



Today's message will be somewhat different from my usual style. I want to share with you some personal reflections and insights into four key scriptures in hopes that this will help us to grasp the generational challenge that lies before us.

Matthew 1:17, There were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Christ.

These verses are in the Bible for a purpose:

They affirm the lineage of Jesus as the Son of Abraham and the Son of David.

They demonstrate to us that God's plan spans generations.

Hebrews 11:29-40, These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Hebrews 11 is the generational story of **faith**.

It is the story of God.

Notice three key points to this story:

1. Each generation is a **chapter** but not a story.
2. Faith does not mean that you will receive the **complete** promise of God.
3. The generations must be **joined** for the full story to be complete.

God is waiting to add the story of our lives and the lives of our children to **His Story**.

Judges 2:8-10, "Joshua, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten. They buried him in the land of his inheritance...After that whole generation had died, another generation grew up, who did not know the Lord or what he had done for Israel."

This is one the most tragic passages in all the Bible.

It is the story of a people who, although they did great things for God, failed in the transferring of the faith to the next generation.

A generation that did not **personally** know God ushered in the one of the darkest periods of Israel's history (350 years).

When the generations disconnect, a **curse** comes.

Malachi 4:5-6, "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." (NIV)

Acts 2:17, 39, "In the last days, I will pour out of my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams...The promise is for you and your children."

The age of the Spirit, begun at Pentecost, is a **generational** blessing.

The promise of the Spirit is for our children and our children's children.

Are we open to receiving the next generation as full partners in the Kingdom and in the ministry?

1 Timothy 4:12, Do not let anyone look down on you just because you are young...