

THE TORCH IS PASSED

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Torch of Leadership is Passed in Every Generation.
1. A new generation of elders.
 2. A new generation of preachers.
 3. A new generation of missionaries and their families.
 4. A new generation of Bible teachers.
 5. A new generation of Song leaders.
- B. All Leave Unfinished Tasks for Others to Complete.
1. Moses to Joshua.
 - (a) Deut. 31:23: "Be strong and of good courage."
 2. Joshua to Israel:
 - (a) Joshua 23:14: "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all that good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you, and not one word of them has failed."
 3. David to Solomon:
 - (a) I Kings 2:1-3: "Then the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 'I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, and it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.'"
- C. Present church leaders dare not fail the next generation.

I. SOME RELEVANT QUESTIONS FOR TODAY'S YOUNG AND TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

- A. What Type Environment Are They Being Brought Up In?
1. The World.
 2. The Church Community.
- B. What Kind of Habits Are They Forming?
1. Eccl. 11:9: "Rejoice, O young man in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes, but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh. For childhood and youth are vanity."
 - (a) We have to account to God for our habits.
- C. What Kind of Language Are They Hearing?
- D. What Kind of Training Are They Receiving?
1. Psalms 127:4: "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth."
 - (a) "As a twig is bent, so grows the tree."

WE NEED SOME TALL OAKS AND CEDARS FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERSHIP.

2. Deut. 32:46-47: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe - all the words of this law."

"Last night my little boy confessed to me
Some childish wrong;
And kneeling at my knee,
He prayed with tears:
'Dear God make me a man,
Like daddy - wise and strong,
I know You can.'

Then while he slept,
I knelt beside his bed,
Confessed my sins,
And prayed with low bowed head:
'O God, make me a child,
Like my child, here -
Pure, guileless,
Trusting Thee with faith sincere.'"

Unknown

II. THERE ARE SOME THINGS FOR WHICH WE ARE OBLIGATED TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE:

- A. A better view - perspective of life.
- B. A world fit to live in.
- C. A goal fit to live for.
- D. A self fit to live with.
- E. An example fit to live by.
 - 1. Maintaining the influence to accomplish this lies:
 - (a) The parents of all the children.
 - (b) The extended family - grandparents, aunts, uncles.
 - (c) The Church family:
 - (i) Elders.
 - (ii) Preachers.
 - (iii) Class Teachers.
 - (iv) Every Adult Member.

"We cannot live our lives alone
For other lives we touch
Are either strengthened by our own
Or weakened just as much."

- F. We must inspire our youth to noble service to God and man.

"A man is as great as the dreams he dreams,
As great as the love he bears;
As great as the values he redeems,
And the happiness he shares,
A man is as great as the thoughts he thinks,
As the worth he has attained."

III. THE TORCH MUST BE PASSED TO ABLE AND TESTED MEN AND WOMEN.

A. They must be reared with strong expectations:

1. Ecc1. 12:1: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult times come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'"
2. Prov. 1:10: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."
3. II Chron. 15:2: "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."
4. I Tim. 4:12: "Let no man despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity."
5. II Tim. 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."
5. I Cor. 16:13: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be strong."

CONCLUSION:

A. Awesome Implications Face Us If We Fail Our Youth:

1. A family heritage - legacy will be destroyed.
2. The Church of Our Lord will be destroyed in places.
3. Our world will continue to sink to its lowest level.
4. A world will be lost.

ILLUSTRATION: Old man with farm house and TVA.

"My great-grandfather built that fire,
my grandfather and father kept it going.
The last words of my father to me were,

"Son, don't let the fire go out."

B. We Must Pass the Torch of God's Word to Stalwart Men and Women.

1. Let us not leave God out of our plans:

"God is in every tomorrow,
Therefore I live for today,
Certain of finding at sunrise,
Guidance and strength for the way;
Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain,
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain."