

The Prophetic Voice of Prayer  
Michael K. Gantt

1 Samuel 1:9-11

I see in Samuel's mother, a prototype of the godly parent who saw her child as a gift from God. Psalm 127:3 declares: **Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.**

God gives these wonderful gifts to enrich our lives - not to burden them.

He intends us to nurture them, mould them and train them. Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.* In so doing, they can become sources of joy to us and channels of praise to our King.

We also saw how this degenerate culture in which we live has devalued, dehumanized the value of children. We live in a culture that has despised motherhood, and weaponized language to support their culture of death - now referring to these precious gifts as non-human, products of conception, blobs of tissue, and parasites.

I believe these are "prophetic words" that have brought curses upon the children who have survived the holocaust of abortion.

We not only have Hannah, the mother of Samuel, as an example - but other women who, in the most difficult circumstances, were blessed with children by the Lord. (Sara, the mother of Issac; Rachel, the mother of Joseph, Jacobed, the mother of Moses, and Elizabeth - the mother of John the Baptist - **and their hearts rejoiced and the opportunity of raising up godly men and women for the Lord.**

If we read carefully the prayer of Hannah, we see that she asked the Lord to give her a child **so that she would have a child to give to the Lord.** **1 1 Samuel 1:9-11** *After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11 And she vowed a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."*

You can read the story of prayerful women like Susannah Wesley as an encouragement to all Mothers. She had a brood of ten children who were all educated and schooled at home. She taught them from the scripture, prayed with them and also prayed for them. She raised two great servants of God – John and Charles Wesley who attested to the life of prayer their mother led.

**So many women look at children as a hindrance to their career.** These godly women saw their children AS THEIR CAREER. They had no greater purpose than to serve the Lord by faithfully raising up HEROES FOR THE KINGDOM. They invested their lives totally in their children, they taught them, they nurtured godliness into them, they spoke prophetically over them, and they prayed the Word of God over them. I want to emphasize and reemphasize this fact - that these great mothers saw their children as gifts from God HIS, but on loan to them. They saw their greatest joy in raising up men and women of God whom they could offer up to the Lord as a sacrifice of praise.

Jim Elliot once wrote these powerful words to his parents: *Remember how the Psalmist described children? He said that they were as a heritage from the Lord, and that every man should be happy who had his quiver full of them. And what is a quiver full of but arrows?*

*And what are arrows for but to shoot? So, with the strong arms of prayer, draw the bowstring back and let the arrows fly—all of them, straight at the Enemy's hosts.*

*'Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious, Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way, Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious, And all thou spendest Jesus will repay.'*

We read of great Fathers, who saw it as their responsibility to raise up men and women of God.

Children were not side issues.

Children were not distractions.

Children were not a burden or hindrance -

Children are a godly heritage and they are the only true legacy we can leave for the next generation.

Jonathan Edwards, was a Puritan Preacher in the 1700s. He was one of the most respected preachers in his day. He attended Yale at the age of thirteen and later went

on to become the president of Princeton college. He married his wife Sara in 1727 and they were blessed with eleven children.

Every night when Mr. Edwards was home he would spend an hour conversing with his family and then **praying a blessing over each child.**

Did you catch that - a daily blessing over each child.

Jonathan and his wife Sarah passed on a great, godly legacy to their eleven children.

An American educator, A.E. Winship decided to trace the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are remarkable, especially when compared to another man from the same time period known as Max Jukes.

Jonathan Edwards' legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 1 Dean of a law school, 1 dean of a medical school, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 60 doctors, 65 professors, 75 Military officers, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, and 285 college graduates.

**How may this be explained?** Edwards was a godly man, but he was also hard working, intelligent and moral. Furthermore, Winship states, "Much of the capacity and talent, intensity and character of the more than 1,400 of Edwards' family is due to **Mrs. Edwards.**"

Max Jukes' legacy came to people's attention when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system were traced back to him. He lived in New York at about the same period as Edwards. The Jukes family originally was studied by sociologist Richard L. Dugdale in 1877.

Jukes' descendants included: 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 190 prostitutes, 150 other convicts, 310 paupers, and 440 who were physically wrecked by addiction to alcohol. Of the 1,200 descendants that were studied, 300 died prematurely.

**These contrasting legacies provide an example of what some call the five-generation rule.** *"How a parent raises their child — the love they give, the values they teach, the emotional environment they offer, the education they provide — influences not only their children but the four generations to follow, either for good or evil."*

What a challenging thought! If someone studies your descendants four generations from now, what would you want them to discover? Do you want an Edwards' legacy or a Jukes' legacy? The life you live will determine the legacy you leave!

We all get excited about watching the development of our children, especially when they are young and learning new skills - But we also need to keep a keen eye out on the future!

Our commitment to building them up prayerfully will yield fruit as they grow up. When you bathe, soak, cover and circle your children with prayer, you will be sowing seeds that will germinate and bring forth fruit well after you are no longer in this realm.

Through prayer you can mould the futures and destinies of your children.

In the place of prayer, your children can be consecrated to a life of godliness and holiness.

Many mothers complain of boredom as stay-home-mums; but if you will look at your family in the light of eternity, and pray and prophesy over your children as if you were building a legacy to last for generations - you will find it not only a full time job --but among the most rewarding of careers.

Bless your children when they wake up in the morning, before they leave home for their schools, when they return from school and also before they sleep. Lay hands on them when they are asleep and prophetically declare the word of God over them.

Look at Deuteronomy 6 for great wisdom in blessing your children.

*6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

I pray all kinds of prayers for my children at all times and I am confident that those prayers are working in their lives.

Praying for your children will not produce perfect children right now, you need to trust God as you continue that they will not depart from the truth that you have taught them and they will give you peace.

**Call out each child's name as you pray the word of God over their lives;** search the scriptures to determine what your heart desires for your children - **you can never fail to rightly pray over them if you always pray the Word of God over them.**

**Insert their names into scriptures as you study confessing the word of God over them.** Prayer is our strongest weapon in defending them at all times even in places where we cannot be physically present.

**I have put together a list of prayers which you can use as a guide to pray prophetically for your children. Pray the Word of God from head to toe this way (Insert their name in each Scripture):**

**(Now - I am focusing on children in this message, but you could easily pray these prayers over a husband, or a wife, or a neighbor that you long to see come to Christ.)**

**Head:** 'Billy, I declare that you will be the head and never the tail, above always and never beneath (Deuteronomy 28:13),  
You will lead sinners and not be led by them.  
You will excel in wisdom, knowledge and understanding as you live in the fear of God (Proverbs 2:1-10, Isaiah 11:3),  
you will know the Lord and the power of his resurrection (Phil 3:10)'

**Eyes:** 'Sally, I declare that your eyes will be open to understand the way of the Lord, your eyes will not lead you into sin but they will be enlightened by Christ' (Ephesians 1:18, Acts 26:18)

**Ears:** 'Thomas, You will hear the word of the Lord and you will never depart from it, all the days of your life' (Deut 5:1, Isaiah 30:21)

**Mouth:** 'Steven, I pray over your mouth, that the words of your mouth shall be acceptable unto the Lord,

no corrupt or evil communication will come out of your mouth, your mouth will be a spring of life' (Psalm 19:14, Eph 4:29)

**Heart:** 'Mary, I declare that you will love the Lord with all your heart, your heart will be a treasure of goodness and purity and Christ will dwell in your heart by faith' (Deut 6:5, Luke 6:45, Eph 3:17)

**Hands and Arms:** 'My son (or daughter), You will be strong and courageous, I confess that you can do all things through Christ Jesus, through God you will be victorious. The enemy will not prevail over you neither shall the wicked one oppress you' (Philippians 4:13, Joshua 10:25, Psalm 18:32-40)

**Feet:** I pray over your feet - and I declare in the Mighty Name of Jesus, that your steps shall be ordered by God and you shall be led by the Lord himself (Jeremiah 10:23, Psalm 26:3, Psalm 23: 2)

**In a general way you may declare:**

'I hide you (insert child's name) in the secret place of the most High, no evil shall befall you, no harm will move near our dwelling place, you will be taught of the Lord and great will be my peace. With long life will the Lord satisfy you and show you His salvation. The spirit of the Lord will rest upon you, the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord. You will serve the Lord only and delight in Him, you will flourish and be fruitful, because you are my offspring; the Lord will pour upon you His divine blessing. You will be blessed everywhere you go, goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life.'

Mom and Dad, your children may be grown and out on their own - but pray these things for them. Even if they seem to have rejected God - stick their names in these prayers and lift them up before God.

Grandpa and Grandma, you can be key in the lives of your grandchildren as you faithfully pray the Word of God over them.

And a special word to foster and surrogate parents: You may have, probably have, in your home, under your care - children who have been broken and wounded by difficult circumstances. Do not lose sight of the incredible opportunity you have to change the course of a child's life because of your role as a foster or adoptive parent.

I spent the first six years of my life in a godly foster home, abandoned by my mom who was a child herself...I don't remember much about those days but I know that I was in

church and Sunday School every Sunday and I lived in the home of a man and woman who prayed for me. I know that as a broken and lost teen, my Pastor inserted himself in my life and poured his love and his life into me, he poured the Word of God into me – and without his influence, I have no idea what would have become of me.

I know this, God has pressured me with these truths over the past several years and if God is pressuring me—that means he has a message for you—for someone in this congregation.

**The world has surrendered its generations to hopelessness and despair - May we do better with ours through the power of our prophetic prayers.**