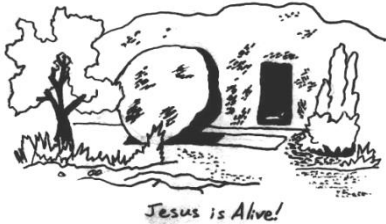


Living God Ministries

Living God Ministries PO Box 38353 Colorado Springs, CO 80937 www.livinggodministries.net

February 1, 2024



New Radio Programs

Four new programs on the Book of Ephesians have been uploaded to the radio archive:

- Ephesians 2:8-9 Boasting for Salvation
- Ephesians 2:8-9 What is Salvation
- Ephesians 2:10 Doing Works
- Ephesians 2:10 His Workmanship

Generational Curses

One of the questions I was asked this last month was about generational curses. The context of the question was about people in families struggling with similar problems from one generation to the next. Some of the problems listed were abuse, addictions and poverty. They wanted to know if I would see them potentially related to a generational curse of some kind.

There are some passages in the Scriptures that can suggest the existence of generational curses. Two popular passages are in Exodus, just to give you an example.

Exodus 20:4-5 ⁴ " You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

The curses described in Deuteronomy 28 could also be considered as many of them are related to future generations. This also depends on the translation you are reading from. Some translations incorporate a little more theological bias than others.

I personally do not see these passages expressing the divine intervention of God to ensure the children of sinners are cursed. From my point of view, they are referring to the natural consequences of sins. We have the privilege of living one life, and the amount of time we are given is very small. The Lord has been, and remains to be, an active participant in the lives of people ever since He created this planet. He will witness the multigenerational effects of decisions people make, but that does

not require him to participate to ensure suffering takes place. He is an observer who visits the iniquity, in the sense that He will be present and see it for Himself. I can see a few situations when He likely was participating and directing the destruction in people's lives, and in other situations He intervened and prevented destruction that would have taken place. In general, His relationship with people in this way has been on the basis of the collective nation, not with individuals.

Consider what it would be like if you were cursed by God because of the sin of your father or mother. What would you do? What could you do? Are you going to ask for forgiveness on behalf of someone else? There will be no solution to this kind of problem, besides waiting until the fifth or sixth generation, hoping no one sins before then.

Sometimes it is suggested the curses are imposed by demonic powers, and not by the Lord directly. The demons are persons who live from one generation to the next, so perhaps they become like family members that never die. It could be implied that the generational curse is the inheritance of a demon, which is lazy and doesn't explore the world to meet and bother new people. I think this goes outside the boundaries of the intent of generational consequences of sin, but this is a direction some people go in.

To explore this subject more, I would encourage a person to consider why this theological belief is attractive. Some things to think about include an opportunity for people to avoid personal responsibility for decisions they made. There is the opportunity for rituals people can assist with or perform to break the curses, and this can be very appealing to those who want something to do. It's important to ask people why they want to believe in the curse of God on an individual because of their parent's sin. Answers to this question will help you to have a useful conversation about it.

When it comes to the patterns of children engaging in similar dysfunctional behaviors as their parents, this is a choice they make individually. To be abusive towards others, or abuse one's self through drugs and alcohol is a decision each individual makes. These are ways that people solve problems. I have found that most problem solving techniques people use were learned from someone else, and that is a natural part of the parent and child relationship. Parents teach their children how to solve the problems of life, directly or indirectly. Most of the solutions are dysfunctional, and create more problems than what a person is trying to solve. Children learn these techniques by observation more than intentional instruction, and this can easily give the impression of a generational curse of some kind.

The majority of the people I have known and interacted with have chosen to live differently than their parents. Most children want to be unique and independent. This is often expressed in forms of rebellion from the beliefs and life decisions of their parents. I have known lots of kids who developed serious drug and alcohol addictions when their parents had nothing to do with either. I have known lots of kids who were disgusted by their parent's drug and alcohol addictions, and they had nothing to do with either. I can say the same thing when it comes to building wealth or not building wealth, and the ways they solve problems in relationships. I certainly have found lots of examples where people imitate their parents, but these examples are not in the majority.

It's important to keep in mind that our God wants people in His life who relate to Him personally, because they want to. It is necessary for people to have free will if this is going to be experienced. It is not going to be constructive for God to place additional obstacles in people's lives in the form of curses, because of what their parents or grandparents decided to do with their lives. The fallen world we exist in has more than enough obstacles available. Just as people can exercise their free will to pursue knowledge of

their God, so they can also exercise their free will to build their personal lives, and decide how they will solve the problems of life.

Most Sincerely,
Aaron
Teaching Pastor for Living God Ministries

Radio Stations

We are presently broadcasting on the following radio stations:

Denver, CO KLTT 670 AM 5:00 – 5:30 pm
Denver, CO KRKS 990 AM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Colorado Springs, CO 100.7 FM 7:00 – 7:30 pm
Sacramento, CA KCBC 770 AM 8:30 – 9:00 am
Los Angeles, CA KBRT 740 AM 5:30 – 6:00 pm
Los Angeles, CA KKLA 99.5 FM 11 – 11:30 pm
Portland, OR KPDQ 800 AM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Dallas, TX KWRD 100.7 FM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Dallas, TX KAAM 770 AM 6:00 – 6:30 pm
Milwaukee, WI WJYI 1340 AM 11:30 – 12 pm
Milwaukee, WI WJYI 98.7 FM 11:30 – 12 pm