
FELLOWSHIP
Parents Raising Their Children According to
the Up-To-Date Vision in the Lord's Recovery

On November 18, 2007, this special fellowship was given to the saints at the Church in Santa Clara. The primary burden of this fellowship was titled: **The Vision and Importance of the Next Generation**. This is the second of five portions.

The Lord Needs Children and Young People for the Future of His Recovery

For the future of the Lord's work, I would ask the older ones to pray much for the young people. The future of the work and the usefulness in the future, no doubt, are with the young people. From the view of saving souls, we should treat older ones and younger ones equally. From the view of the future of the work, however, we should put our emphasis on the younger ones. If the church or the work fails to gain young people, it will be like a family that has only some childless old people: an old grandfather who is eighty-five years old, a father who is sixty years old, and a son who is nearly forty years old. There are no younger ones under them; there are no crying ones or shouting ones. Rather, everyone is well behaved. This is abnormal.

Every church must go to the young people. In any field the future is with the young people. If an industry or a school does not gain young people, that industry or school has no future. This generation is the generation of young people. However, this does not mean that we do not appreciate the older ones. I realize that more and more the going on of the Lord in His recovery will be with the young people. (*Spirit and the Body*, p. 107)

With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, those who were qualified and ready to take possession of the land were younger ones. They were of the second generation. The older ones, those of the first generation, had passed through many things and had learned many lessons. However, they were not qualified to enter into the land. The lessons learned by the first generation surely became part of the heritage passed on to the second generation. Their children certainly inherited from their parents all the lessons they learned during the forty years in the wilderness. By their birth the younger ones were put into a position to inherit the tradition of their family and all that their parents had experienced.

The second generation did not pass through as much as the first generation did, but they received the benefit of what the first generation experienced. What the first generation experienced was not experienced in vain, for it was passed on to the second generation. Therefore, God was able to prepare from the second generation more than six hundred thousand men with a rich inheritance and strong background who were qualified to be formed into an army to fight with Him and for Him. Because this inheritance is being passed on to the younger ones and even being constituted into them, I have the full assurance that when a further testing comes, there will be a very positive result. (*Life-study of Numbers*, pp. 368-369)

Furthermore, we must also do the children's work in a serious way because the children are the future of the church. You may want to consider preaching the gospel to the children first. If, starting from now, we use our effort to work on the gospel for the children whose ages range from six to twelve, then after ten or twelve years, they will be those who will rise up to bear the responsibility of the church service. This way may seem slow, but it is actually very fast. This

way is also profitable. (*Truth, Life, the Church and the Gospel, The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery*, pp. 97, 130)

I will tell you some facts for you to see the importance of children's work. When we started the work in Taiwan in 1949, the parents of a few young brothers, who are presently elders in some halls were single...Thirty years later their children have all grown up, are serving in the church and shouldering great responsibility. When I visited the Philippines... I was amazed that there was another generation of saints in the churches in the Philippines, from the South to the North. A young generation has risen up. The coworkers, elders and brothers who translated for me are all born after 1950. From this you can see that children's work is too crucial. (*Lessons on the God-ordained Way*, p. 205)

We should pay particular attention to the young people in our work in each locality. Today Satan's organizations and philosophies pay particular attention to young people. Our gospel work should place special emphasis on high school and college students. We should spend and pour out our all to save, cultivate, edify, and lead these young ones. (*Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, Volume 55, p. 49)

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