

FAMILY#1 A GRANDPARENT'S BLESSING

Gen. 48 ⁸ When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, "Who are these?" ⁹ "They are the sons God has given me here," Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them." ¹⁰ Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them.

¹⁵ Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, ¹⁶ the Angel who has delivered me from all harm —may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth."

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to the land of your a fathers.

III.

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...
I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...
I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Gamma is!"

AARP in 2000 reports that 31% of adults (60 mil.) are grandparents.

It may interest you to know that the average age of a grandparent in the USA is 47.

Grandparents today are healthier, wealthier, better educate, live longer, and are more mobile than ever before.

I. THE PROBLEMS GRANDPARENTS FACE.

The Foundation For Grandparenting states grandparents face the following issues.

1. Many are continuing to be caregivers

Many are asked to take care of grandchildren in some cases even to raise them.

2. They experience bad health

As enjoyable as it may be for grandmothers, taking care of their grandchildren for more than nine hours a week can increase the risk of serious heart disease, according to a Harvard study.

Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School revealed that women providing care to grandchildren for nine hours or more per week have a 55-per-cent greater chance of developing coronary heart disease.

3. They have a reduction in income.

"Income is related to health. So when caregivers have to leave the workforce to become caregivers, they are faced with serious economic decisions and consequences," said Ms. Amaratunga, who is also on a research team at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women that is examining women's unpaid caregiving work and its health impacts.

"Basically, what results is the loss of income and financial support and that has an effect on their health. There is a relationship there."

4. Medical – Bills and medicine become troublesome.

5. Distance apart from grandchildren.

Thank God for telephones and email.

AARP 2000 reports that 85% of grandparents have talked to a grandchild on the phone in the past month.

II. THE NEED WE HAVE FOR GRANDPARENTS

1. They are our link to our family history or tree.

2. They are a stabilizing force in time of trouble.

They are expected to attend more family functions than anyone else.

3. They are great teachers in the lessons of life.-wisdom

Carson 1996 wrote, "As grandparents, we have the advantage of looking back and remembering what it was like for us as we traveled through life's stages, the stages our children and grandchildren are in now. The hindsight we enjoy is called wisdom"

Children often begin to look for other role models besides their parents around the age of six.

4. They help hold the family together.

The grandparents share the strongest emotional bond and influence in the family. Kandel-1995

Szinovacs 1998 placed value on grandparents in this way, "In most families, the **real value of grandparents can be felt simply by their presence, not their action.**"

III. THE BLESSING THAT GRANDPARENTS CAN GIVE

Gen. 48 9 Then Israel said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them."

We can bless them with:

1. Prayer- Our grandchildren need to hear us pray.

2. A testimony of the goodness of God.

v-15 ... the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,

We can bless them with ...

3. The person of Jesus

¹⁶ the Angel who has delivered me from all harm —may he bless these boys.

The word Angel is capitalized. This is only done for names of deity. The angel was the pre-incarnate Christ.

He is the DELIVERER!

We must keep Jesus in front of them.

We can bless them with...

4. A good name

v 16 ... May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,

Greater than riches is a good name.

We can bless them with....

5. A promise

v 21 ... God will be with you.....

The grand children need to hear a message of hope. Where else better to get it than from a grandparent? They must be encouraged that God will be faithful to them in their journey of life as he has ours.

We can bless them with....

6. Affection

v 10 ... So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them.

At any age we must give, kisses, hugs, touching and etc. that expresses our love in more than just a verbal expression.