

When Life on earth is done, what footprints will you leave behind for others to follow?

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I read a very interesting story this past week that I wish to share with you. A very successful businessman was struggling with a personal problem that he couldn't seem to find a solution for. The matter tormented him day and night and it consumed his energy and time to the point that he couldn't seem to think of anything other than the fact that he had this issue that wouldn't go away and he didn't have a workable solution in mind to resolve it. After days of distress, one day in his office he happened to look up on the wall at the picture of his smiling mother who had died many years before. He began to think about her. She had very little formal education, but had worked alongside her husband to farm land and to raise a son that would make them proud. She spent many hours teaching him the truths of the Bible and to depend on God for answers during the years that he was growing up. He recalled her words on this particular day. She had said, "Son, when life hands you a problem that you can't solve, spend some time working on it and do your best to resolve it. After a time, if it still is beyond your reach, leave it and go to a quiet place and talk to God. Don't talk about the problem; praise Him and thank him for your blessings. Build that relationship with God and when you have rest and peace in your heart brought about by praise and glorifying God, you will get the answer that you need." He could hear his mother's words as if she was standing there speaking to him. He left the office, drove to a favorite fishing spot by the brook and began to think about the wonders and glory of God. After spending time there, he felt peace and rest in his spirit and later that day he had his answer to the problem that had bothered him for days.

There is nothing that compares with godly wisdom being passed down from one generation to the next.

Look at Deuteronomy 6:4. It says "Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." It continues by saying that you shall keep these words that God commands within your heart. But it doesn't stop there. You are to teach them diligently to your children and shall talk about them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Talk about protecting your family from Satan's influence.

It is no wonder that Satan wants to fill people's minds and thoughts with everything that is contrary to Scripture! He loses his influence when people read the word of God and apply it to their lives. It takes only one generation of people who refuse to acknowledge God in their lives to bring darkness to the world. I thank God that many of the Old Testament prophets refused to conform to the godless culture of their times. I am grateful that the apostles refused to conform to the demands of the religious and political powers of their day choosing rather to suffer for the cause of Christ than to deny Him. They paid

with their lives that we may have the privilege of knowing Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to gain eternal life through the blood of Christ that was shed for our salvation.

I want to take you to the book of Hebrews chapter 11 this morning. If you read this whole chapter, you will revisit many Old Testament characters who, because of their faith, accomplished amazing things through God. Their lives riveted of wonderful things, beautiful things, impossible things; things that have eternal value that will never fade away.

Consider Moses mother. She was a slave in the land of Egypt and Pharaoh was the ruler whose word was the law of the land. He had commanded all baby boys to be destroyed in order to control the population. This godly lady feared the Lord rather than the king and she hid her baby for 3 months until it wasn't safe to try to save the baby's life in that manner. She then made a waterproof basket and laid the baby boy in it and had his sister place the basket in the very water that claimed the lives of the Israelite babies. Pharaoh's daughter came to the water, discovered the baby and Moses sister offered to have her mother nurse the baby for the princess. The princess eventually took Moses to live with her in the palace and raised him to be the next Pharaoh of Egypt. However, that mother's faith was instilled in that child and when Moses became of age, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt for he looked to the reward. By faith, he forsook Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Moses, by faith kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood so the death angel passed by the Children of God when the firstborn of Egypt was stricken with death.

Moses led the people through the Red Sea on dry ground and when the Egyptians tried to follow, the waters overtook them and they drowned.

~~There came a day, however, when God spoke to Moses and told him that he was to train Joshua to take his place for he would not be there to lead the people the final stretch of the journey into Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey. Moses had sinned by striking a rock rather than speaking to it as the LORD commanded, thus he would not be allowed to enter Canaan as the leader of the people. See Deuteronomy 3:23-28.~~

God told Moses to command Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him for he would be the one to lead the people on the last stretch of the journey as they entered the land of promise. Moses trained Joshua and he was successful in leading the people the rest of the way home.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews states that Abraham was called to a city that was promised to him as an inheritance. He went out not knowing where he was going. By faith he journeyed to a land of promise as in a foreign country dwelling in tents, temporary housing, for he waited for the city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God. If you

continue reading this chapter, you will learn that Abraham never entered the city in his lifetime, but it is still ahead for him.

A few days ago, I turned on the computer and someone had forwarded a video to me for me to listen to. It was a wonderful group of men singing in harmony without music to accompany them, a beautiful song praising God for his blessings to Jews. The Jewish group was standing on a mountain in Jerusalem overlooking the city and the song that they sang was "We are home after 2000 years, we've come home." My mind went to the Scriptures that promised them that after many years God would call them from all four corners of the earth and return them to the land that He had promised to their forefather, Abraham. Every generation has a purpose and God has a plan for each one. We should be careful how we spend our days and be sure that we stay connected in his will for us.

God spoke in Genesis 18:19 that He knew Abraham for he would command his children and his household after him that they would keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him. This was at the time that God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for the evil and wicked ways of the inhabitants of these two cities. Abraham stood faithful to God and God spared Lot's family because of Abraham.

The last few verses of chapter 11 of Hebrews speak about the fact that there are people who are committed to entering a heavenly city. They see it afar off and are assured that it exists. They embrace the idea and confess that they are strangers and pilgrims on earth, but are designed and created for a heavenly place where God dwells. They seek this homeland that is above the earth for this world is not their home. They desire a better place, a heavenly country therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God for He has prepared a city for them. In John 14 Jesus told his disciples not to let their hearts be troubled. They believed in God, they also needed to believe in Him. In his Father's house are many mansions and if it was not so, He would have told them. He was going to go there to prepare a place for them and if he went to prepare a place for them, He would come again and receive them unto himself that where He is they may be also. When Thomas told Jesus that he didn't know where he was going and he didn't know the way to get there, Jesus responded with these words, "I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

I pray that each one of us will catch the vision of leaving footprints for others to follow and we will choose to enter the narrow gate that leads to the kingdom of God. Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

There is a Sunday school song that we sang as children that says. "Be careful little eyes what you see. Be careful little eyes what you see. There's a Father up above looking down with tender love. Be careful little eyes what you see. Be careful little hands what you do... Be careful little lips what you say.... Be careful little feet where you go....

Take care how you live your life for there are people watching that will follow your path.