

## **Pray It Forward Praying Generationally**

As a teenager I heard someone say that I should be praying for the person I would one day marry – unless God intends for me to be single. That made a lot of sense to me, so I began praying for my wife, several years before we met.

After marriage, it occurred to me that I should be praying for the children we would one day have, unless God intended otherwise. I began to pray for our children, long before I even knew their names.

As a parent, I then began to pray for those my children would date, their close friends, those my children would marry, and their families. I later expanded my requests to extend thru the next four generations.

God desires to bless a thousand generations those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deut. 20:6).

Jesus said, “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8)

James writes, “You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (James 4:2-3).

Now, as I intercede for the generations, I am asking God’s favor concerning the requests for me, my wife, our families; my children, their spouses and their families; my grandchildren and their future relationships, spouses, and family systems throughout all our generations until Christ returns.

I am also including those we disciple, the church ministries I lead, and the staff I supervise in this request. While I do not have generational authority over them, I am making my requests for them as a spiritual father.

I have interceded in different ways and with different requests thru the years. Often, I would focus on a verse or passage of Scripture for an extended time. In the late 1990’s I was given a copy of Stormie Omartian’s book, The Power Of A Praying Parent. She had thirty chapters on various topics, with thoughts on those topics, supporting verses, and some specific ways to pray. I started using those thirty topics as a template of how to think and how to pray, modifying and add to that template each year. For Christmas 2016 I gave my children and their spouses a copy of Omartian’s book and invited them to join me in praying generationally.

What follows is how I am currently interceding regularly for our present and future generations.

I find it remarkable and amazing that I have the privilege to ask God’s grace and favor not only for this day and this generation, but forward for the generations to come as well!

I invite you to do the same!

Most High God –

I am asking the following requests, in perpetuity, for myself, (name those in your immediate family), my present and future family members and family systems, and (any others you want to include).

May we see and experience unprecedented movement of your spirit throughout all our generations, exceedingly abundantly far beyond our highest hopes and wildest imaginations.

To this end may we choose to:

Go all in with You, because You are all in with us,  
fully embracing our true identity – we are a child of the King!

Make time with You our highest priority so this can become our deepest joy  
Trust, treasure, meditate on, and take seriously Your words, careful to keep them  
Fear You alone, worship You alone, rejecting and removing all other gods and idols  
Bring much glory, honor, respect, praise, and blessings to Your Great Name  
Grow in implicit faith, trusting Your sovereignty regardless of the look of things

Be intentional disciple makers, modeling and reproducing righteousness and godliness  
Reject common, casual, convenient, and comfortable Christianity driven by ease  
Embrace an uncommon relationship with You, defined by unconditional surrender

Be bold, unashamed, unafraid, and discerning, listening to You at all times  
Have the courage and determination to take on giants You tell us to face  
Stand when and where You say, moving, fleeing, or engaging only at Your command  
Not question, debate, negotiate, or hesitate to take action when you speak

Believe that choosing to sin is always dangerous and ultimately deadly  
Be vigilant in guarding our heart, rejecting any thought that does not align with You  
Learn from Your discipline, demanding that stubbornness yield to obedience  
Intentionally train up our children and our generations in Your ways

Flush past hurts, not allowing what happens to define us  
Engage fully the present, making the most of every opportunity  
Focus on Kingdom purposes, and not be distracted by other things  
Walk humbly, rejecting and defying pride, arrogance, and rebellion against You

Be keenly aware of the reality, presence, work and words of spiritual evil  
Trust our authority in You Jesus, and not be intimidated or bullied by spirits  
Recognize and avoid the traps of Darkness, making no alliances with them

Be spiritually street smart, not overestimating nor underestimating evil  
Not be outwitted, outsmarted, outplayed, or outworked by Darkness  
Be delivered from evil, and graciously protected from violence, abuse, and divorce

Destroy all generational bondage that has invaded since last exposed and removed  
Attack, tear down, and remove all ungodly strongholds we have allowed to grow  
Consecrate and dedicate daily our spaces, places, and things to You

Develop no interest or fascination with ungodliness, impurity, and evil  
Not buy into the lies, deceit, enticements, and seductive traps of any sexual sin  
Stay attracted to, drawn to, and greatly desire holiness and purity  
Work aggressively to build and maintain healthy, great family relationships  
Be godly friends and role models, not giving into peer pressure

Reject council from the ungodly, the foolish, the scornful, and the scoffer  
Be people of integrity, keeping our promises, and walking with the wise  
Stay in the eye of the storm, our minds clear, stable, peaceful and uncluttered  
Set our focus and attention on You, guided by Your revelation and wisdom

Be diligent and disciplined stewards, not giving into excess or sloth  
Deliberately embrace generosity and consciously defy selfishness  
Unleash and develop the gifts, talents, and abilities You give us

Feel loved, valued, treasured, accepted, wanted, and needed  
Be thankful, faithful, generous, loving, kind, merciful, just, trustworthy, honest

Pay attention to and develop healthy habits of body, soul, and spirit  
Not abuse or misuse our bodies, but take proper care of them  
Avoid all addictions, not allowing the appetites, interests, or roots to grow

Be strong and courageous, rejecting fear and refusing to worry  
Not give into Pity Parties, play the Blame Game, or visit the Shame Show  
Stay the course, not quitting or giving up when things become hard or difficult

Intentionally work to find ways to be at peace and make peace with others  
Give no ground nor place to division, strife, disunity, enmity, or hostility  
Live life unencumbered by unforgiveness, anger, resentment, or bitterness

Be quick to listen, slow to speak, careful and thoughtful with words  
Intentionally reject prejudice and express genuine hospitality to all  
Treat others with dignity, honor, and respect, defending the defenseless

Endure well the suffering You allow, so we develop godly character  
Enjoy happiness when it happens, but pursue growing our hope in You  
Intention success, but pursue significance and build a Kingdom legacy  
Be joyful, knowing Your peace in the midst of difficulties and problems

Only be married if You choose, to the one You choose, when You choose  
Relentlessly pursue strong, faithful, unbroken, thriving, joyful, loving marriages

Pray, think, choose and live strategically, intentionally, and generationally