

65 PROMISES
FROM GOD

----- for your -----

CHILD

MIKE SHREVE

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I dedicate this book to my children, Zion Seth and Destiny Hope. Your mom and I love you more than words can say. Being your parents actually awakened within our hearts the truths in this book. We pray and confess that every promise within these pages will be fulfilled in your lives.

(Your Name)

dedicates this book to

(Child's Name)

on

(Date)

May the everlasting God watch over
these promises to fulfill them in your life
and the lives of all of your offspring!

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INTRODUCTION

A MIRACLE FOR YOUR FAMILY

*Miracle: An extraordinary event manifesting
divine intervention in human affairs.¹*

GET READY TO get acquainted with a heart-warming, hope-filled subject in God's Word: the revelation of sixty-five promises God has given concerning the offspring of His people. These are more than feel-good scriptures to encourage you during tough times; these are powerful truths that reveal God's heart for you as His child and your offspring. God wants to work a miracle in your family as you declare His Word.

But before we explore these promises, we need to lay a firm foundation. We must first understand God's view of parenthood and how it differs from ours, as well as how we can effectively appropriate the promises He has given us. So let's begin by examining parenthood from God's perspective.

GOD'S VIEW OF PARENTHOOD

Amazingly the first sign of the blessing of God on both animals and humankind was the impartation of procreative power—the ability to bring forth image-bearing offspring. Immediately after creating the animals, “God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply’” (Gen. 1:22). After creating Adam and Eve, God made a similar statement but with significant additions:

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

—GENESIS 1:28, MKJV

In this passage God not only manifested His blessing upon the fore-parents of the human race by empowering them to have children, but He also revealed His intention to use those children to further His purposes in the world. God's aim is still the same. He is determined to fill the earth with righteous, God-loving children who will subdue the evil in the earth and take dominion over spiritual darkness in the name of the Lord.

Children born into stable homes to parents with strong marriages are far more capable of consistently fulfilling this divine desire. In Malachi 2:15 God commands faithfulness in marriage. Then He explains the reason behind the mandate. He is seeking a “godly seed” (κῆρ). Infidelity in a home can have a dangerous and damaging effect on children, ultimately pushing them toward similar ungodly patterns of living. God is seeking parents who will leave a godly legacy, not a trail of dysfunction. The Contemporary English Version of this verse says it well:

Didn't God create you to become like one person with your wife? And why did he do this? It was so you would have children, and then lead them to become God's people. Don't ever be unfaithful to your wife.

As the *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* explains, “When God chose to create man in His own image, He created a marriage, a family. The community of the family is a reflection of the community in the Godhead [the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]. Its identity, life, and power come from God” (Eph. 3:14–15).² So let me reiterate this important truth: God is seeking parents with strong value systems who will perpetuate His righteous purposes in the earth, parents who will “become God's people” and leave their children a legacy of godliness.

This is high on God's list of priorities, because our time on earth will come to an end. Whatever ground is gained for Christianity in one generation can be totally lost in the next if the former generation fails to impart passion for the things of God to their children. So parenthood is a great blessing—not only to us but to God as well—because through

our children the hope of God's people taking dominion and advancing His kingdom in the earth can live on, growing with each generation.

OUR VIEW OF PARENTHOOD

As we read earlier, the ability to procreate is a blessing from God, but parenting can feel overwhelming at times. Recently I saw a somewhat harried-looking woman walking through a discount store with a flock of kids. Her T-shirt read, "Who are these children, and why are they calling me Mom?" Maybe you're in a similar agitated state of mind. But living in denial won't help. Come to grips with it—you are a parent.

How you view the role God has called you to will make all the difference. Do you look at parenting as a burden, little more than a series of responsibilities to fulfill? If so, it will feel like an unwanted weight. Let me tell you, parenting is so much more than a role you fulfill! Solomon, the wisdom writer, gives us a wonderful insight into parenthood. He wrote, "Children are an inheritance from the LORD. They are a reward from him" (Ps. 127:3, GW).

In other words, children are one of God's most wonderful gifts; the fruit of the womb is an incomparable and generous legacy from on high. When tough times come and your offspring are not as well behaved as you would like, you might be tempted to think being a parent isn't such a blessing. But winning the battles of life—and the challenges of parenting—starts with a choice. You must choose to view parenting as God views it, and you must choose to believe—enough to make confessions of faith instead of declarations of doubt—that your children are a reward.

Speaking negatively over your children is actually a way of cursing them. If you carelessly predict a dark future scenario for your children, your words "nudge" them (sometimes "shove" them) toward that end. Don't do it! Even if your kids are stubborn and disrespectful, don't reinforce the negative by making statements such as:

- ♦ "My children stress me out."
- ♦ "My children are so rebellious."

- “My children just don’t respect me.”
- “My children are walking in darkness.”
- “My children are in the hands of the enemy.”
- “My children will never make it in life.”
- “My children are caught in the world’s web.”
- “I’ll be glad when they’re out of the nest!”

Parents who repeatedly say, or even think, these things tend to weave a very dark, threefold cord around their own hearts—a cord of doubt, despair, and anger. Rid yourself of these binding attitudes right now and weave the opposite. As Zig Ziglar said, “When you put faith, hope, and love together, you can raise positive kids in a negative world.”³ Start by being very positive yourself and by boldly confessing God’s will for your children:

- “My children are an inheritance from God!”
- “My children are part of the fruit I bear in life!”
- “My children are a reward from God!”
- “My children are a blessing!”
- “My children will walk in the light!”
- “My children are in the hands of God!”
- “My children will fulfill their destiny!”
- “My children will be used by God to change this world.”
- “My children and I are building a relationship with permanent value!”

Parents cannot make proclamations like these unless they really believe what Psalm 127:3 says. I am sure you can identify many “gifts” from God in your life: your possessions, your abilities, your calling, your intellect. These are all wonderful, but none of them carry your genetic code. Your children do. The longer you live, the more you will grow to appreciate this mystery.

APPROPRIATING THE PROMISES

It is not enough to simply know the promises of God. You must also activate them in your child’s life. Psalm 127:3 says your children are a blessing from God and a reward from Him. This tells me that He is very interested in your family. He wants these promises to manifest in their lives.

The world seems to be getting darker with each passing generation. Like a creature with many tentacles, spiritual darkness is wrapping itself around the minds and hearts of our youth. Multiplied thousands are being strangled by drugs, alcohol, sexual perversion, gang violence, the occult, intellectualism, false religions, and other diabolical plots and plans of the enemy.

Thankfully, in the midst of all of this danger, there is a place of protection, a place where our children can be preserved from harm. This refuge is in the promises God has given concerning the children of those parents who are in a covenant relationship with Him. When we dedicate our children to God, we place them under His divine influence and care.

My wife, Elizabeth, and I pray these promises over our children often. We urge you to do the same. Go through these divine pledges one by one. Commit them to memory and prayerfully speak them over your children whenever you can. Declaring these promises in faith will release them to manifest in your children’s lives. Remember, Scripture teaches, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (Prov. 18:21). We can choose to speak life or death over our offspring.

You may want to use this book as a daily devotional, either by yourself

LIFE

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.

—DEUTERONOMY 30:19–20

FIRST, THIS PASSAGE can be seen as a promise of a long and prosperous physical life. (See Psalm 91:14–16.) But more importantly, it refers to “life” in the mental, emotional, and spiritual sense. Anger, pride, lust, depression, fear, rebellion—these attitudes will take you and your children away from God’s best for your lives. A home dominated by these attitudes is very dark and full of “death” indeed! When parents “choose life,” they tend to walk in attitudes that are the polar opposite: love, humility, selflessness, joy, faith, and obedience to God. These life-giving attitudes of the heart are then passed on to their children, and the life of God embraces them also.

PRAYER DECLARATION

Lord, I claim this promise from Deuteronomy 30. Because I choose to live for truth and for God, I believe spiritual life will be passed to my child. I pray that he/she will continue the family tradition of choosing life and be filled with the very life of God. In doing so, _____ will escape the destructive results of a life of sin. I confess that the life-giving attributes of God’s nature—love, joy, peace, righteousness, and goodness—will fill our home, our lives, and our relationship. Yes, I choose life for myself and for my offspring. In the name of Jesus, amen (let it be so)!

OBEDIENCE

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.

—DEUTERONOMY 30:19–20

WHEN WE AS believers choose life, that automatically involves choosing obedience. On the other hand, if we disobey God, we are choosing death. This is simple to understand; the Bible doesn't mince words on this issue. God warned Adam and Eve in the beginning, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:16–17).

When Adam and Eve chose disobedience, they chose death—and passed the curse of death on to their offspring. Those who choose life walk in obedience to God. In doing so, they pass the legacy of life and obedience on to their seed. You've heard the old saying, "Like father, like son." That's the way it works.

PRAYER DECLARATION

Lord, I claim this promise from Deuteronomy 30. I refuse the spiritual death that results from a life of sin; instead, I choose life. I choose righteousness. I choose to walk in obedience to Your Word and Your will. In response, I believe You will cause a spirit of obedience to rest upon _____. Instead of the curse of death, he/she will inherit a legacy of life—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—and obediently walk in it all the days of his/her life. In the name of Jesus, amen (let it be so)!

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

—DEUTERONOMY 30:6

CIRCUMCISION IS THE surgical removal of the male foreskin, usually performed shortly after birth. It is a symbol of God “cutting away” from our hearts the “covering” of fleshly attitudes that prevent us from loving and serving Him.

Often we trust in mere instruction and discipline to effect this change in our children. In this verse God is promising to do it supernaturally. Convincing a child through logic and reason is nowhere near as powerful as when that child has an encounter with God that transforms him or her from within. Praise God, the Most High pledges to do that very thing (Rom. 2:28–29).

PRAYER DECLARATION

Lord, I claim for my child a circumcised heart, that You will “cut away” the worldliness, the carnality, and the sensuality that could otherwise corrupt him/her. I acknowledge that this is a promised divine deliverance, a supernatural act of God, and not something I can force by mere religious instruction. I trust You, Lord, to work this awesome, internal transformation in _____ and give him/her a circumcised heart. In the name of Jesus, amen (let it be so)!

LOVE FOR GOD

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

—DEUTERONOMY 30:6

ONCE A PERSON'S heart is circumcised, the potential is awakened in him to passionately love the heavenly Father. Romans 5:5 says, "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." So this is evidently a work of God.

God promises that those He "circumcises" will love God with *all* their hearts. When this truly happens, children will automatically be attracted to those things God loves—the things that have eternal value. This impartation of love is so important that Jesus even climaxed His ministry by praying that the Father's love would indwell all new covenant believers (John 17:26). If He prayed this over us, we should certainly pray it over our children.

PRAYER DECLARATION

Lord, I admit that only You can awaken love for the things of God in my child's heart. I trust You to do that. I believe _____ will not only love You but will also love the things You love such as truth, righteousness, and kindness. I believe _____ will be a very loving child—loving family, loving others in the body of Christ, and loving the lost of this world who have not yet found their way. Yes, I confess that the love of God will be poured into the heart of my child. In the name of Jesus, amen (let it be so)!

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

—DEUTERONOMY 7:9

A COVENANT IS AN agreement between two or more parties, each binding himself to fulfill certain obligations. When we surrender our hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ, we enter a covenant relationship with Him. He in turn obligates Himself to always be with us, forgive us of our sins, fulfill His promises, and preserve us unto eternal life.

This covenantal arrangement overflows to our offspring also. Of course, they must surrender to God in order to receive the fullness of all the covenantal blessings and benefits, but this verse implies that they are automatically on a certain level of covenant connection with God—simply because their parents are already walking with God. Want proof? Remember what God said to Noah, “Behold, I establish My covenant with you *and with your descendants after you*” (Gen. 9:9, emphasis added). The God of Noah is our God. The way He felt then is surely the way He feels now.

PRAYER DECLARATION

Lord, I confess that I am in a covenant relationship with You, and I believe my descendants are as well. I am committed to You, and You are committed to me. I believe You will honor our relationship by committing Yourself also to the welfare of my child in body, soul, and spirit. I believe You will grant _____ grace to walk in a covenant relationship with You and prosper all the days of his/her life. In the name of Jesus, amen (let it be so)!