



Passing On the Mantle to the Next Generation

This is Grandparent's Sunday and all across churches in America, we are honoring them this morning!

-something special at close of service

-a chance to pray with our kids and grandkids

In Thailand, there is a precious grandmother that is 90 yrs old. Her name is Taw Bow which translated into English means "always". The missionaries call her **Grandma Always** because she is a great example of faithfulness.

-she isn't much to look at with her bent over back and gnarled fingers

and hands with arthritis and she often stands to the side and is quiet.

-she works as a house servant and makes 5 cents a day

Every Sunday she inspires the missionaries and other saints at church because she never misses church. She walks 2 miles to church and when the offering is taken she ALWAYS gives a day's wages in the offering. And if they have a guest speaker or special project, she gives another day's wages to the cause.

After service, the missionaries drive her home and she ALWAYS gets out, bows her head and says simple prayer of blessing for the missionaries.

One missionary said "*just the thought of Grandma Always' faithfulness humbles and deepens us*"

I have watched Sis. Cottrill (ma-ma) bring her grandchildren up around the altar in pre-service prayer and include them in this spiritual atmosphere.

-she will sit and hold them on the couch in the living room and sing

church songs to them and tell them Bible stories.

She understands we have to put something in their hearts about God or the world will fill up their little hearts with junk.

I encourage the parents and grandparents to bring those young kids up around the altar at a young age and let them feel the anointing in this area.

-train them to pray and worship

In the book of II Timothy, the apostle Paul writes the young pastor, Timothy a letter of encouragement and spiritual direction.

He is thinking of Timothy's spiritual heritage and how the mantle of God was passed down from his grandmother to his mother and then to Timothy.

II Tim.1:5-7

2Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and

thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

2Ti 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Timothy had a godly background and that is one of the best gifts we can give our children and grandkids this morning.

Vs. 6 speaks of “stirring up the gift of God” which isn’t speaking about a physical gift you can touch and hold but a supernatural gift that thru spiritual osmosis, becomes part of you.

-no doubt people looked how Timothy preached and behaved and they said things like:

“you sure can tell who his momma is, Eunice for sure”

“he reminds me of his grandma Lois how he prays and intercedes for souls”

The gift was a special gift, a powerful gift from the Holy Ghost that helped Timothy serve as pastor.

-that gift must be kept alive by prayer, obedience and diligence.

Many of us in here this morning can look back to our parents, grandparents and even our great g-parents and see how the spiritual mantle has been passed down to you.

A godly heritage is immeasurable in wealth and can not be taken for granted.

-but valued, appreciated and has to be well maintained in order to keep it alive w/I us.

Paul told Timothy “stir up the gift”....the thought behind it was the gift was like a fire that might have been getting a little low in Tim’s life and Paul was saying...*its time to fan the flames...blow on the embers....get that gift on fire once again....stir it up!*

Vs. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

We need adults ages 18 thru 40 to step up to the plate spiritually in the church and become church leaders.

.....be involved....and become active in helping the church grow spiritually and numerically.

.....not to be ashamed, bashful or afraid but be filled with the HG and fire

Spiritual and organizational positions get passed down from our elders to those younger in the church and it keeps the church growing and in revival.

Look at your neighbor and say “**Get involved**”

The OT speaks about two men of God named Elijah and Elisha.

-I always wonder which came 1st but remember the alphabet

-the J in Elijah comes before the S in Elisha

Elijah had a mighty ministry.

The name Elijah means “Jehovah is God” which is awesome in itself.

He became known as the man who had no fear of man.

He preached against sin and withheld against those that rebelled against spiritual authority, mainly Jezebel.

-thus we have a spirit in our world today called the **Jezebel spirit**

that comes upon anyone that comes against the pastor and his authority in the church.

We don't know a lot about his background but suddenly he appears in the scripture rebuking the godless and trying his best to restore the messed up nation he lives in.

Scripture points out that he was a fearless, bold and dauntless reformer.

He rebuked kings as well as the common man living in sin.

He was a mighty intercessor, praying with great faith and intensity.

He performed miracle after miracle and was used mightily by Jehovah God.

-he was however prone to **discouragement and sometimes misjudged**

situations at 1st glance so he learned how to humble himself and

repent.

He was a man of God and when he walked into the room; your attention was diverted to him **because God rested on him**.

-You could **see** God, **feel** God and **hear** God when he spoke.

One day, Elijah was walking along and **he wore a mantle across** his chest and over his shoulders and people recognized him as such from a distance.

-he had been noticing a young farmer boy down the road from his

house and how this young man served and worshipped the Lord.

And as he walked along, he came up along side of young Elisha and threw his mantle from off his shoulders and onto Elisha's shoulders symbolically saying "***God is now resting on you; its now time for you to be used by God***"

It was no doubt a fashionable piece of cloth and brought honor to whom ever

wore it.

It was a physical sign of a supernatural happening... that the hand and anointing of God was on this man.

-oh he may not stand and preach for a **few years** but God was with him.

-he may not even **be mature** yet but God sees in his heart and starts

working in him at a young age.

I remember my own son, Matt when he came home from a church revival when he was **just 8 yrs old** and he went into his bedroom crying. We asked him "***what is wrong, why are you upset***".....and in his immaturity he said

"I don't want to be a preacher...I want to be an usher not a preacher"

-but the Lord had called him at a young age and **was putting his**

anointing in his life just as a young child.

At 11am today, the SS classes are coming into this auditorium and we are asking all the kids from the **kindergarten class up thru the Sr. teens** to become aware that God wants to use them and anoint them for his work.

-a special time of prayer and blessing and just possibly God will

speak to your children or grandkids about doing something for the Lord.

We are passing the mantle to the next generation.

They may not be used for a few yrs yet but we need to [nurture them and train them in the ways of God.](#)

-if we don't train them in godliness, the world will train them in ungodliness.

Elijah cast his mantle over onto Elisha as he was plowing his field.

One translation said it this way:

1Ki 19:19 Elijah went straight out and found Elisha son of Shaphat in a field where there were twelve pairs of yoked oxen at work plowing; Elisha was in charge of the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his mantle over him.

1Ki 19:20 Elisha deserted the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please! Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye--then I'll follow you." "Go ahead," said Elijah, "but, mind you, don't forget what I've just done to you."

1Ki 19:21 So Elisha left; he took his yoke of oxen and butchered them. He made a fire with the plow and tackle and then boiled the meat--a true farewell meal for the family. Then he left and followed Elijah, becoming his right-hand man.

This action of casting his mantle upon Elisha was no doubt signifying that he was **being called** into the office of a prophet of God.

It signified a [position of power and favor](#) with God.

The prophet Joel was speaking about the mantle that was going to be cast upon a people in the last days. It was a [mantle of God's glory and power.](#)

A mantle that would bring the [anointing and divine position](#) into all those that received this mantle in which we call the HG.

Joel 2:28,29 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit **upon all flesh;*** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also **upon** the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

It was the Apostle Peter that stood up on the day of Pentecost and proclaimed how this **mantle of God's Spirit** wasn't just for those people standing around that day in Jerusalem but it was for[many generations to come.](#)

Acts 2:38,39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto **you, and to your children,** and to all that **are afar off,** even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Folks! If you have been born again of the Water and Spirit, a mantle has been placed upon you and it's our responsibility to[nurture that power and anointing in your life](#) and then pass it on to the next generation.

We've got to do everything we can w/I our power to help them [get in](#) the church, [stay in](#) the church and [become involved](#) in the church.

Elisha had to follow Elijah around and become his servant.

Do whatever he asked him to do so that when he got too old, he would step forward and **fill the vacancy** of the man of God in Israel.

-he watched, he learned, he obeyed

-he didn't let anyone or anything hinder his walk with God.

No temptations, no offenses, no hardships were worth losing the mantle.

Nothing could separate him from his pastor and the anointing in his life.

So a few yrs later we find in **II Kings 2:9,10**

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be *so*.

Elisha could have asked for fame, money, influence or physical strength but he asked for a **double portion** of the HG in his life.

Like Solomon, Elisha didn't ask for anything of this world but he asked for more spiritual power that he might be able to do his work for God aright.

I believe this morning that a double portion of your anointing; a double portion of your power with God... needs to be passed onto the next generation of kids in this church.

I have traveled and preached in 13 countries and saw many notable
miracles. Blinded eyes opened, lame made to walk, cancer disappear,
1,000s receive the HG, deliverance from addictions and so much more

and it's my prayer that those kids in SS this morning will see twice as much as I have; experience twice as much if not more than I have.

-I want to see the anointing rest upon them and be used mightily by
God.

It may not happen for a few yrs or it may start happening next week, but a mantle of Gods power needs to fall upon the next generation.

-its up to all of us to nurture them, guide them and instruct them in the ways of God.

-don't let the world distract them or hinder them.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Elijah's name meant "**Jehovah is God**" but Elisha's name went a step further, it means "**Jehovah has become my salvation**"

It's a good thing to know God but it better when he becomes your savior.

Elisha was so different from Elijah and better in so many ways.

Elijah was a prophet in the wilderness

But Elisha was a prince in the king's courts

Elijah had no home to settle down

But Elisha enjoyed peace in his home

Elijah was known for his long shaggy hair and clothes

But Elisha was known by his staff and bald head
Elijah ministry was one of stern rebuke and condemnation
But Elisha was mainly one of teaching and winning the lost
Elijah was a rebuker of kings
But Elisha was a friend and was admired by kings
Elijah preached with fire and full of vengeance
But Elisha was a messenger of Gods mercy and love
Elijah was energetic and fierce
But Elisha was gentle, compassionate and simple
Elijah was a lone solitary figure
But Elisha was more social and friendly
Elijah was full of God's power
But Elisha had a double portion of God's power

Those disciples went into an Upper Room on the 1st Day of Pentecost because they had been promised in [Luke 24](#) that the mantle would fall as it says in [Acts 1:8](#).

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Speaking in tongues is a physical sign of a supernatural happening!

When you receive the HG, it places you in a special position with God.

I Pet.2:9,10 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

In the **OT**, this position was limited to a select few. Only those in **the tribe of Levi and his descendants** were allowed to enter into the Holies of Holies and feel the anointing and power of God in their life.

But when Jesus died on Calvary, the curtain was torn by supernatural hands and now everyone has access into the presence of God.

-everyone can have the mantle fall on them, their children and grand
children can have the hand of God in their life.

That mantle is the HG.

It has a special anointing that comes along with it.

If you **have not** been born again of the water and Spirit as it said in

Acts 2:38, you need to. -do it for your own salvation

-do it for your kid's and grandkid's salvation

We want to **pass on the mantle** onto the next generation!

(Kids come on sometime)

Kids.....Bro. Cottrill has been talking about how God wants to put [a special blessing in your life.](#)

We had these **little clothes** made up to **represent God's power** that we want to **give you** this morning.

-in just a few minutes the choir is going to sing and afterwards we are
going to ask each of you to make your way forward and I'm going to
lay one of these over [your shoulder as a sign of God's blessing](#) in your
life.

-you can leave it there or hold it in your hands

God wants to [use you](#); God wants to [anoint you and call you](#) into his work.

Never too young or too old to work for God.

Afterwards, all these adults will [lay hands on you and pray](#) for you.

We want you to experience **twice as much HG** as we have.

We want you to get **twice as many blessings** as we have.

That's exciting! God wants to not only fill you with his Spirit but he wants [to use you](#) as SS teachers, prayer warriors, preachers, ministers wife's, missionaries, and soul winners.

-he wants to bless you musically to lead churches into a close walk w/ God

-he wants to give you a good voice to sing and bless others

You may and may not understand what we're doing here today, it depends on your age, but God wants [to put a calling in your life](#) and [use you](#) beyond your wildest dreams.

So...in just a few moments, we're going to pass these mantles out to you so you can be reminded that you are special in Gods eyes.

Call the choir up

Kids line up in middle aisle and come forward

Pray over kids