

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl
September 2018

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A Legacy of a Praying Grandmother

By Stacy Gaddy



My grandmother (or "granny" as she was called by everyone) was a faithful woman to prayer - that is, she faithfully lit her candles and sincerely quoted her daily prayers. I heard her often murmuring her "Hail Mary's" as she clutched her Rosary beads. Rosary prayers were all my granny knew to pray. This was probably my earliest introduction to prayer. I'm so thankful my son and daughter instead have the heritage of being blessed with two powerful apostolic grandmas' who know how to seek the face of God. These women have had a tremendous impact on my children.

I am reminded of a grandmother in the Bible who also greatly influenced her grandson's life. Her name was Lois and even though only one characteristic was given her in 2 Timothy 1:5, it is a powerful one; "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice..."

She was a woman of genuine faith. She wasn't one way at church and then lived another at home, but her faith in God was consistent. She not only modeled this to her family, but evidently it was intentionally taught and passed on (2 Tim. 3:14-15). What a high compliment Paul paid Timothy when he said he recognized the same faith in him as he did in his grandmother.

In Titus 2:3 it mentions the aged women are to be teachers of good things. This shows the value that is placed on elder women for their wisdom, perspective in life and years of experience. Children today are facing a world so completely different than their grandparents, or even parents. Our society as a whole is supporting godly principles less and less. Therefore, the greatest gift a grandchild can be given is to pray for them.

Lois' legacy of faith undoubtedly impacted thousands of people through Timothy during his years of traveling and preaching the gospel. The only time the word "grandmother" is mentioned in the Bible is referring to Lois. Her name means "more desirable." As she has come to represent godly grandmothers everywhere, we second that they are more desirable than any earthly possession.

This is the month we celebrate grandparents. We honor and are thankful for all the grandmothers who continue to point the way to Truth and faithfully pray for their families. What a tremendous influence godly grandmothers are to the kingdom of God!

Note: Stacy Gaddy lives in Cabot, Arkansas where she works alongside her husband, Tim at New Life, the church they started together in 1999. She also actively serves in various roles in the Arkansas District as their Superintendent's wife. Stacy loves to speak to women, travels

extensively and is about to discover what it means to be an empty nester.

Prayers Never Die

By Dr. Robbie Crawford



When we were going through the fiery trials of pastoring, a minister told me, "The prayers of your grandparents are sustaining you right now." My godly grandparents had been deceased for many years, but I believe that their prayers live on and are now living on in my children.

My daughter recently attended a conference and told me that someone there had prophesied over her. "They said that the prayers of my mother would come to pass. I couldn't wait to call you to find out what you have been praying for me." I am not sure what she was expecting but my prayers for my children are not for belongings, positions, or honors. My consistent requests come from a combination of eighteen scriptures that contain the basic core values instilled in me from my parents and grandparents and that I hope to pass on to the next generation.

My prayers for my kids, that I hope will be passed onto theirs, usually go something like this:

Our Father which art in heaven, we love Your name!

Let Your kingdom be evident in my children and let Your will be done in their lives.
Help them to be genuine, to know the truth, love the truth, and let it set them free.

Jesus, supply their needs.

Forgive them as they forgive others.
Help them to love and respect others even when it isn't deserved. Don't let the sun go down on their wrath. Help them to place their enemies in your hands, letting go of grudges or hurts.

Keep them from temptation and deliver them from evil.
Anoint my children. Help them to avoid evil by having mental clarity and integrity, and by making good choices.

Love
Surround my children, infuse them, saturate them, and consume them with Your love.

Emotional Maturity
Help them to mature in You and have a sure footing. Help them to be examples and not to faint in the day of adversity. Give them joy! Help them to be peaceable and slow to anger. Help them to use kind words and to be easily entreated.

Fearlessness
I pray that my children will walk in Your power, boldness, confidence, and authority. Help them to fear no evil.

Self-Discipline
Teach my children to pray and to study Your Word. Guard their hearts. Set a watch over the things that come in their minds but especially those that come out of our mouth, for those are what defiles. Keep them from the influences of the world as they grow up in a fun, healthy, and godly environment.

Faith
May my kids have great faith so that nothing will be impossible for them

Humility
I pray that my children will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God.

Gratefulness
Help my children to always be thankful for their salvation, their spiritual legacy and inheritance, their past traditions and future promises.

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever!
As for our house, we will serve the Lord!

Note: Dr. Robbie Crawford has worked more than twenty-five years as a teacher, an educational administrator, a licensed minister and an associate pastor. She received a PhD in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she was inducted into four honor societies. She is currently the director of New Life Preschool in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as the children's pastor and Sunday school director.

The House that Prayer Built

By Anita Harding



"Except the Lord build the house, we labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

I remember the tears covering my face as God's presence filled the room. It was the day I received "the blessing" from my grandma. It was also the day I would hug my grandma for the very last time. Many years have passed, but it seems I can still feel the warmth of that hug.

The memory of my grandma drawing me close to pray a blessing over me will live in my heart forever. She looked directly into my eyes and said, "God wants you to have my accordion and the anointing that goes with it." I was overwhelmed by this great gift!

I remember grandma's accordion and grandpa's violin always being in the center of our family gatherings. We would sing gospel songs and pray together for hours in my grandparents' living room. This treasured blessing keeps me connected with my past and allows me to see my future. When I hear my children and grandchildren worshipping God, I often find myself looking up to heaven and saying, "Are you listening, grandma?"

My grandma also blessed my husband and me with another special blessing. Holding on to both of our hands, she spoke these words to us. "You are going to finish building the house that grandpa and I started."

Over the years we have come to understand the value of that blessing. To this day, we are committed to building the house that grandma and grandpa started. I am so thankful we chose to build our family on prayer, worship, and the Word of God. We rejoice and give thanks to God that all of our children and grandchildren are serving God today.

Last Christmas, I gave my oldest grandson a Bible my husband had given to me on our first anniversary. My grandson began to weep under the anointing as he opened my gift. Through tears of joy, I explained to him how he must continue to build the house. I believe in my heart he understood. It was a day our family will never forget.

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matthew 6:20).

Praying blessings over my family and passing on to them "eternal gifts" is one of the most important things I can do. Nothing gives me greater joy than praying for my family. My prayers connect me to my past and will live on long after I have gone to my heavenly home. I pray that we never grow weary in building the house, for our spiritual legacy depends on it.

Note: Anita Harding has been in full time ministry with her husband since 1976. She is the mother of two and Mamaw to seven grandchildren. She is a retired kindergarten teacher who continues to teach through mentoring. She currently serves as the Western District Ladies Ministries secretary. Her love and commitment to God, family, and friends shines brightly through her life.

Prayers of a Grandmother

By Jill Patterson



Prayer-My gift!

It doesn't take a new grandparent long to start buying and giving gifts to their grandchild. It is normal. Little clothes look so cute! Grandparents want their grandchildren to have the best. So, as much as money allows, there is help with the baby bed, highchair, crib sheets and the list goes on and on.

As a missionary, I live far away from my grandchildren. I do not have the opportunity to see them on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis. I cannot travel to them by car. And, the opposite is true.

They cannot come to me easily. So, I cannot give the "gift of self" like many grandparents.

Grandparents that live close to their grandchildren can babysit, invite them over for sleepovers, cook special meals, keep them during holidays, etc. Well, I could gift the "gift of worry". Isn't that an easy one? However, we know that worry is not of God. So, what to give?

I have personally claimed prayer as my gift to my grandchildren. Prayer goes the distance! Before the throne of God, I call them "our children." God is the giver of life. He gave our grandchildren to us and then we, in turn, return them to God. Many churches have baby dedications where mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends and church family in a symbolic service give their children to God. However, I'm not talking about a one time symbolic service. I'm talking about a repeated giving (or leaving) the child in the care of the Heavenly Father through prayer. A grandmother's prayer for the Lord to keep her grandchildren at home, church, school and play; to be in their lives-in their hearts, minds and spirits; to place a thorny hedge of protection around them and for His angels to watch over them. What a gift!

The scripture found in James 1:17, reflects the value of a heavenly gift. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." A grandmother's legacy is referenced by Paul in 2 Timothy 1:5, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." Let's pass on the good heavenly gifts to our grandchildren! We can!

Valita Jill Patterson lives in Eastern Europe working and ministering in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. She and her husband have been missionaries for 28 years.

From the Editor

God is doing mighty things!

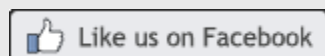


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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).