

Terri Savelle Foy
Sr. Vice President
When I first started my walk of faith, I had the hardest time understanding how or why God would meet my needs. In some ways, I actually thought I had to convince God to bless me. But the truth is that God is looking for ways to bless us—just as He has always done from the beginning.

God’s original intent was that we would walk in His blessing everyday. How do I know this? We don’t need to look any further than the first two chapters of the book of Genesis.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:27–28).

The first thing God did after creating the man and woman in His image was to bless them. So God’s intention for mankind from the very beginning was clear: He wanted them to live a blessed life each and every day, enjoying the things He had so richly provided for them. It was never His intention for them to experience anything other than the blessing. The curse did not exist. Sickness and disease did not exist. Poverty, lack, and want did not exist. Neither did oppression, bondage, or suffering.

God intended every day to be a blessing day. In fact, if we read the entire first chapter of Genesis, we see that when

When you receive the revelation that God wants to load your life with benefits on a daily basis, and you establish this truth as your mindset, then your life will never be the same.
God created something new each new day, He saw that it was good. Everything God created was good, and everything He did was good. Likewise, everything God wanted for Adam and Eve was good, and it was blessed. So, if God intended for them to live every day blessed, then He intends for you and me to live every day blessed as well. He is no respecter of persons.

How does the blessing of God come upon us? The same way it came upon Adam and Eve. When God said, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion,” He was pronouncing, or officially declaring, the blessing upon them. He conferred it upon them. I believe the moment an individual bows the knee and confesses Jesus as Lord of his or her life, God declares, “I now pronounce you the blessed; I confer blessing upon your life.”

Psalm 3:8 tells us the blessing of the Lord is upon His people. This means the blessing is upon you. You’re going to wake up in the morning with it. You’re going to have it with you for the rest of your life. The blessing is something the world doesn’t know anything about, and it empowers you to overcome the same circumstances that pull them down.

Psalm 68:19 says, Blessed be the LORD, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation! Selah. The word selah means “stop and think about this.” In other words, don’t go on to the next psalm, the next verse, or the next chapter in your Bible until you’ve stopped and thought about what you just read. Ponder it, and then meditate on it until it becomes a revelation.

When you receive the revelation that God wants to load your life with benefits on a daily basis, and you establish this truth as your mindset, then your life will never be the same.

So why did I live so many years without operating in the blessing? Why do so many Christians continue to live defeated lives? Why is it that when they should be abounding in the blessing they seem to be struggling with the curse?

Someone once asked me, “Isn’t it terrible that God brought the curse into the earth?” I’m amazed at how many Christians not only believe this to be true, but also believe mankind was curs ed by God.

Where did the curse really come from? In Genesis, it says God warned Adam there would be consequences for disobedience, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:16–17). Then in the following chapter, we see what happened following Adam and Eve’s disobedience:

And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed...” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life” (Genesis 3:13–14, 17).

God did not bring the curse into the earth; Adam and Eve did. It came as a result of disobedience. God certainly did not curse mankind, whom He had already blessed. It was the serpent who was cursed, and as a result of Adam’s disobedience, the earth fell under that curse. So we see that although God’s original intent was for mankind to experience the blessing on a daily basis, the curse gained legal entry into the world through disobedience.

But that’s not where the story ends. God had a plan. To the serpent He said, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15). I particularly like the way The Message translation describes in detail the fruition of this plan:

Christ redeemed us from that self-defeating, cursed life by absorbing it completely into himself. Do you remember the Scripture that says, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”? That is what happened when Jesus was nailed to the cross: He became a curse, and at the same time dissolved the curse (Galatians 3:13).

The purpose of the cross was to redeem, or restore, to mankind that which was lost in the garden. And what was God’s intent in the garden? Every day was to be a blessing day.
At Calvary, Jesus restored to mankind the blessing and privileges that were lost in the garden. When Jesus came into the earth, although He had divine privileges, He was willing to strip Himself of those privileges and become like the rest of humanity in order to destroy the effects of the curse.

Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The Amplified version states it this way: I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). The Message says, I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

Jesus came that you might have a better life than you ever dreamed of. Can you honestly describe your life as being like that right now? If not, then it’s time to get stirred up and fighting mad. It’s time to take back from the devil what he’s stolen from you, because that’s what thieves do: they take from others what doesn’t belong to them.

The Bible says, Let the redeemed of the Lord say so (Psalm 107:2). When you declare, “I am redeemed,” you are acknowledging the blessing of God and all of the rights and privileges God has made available for your enjoyment.

As a born-again child of the living God, the blessing of God is on you and everyday is meant to be a blessing day!

ARE YOU LIVING EVERY DAY IN GOD’S BLESSING?

Dr. Savelle’s new book, Every Day A Blessing Day, is now available! Learn the keys to living in the blessing of God every day of your life, despite your circumstances. It was God’s plan from the beginning in the Garden of Eden that everyone live in His blessing. Discover the principles to walking in an empowerment to prosper no matter what is going on in the world.

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WHEN YOU PRAISE AND THANK GOD, YOU ARE ACTIVATING YOUR FAITH AND DOING EXACTLY WHAT GOD’S WORD TELLS YOU TO.

by Terri Savelle Foy
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THERE IS ONE SMALL CHANGE YOU COULD MAKE IN YOUR LIFE THAT WOULD PRODUCE TREMENDOUS RESULTS?

Let me explain.

Most people do not realize that focusing on what they do not have only causes them to attract never having it. When we find fault with and voice our complaints about our lives, we are actually creating an environment to receive more of what we are complaining about.

Using your mouth to express gratitude and voice your thankfulness is that one small change that can catapult you from wishing to experiencing your dreams. I have tapped into that extra degree, and it has opened up a doorway of blessings, opportunities, favor and joy in my life like never before.

You have the ability to change the entire direction of your life with that little thing under your nose called your mouth. It’s as simple as it seems. We read in Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]” (AMP). Every time you open your mouth to talk, you speak life or death to your circumstances.

Remember, Proverbs 23:7 says that we are what we think in our hearts. What you think about, you continue to bring about. If you dwell on poverty, never having enough, always missing opportunities, never succeeding, always coming up short, then that is exactly what will come to you.

I’m sure you are aware that at 211 degrees, water is hot. However, at 212 degrees, it boils. Boiling water produces steam, and steam can actually power a locomotive. Raising the temperature of water by merely one degree means the difference between something being extremely hot to something generating enough force to power a massive machine.

When you use your mouth to express gratitude for what you already have, you have just turned up the heat that one degree and opened the door for success. If you will adopt the discipline of voicing gratitude rather than complaints, you will experience greater success in seeing your dreams realized. Being thankful even causes you to attract more to be thankful for.

When you praise and thank God, you are activating your faith and doing exactly what God’s Word tells you to do. Consider the example of Paul and Silas (read Acts 16:16-40). When they were in prison and began boldly and loudly worshiping God for His faithfulness, proclaiming how awesome and powerful He is, they were still shackled to the wall of a jail cell. They had been arrested. They had been beaten. They were bruised, battered and in pain. They were imprisoned with no visible hope of ever getting out. But their faith-filled words of praise and thanksgiving put God on the move. He sent an earthquake from heaven that shook the building. The walls began to
crumble, the prison doors opened up, the chains fell off of them and they walked out of there free as could be.

This supernatural event would never have happened had these two men of God not spoken their faith out loud. They had to give voice to their belief in and devotion to God. Your life will never change until you begin vocalizing what you believe God intends to do for you and through you.

THE POWER OF PRAISE

What comes out of your mouth is vitally linked to whether or not you have victory. Your words, when spoken, can be a powerful weapon against the enemy or they can doom you to failure. Words of praise and thanksgiving are devastating to the devil. When you speak in this manner, it can speak life to yourself and death to his plan of destruction. This is what motivates me to ignite my faith by worshiping God. Here are three powerful effects praise will produce in your life:

1. Praising God Drives the Devil Crazy. When I think how desperately Satan is trying to stop me from pursuing my dreams and goals, it makes me want to fight back. He’s the one who wants to keep me stagnant and discouraged by trying to wedge a foothold of doubt into my life. He’s the one who tries to drag me down and get me to give up on what I am here to do. And I can’t stand it! So how do I get him back? How do I make him pay for what he’s done to me? By praising, worshiping and thanking God. These are weapons of mass destruction that drive the devil crazy. When you take time to sing praises, it confuses Satan. Your efforts to lift up the Lord are an aggressive means to attack him. And it works!

2. Praise Helps You Give God Control. Here’s what else praising God will do—it solidifies your commitment to fully surrender yourself to God. When you finally give God your all, He takes control. He is waiting for you to put your complete trust in Him, especially as it concerns your vision, dreams, and goals. Matthew 33:6 says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you” (KJV). Note the Scripture says “all” these things, not some of them or one thing—all these things will be yours. I want you to understand that as you seek God, as you spend time with Him, and as you worship Him, you are making an investment in your future. You are trusting that He has already done what you are believing Him for. Doing this will open the door for God to begin moving in your life.

3. Praise Is an Atmosphere in Which God Works. Worship creates an atmosphere where God begins to work. Remember, the Bible is full of stories of people bowing down and worshiping God before they got their break-through. Worship Him first and foremost on your journey to fulfill your vision. Don’t thank Him after your dreams come true and you reach your goals. Sure, it’s easy to thank somebody after they’ve done something nice for you. But worshiping God before you see results shows Him that you wholeheartedly believe in the vision He has given you and that you are going to give it everything you’ve got.

You may have tried this in the past and gotten discouraged. You may be thinking, Terri, I have been worshiping God that I’m free from debt, that my bills are paid and that I have money in the bank, but nothing has changed. I know it might be hard and it requires a lot of faith, especially when the natural dictates the opposite of what you believe; but you’ve got to do it. And you’ve got to keep doing it.

If you are on the verge of giving up right now, be encouraged that you are close to victory. You are close to your dream. My dad believes that feeling as if you have no choice but to quit is always an indication that your breakthrough is right around the corner. Don’t give up. Determine in your heart that no matter how impossible your dreams may look at this very moment, you will hang in there.

Paul wrote, “For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9, KJV). Persevering when things get tough is a long-term commitment. You don’t try to dig in your heels to see how it goes. You can’t treat it like a test run; if you don’t get results immediately, you go back to your old ways. You must determine that you will not quit. You will not give up. You will faint not, and reap your dreams.

What are you thankful for? My dad says, “The depth of your praise determines the magnitude of your breakthrough.” Being grateful is a habit you must practice regularly. Get into the routine of thanking God for anything and everything. Right now, when you’re done reading Adventures in Faith, take some time and think of about 10 things for which you are grateful. Include things you are enjoying right now and dreams and desires that have not yet come to pass. Write them all down. When you are done making your list, tell God out loud how thankful you are for His past, present and future provisions and manifestations in your life.

Terri Savelle Foy is the daughter of Jerry Savelle and is currently the Senior Vice President of Jerry Savelle Ministries International. Terri is also the President and Founder of Terri Savelle Foy Ministries. She currently resides in the Fort Worth, TX area with her husband Rodney and her daughter Kassidi. For more information and ministry resources, go to www.terri.com.
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As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to love others in the same way that Jesus has loved us (John 15:12). When we were in need, He gave His all. When we were trapped in despair, He offered hope. And when we didn’t even know Him, He loved us anyway.

Over 30 years ago, Jerry Savelle answered the call of God to love by embarking on an adventure of faith to reach 11 specific African nations. Today, we are closer than ever to reaching this goal!

Through our missions headquarters in Tanzania and with strategic native outreach partners, our ministry to the African nations has grown and continues to grow as we reach our God-given mandate. Through humanitarian aid, educational support, and feeding programs, thousands of people each year hear the good news of the Gospel and experience God’s love first hand.

Thousands of malnourished women, children, and families in drought-stricken regions have been given food and hope-filled teaching through our outreaches. Precious children who have been discarded as unwanted or orphaned because of death are being fed and cared for through our support of multiple orphanages. This provides three meals a day and schooling for children that would otherwise have neither.

Another area we are able to demonstrate God’s love is with our outreach to widows. Our ministry teams have been able to go into areas where many widows are forced to care for their grandchildren because their own children have died from contracting AIDS. In some cases, these elderly widows have to care for and support over 5 grandchildren. Through our water well program, we have been able to provided fresh water in their communities that the widows can sell and maintain funds to feed and educate these children.

Also, this last year, we provided over 275,000 meals (180 tons of food) to villages experiencing the most severe drought in over 50 years. Backpacks and shoes are also given to children who are not allowed to go to school without them.

Along with these direct outreaches, Jerry Savelle Ministries works closely with many local outreaches of all denominations to ensure that the maximum amount of people are fed, both spiritually and physically.

But the vision doesn’t stop there. The outreaches of Jerry Savelle Ministries International has fed people in many other nations, including: China, Singapore, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom. And by 2017, our mission is to have the faith-filled teaching materials from our missions Bible school available to every nation. Discipleship is the main goal for reaching hurting nations. Jerry Savelle believes, “Growing spiritually is what will produce true prosperity in every area of our lives. It will cause us to be complete and perfect-lacking nothing!”
Right now, our team is contacting church leaders and friends all over the World that want to take this discipleship training and translate it into their own languages. One pastor in China now has the means to teach this curriculum to 4,000 of his underground Bible students. This, in turn, will be taught to thousands more as they pass on their knowledge of the Word of God!

We believe that training pastors through the open door of our humanitarian outreaches is the way to most effectively reach nations. This year, hundreds more pastors have started our Bible training program using media tablets that contain text, audio, and video teaching. Through these courses, they learn the life-giving Word of God as Jerry Savelle has taught it for over 40 years. “Most of these pastors do not know that they can reach out and evangelize their villages with the Word of God,” says Joe McCroskey, the JSMI International Missions Director. “They know that they are supposed to have a church and preach the Bible, but when they grab hold of this principle of evangelizing, we see their numbers increase exponentially.”

One pastor in Tanzania has learned, through our Bible course, how to evangelize his surrounding villages. His church has grown from 50 to, now, he overseas multiple churches with over 200-300 people each in the last three years. The uncompromising Word of God is being preached, and lives are being changed!

Thank you, partners, for answering the call of God to support this ministry. As you give, our outreaches grow and reach more people with the gospel and love of Jesus Christ. We have set our faith to reach our goal by 2017, and your help is making it possible.

If you would like to become a part of helping bring the life-changing power of God to others around the world, simply go online to jerrysavelle.org to make a one-time donation or become one of our faithful partners. Together we ARE and will continue to make a difference.

My life was marked during one of my early trips to Africa with Jerry Savelle. I remember meeting an orphan child during one of our outreaches. We were visiting a school to feed the children and their families. The families in this area were very poor. They didn’t have backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms to give to their children so that they could attend school. So we provided these needed resources and were beginning to pass out the food. I can still see them standing there lined up wearing their uniforms. We were handing out enough food to feed their families for a week. They received rice, beans, salt, oil, and other necessities.

As we were handing the food out, the children would say “thank you” and I would say, “This is for you and your family, and it’s because God loves you,” I would smile as they smiled back at me. As I was doing this, a little girl stopped in the line as I was handing her the bag of food, and she said to me, “You are nothing like what we are told.” Sadly, most of these children had never seen a Christian or even heard the gospel preached to them. They knew who their god was as they had been taught in the Hindu religion, but they do not know the God of the Bible. I replied, “Well, what have you been told?” She said, “We’ve been told that you Christians are evil.” The girl continued, “But if you were evil, you wouldn’t be giving us food.” The Lord spoke to me in that moment and said, “This is how you change a nation, Joe. Not through war or empty words. It is when you show them My love.” I knew then that our open-door to minister the love of Jesus is through our outreaches.
PARTNER WITH US

I would like to personally invite you to become a partner with this ministry. A partner in our ministry is one who shares the vision and goals of this ministry through prayer and sows faithfully and continuously, helping us achieve the vision and goals that God has given us. My mandate for over 40 years has been to teach people how to be winners in life. God wants you to win in every area of your life. And, with God’s Word, you can do just that. You can then have a greater influence on the people you associate with and work with.

The Apostle Paul said in Galatians that you are to communicate with those who instruct you. That simply means that if this ministry has brought instruction into your life, if this ministry has helped you along the way in your spiritual growth, if it has blessed your life in some way, then Paul says to communicate with it. The word communicate here in the literal Greek is a little deeper than saying “I love your ministry.” It literally means “to give” and “to partner with.”

I would be honored to have you as my partner. One of the greatest compliments I ever receive is when someone comes up and says, “Jerry, I’m your partner.” That is such a blessing to me. When you partner with me, it means you believe in the call of God on my life.

There is no way we can fulfill all that God has planned for us without partners. The vision God has given us is simply too big. It will take all of us together to accomplish this God-honoring vision.

When you become a partner, I want to sow right back into your life. With your first partner gift, I will send you my partner packet which includes information on partnership and two of my most motivating messages. I believe that as you partner with us, you are going to experience the same grace and favor that is on this ministry. I receive testimonies of it everyday.

I want to close by saying thank you to all of the partners and friends of JSMI. Because of you, we are able to fulfill the call of God on our lives and reach the world for Jesus Christ!

"Partners, because of your prayers and financial support to Jerry Savelle Ministries, you are touching people around the world through television, church meetings, conferences, and faith-building resources. You are also making a difference in the lives of those struggling in Africa. Thank you for being a part of sharing His love, compassion, and truth to those in need."
LEAVING A LEGACY THAT COUNTS

A HERITAGE IS A SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL LEGACY THAT IS PASSED FROM PARENT TO CHILD, GOOD OR BAD, FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER. IF YOU WANT YOUR HERITAGE TO BE A GODLY ONE, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PLAN.

BY CAROLYN SAVELLE

When I gave birth to my first daughter, Jerriann, and held her in my arms, I thought there couldn’t be anything that was more perfect on this earth. I thought she was beautiful; there couldn’t have been a more beautiful child. God couldn’t have created anything more wonderful in the entire world than He did with this child I was holding.

Then 13 months later I gave birth to our second daughter,
Terri. They were so close in age that at times it seemed as though I was raising twins. But it was again perfection as I held her. I just thought there couldn’t be anything more wonderful! It is such a joy to be a parent and raise a family.

Titus 2:3 says, that the older women are to admonish the younger women to love their children and it says to admonish the younger women to love their husbands. So, now that I have been married over 46 years and have lived a while, I think that qualifies me to teach the younger women.

When I began to meditate on what the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus, “to admonish the younger women to love their children”, I thought, “That is needed more today than ever.” Something has come in and taken that love away. Satan wants to destroy what you would think would just be natural to a woman to love her children. We need godly older women to stand up for what is right and teach the younger women. We need godly younger women who will love their children and love their husbands.

Next to God’s love, a parent’s love for their child is perhaps the strongest and most beautiful love there is on the earth. A parent’s lessons and example are the building blocks of character for that child’s future.

It is important that we all develop a heritage process—leaving a heritage to your children and to your children’s children. Every family has a heritage or a legacy passed from one generation to another.

A heritage is a spiritual, emotional, and social legacy that is passed from parent to child, good or bad, from one generation to another. If you want your heritage to be a godly one, you have to have a plan. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. You have to have a plan to pass on the heritage process. You are going to have to be intentional about how you live and exemplify godly principles to your family.

The typical family reacts to their life, instead of initially planning a specific heritage. It all starts with knowing what kind of legacy you desire to leave as a parent. If you’re not a mother, if you’re not a parent, what kind of legacy will you leave as an aunt or uncle? What kind of legacy will you leave to those that are around you? There is a legacy process that goes on, whether you realize it or not. Right now you are creating a legacy that you will pass on to your family and even your friends. Is it the legacy you want to leave?

I think about the Sunday school teachers that affected my life when I was a little girl. What they passed on to me is a legacy that they have left for themselves. You are leaving a legacy whether you know it or not. So, let’s determine that we will leave a legacy that matters and impacts others positively.

My mother left a legacy to me. My mother taught me to believe in God before she taught me to believe in anything else. She reinforced that lesson by taking me to church every time the doors were opened. She supported God’s work and encouraged me to be involved. More than those things, I saw my mother value God’s Word in her own life, develop a habit of personal prayer and looking to God for daily strength.

While growing up, there was not one day of my life that my mother did not stand at the door and lay her hands on me and pray over me when I left for school. And back then she would pray, “Father I plead the blood of Jesus over Carolyn, that no harm will come near her. No plaque will come upon her.” My mother just prayed the Scripture all the time over me. Mom left that legacy for me and now today, I still plead the blood of Jesus over my children and seven grandchildren.

When Jerry and I moved to Fort Worth Texas, we moved into a run-down two bedroom house. We had no money. We had to pick up soda bottles for the refund to be able to buy a loaf of bread to feed the kids bologna sandwiches.

God has brought us from poverty to prosperity because we determined, we were going to leave a different legacy to our children and to our children’s children. We realized that we didn’t have to live that way. There was (and is) a better way! God has brought us a long way from collecting soda bottles off the road to know that I can leave an inheritance to my children and to my grandchildren.

While I will forever be grateful for the financial blessings God has given us, the greatest legacy Jerry and I can create for our family, is a heritage of faith. We can pass on to them the same love that we have for our Heavenly Father. We can model a godly lifestyle and teach them to trust, love, and serve God.

What kind of legacy and heritage are you going to leave for your children, for your grandchildren, for your nieces, for your nephews, for your friends? If you don’t have children and don’t intend to have children, you’re still leaving a legacy. Determine now to be an example of God’s unconditional love and to leave heritage of faith.
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