

that saves us and raises us everyday!

Ask any grandparent and they'll tell you...God is able!

God is able to take our:

-BURDENS and make them light; DISAPPOINTMENTS
and give us renewed hope!

-FRUSTRATIONS and give us encouragement; DOUBTS
and give us confidence!

-WEAKNESSES and give us strength; FEARS and give us
courage!

Those who have walked the Christian journey can testify that God is a prayer answering God. They sing with confidence the words of the old hymn, "I know the Lord will answer prayer, for I tried him for myself!"

Every godly grandparent needs to keep telling the story!

Tell your grandchildren about the goodness of the Lord!

Tell your grandchildren that they must know the Lord for themselves!

Tell them about Jesus, who died out on Calvary!

Tell them how early Sunday morning he arose from the grave!

Tell them in the morning!

Tell them in the evening!

Tell them in the midnight hour!

Tell them no matter what comes their way...God is able!

No. 9749-Grandparents

The Three R's of Grandparenting

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SCRIPTURE: And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David." Ruth 4:16-17

Introduction

There was a time when all anyone had to learn in school were the three R's. Do you remember them? They were: Reading, Riting and Rithmetic. These were the essential things that anyone who lived on the farm or in the rural South needed to manage their affairs sufficiently. Three R's were considered the basics that any person needed to get by in the agricultural south; there were never any plans for life when more than the three R's were necessary.

Today, times are different. We need more than the Three R's. No one can function well in today's electronic era filled with smart phones, online banking, email, texting and online transfers. Life is so complicated that a high school education is now considered the Three R's, the "Raw Requirements for Regular living." - A high school education what is needed

just to survive, whereas it was once considered an admirable termination point for many. The demands of the times have changed what we call basic.

Parenting is changing to meet today's fast-paced world. Time is a premium and quality is often sacrificed. Time to talk is a premium because of the demands of an extended workday and the competition with cell phones, television, and other electronics. Instant grits and oatmeal have replaced the 15-minute kind. Showers have replaced baths, and micro-waves are increasingly replacing stoves and day care centers are becoming the nannies of the next generation. As parenting changes, however, the basic expectations of grandparents have not changed. The Three R's of grandparenting remain the same: Roots, Relationships, and Reverence. There may be more, but these three are the Three R's, the very basics for all grandparents.

As Christians, we praise God for grandparents and for the gift of grandchildren. Our prayer is for long life, health and strength to continue living the three R's in their presence.

Exposition

This text focuses on the influence of a grandmother that changed the course of biblical history.

The central characters in the text are two women Naomi and Ruth.

Naomi married a Jewish man. The couple had two sons. When the land fell on hard times, the family moved into the land of Moab because it had been reported that there was plenty of food there. In the course of 10 years, both of Naomi's sons died leaving only their widows who were natives of the land and Naomi herself. One of her daughters in law, Ruth, refused to return to Moab. She stood by the older woman, pledg-

from godly grandparents, and that is reverence.

Whether grandparents know it or know they have more influence on their grandchildren than their children. Grandchildren are drawn to their grandmothers and grandpa's. One of the qualities they learn from them is reverence to God.

One granddaughter told her Sunday School teacher that her grandmother has a boyfriend she talks to on the side. Surprised the teacher listened for more. "They have a thing going on." Said the Little girl. I've never seen him but I know he's there because I've heard her talking to him. One day she planted a garden and she talked to him and everything grew. She planned a Thanksgiving meal and invited him to come, I didn't see him but he must have helped because she kept thanking him. She talked to him about my grades in school and they changed." The teacher asked,

"What's this boyfriend's name?" The girl answered, "I don't know his first name, but I know it starts with D. his last name is Lord. Grandma kept saying D-Lord will provide.

D-Lord will make a way. D-Lord will bless. My grandma and D-Lord got a thing going on!"

Every Godly Grandparent has a thing going on with D-Lord!

This so because those who have experienced life in all of its shades and nuances, seem to know the Lord best. Often for their sake, we are blessed.

Those who have weathered the storm know the power of the Lord. Often, for their sake, we are blessed.

Those who have soaked their pillows with tears, wrestling with the tragedies of life, have learned that "weeping endures but a night, but joy cometh in the morning!"

Often for their sake, we are blessed. Just as we are blessed because of our grandparents, we are also saved because of the Grace of God.

Grandparents know that it is nothing but the grace of God

The Need for Relationships

Naomi built a relationship with Ruth. A relationship implies a back and forth or interaction between entities. Dale Evans-Rogers wrote a lot about her 16 grandchildren, and her advice is, if you want to establish a warm bond with your grandchildren have a few days when you are alone with your grandchildren without the parents.

According to Evans, the relationship of grandparents and grandchildren is like the period of courtship, whereas that of parents and children is more like that of marriage. The first is more dominated by fun, and the second by responsibility, and that is a major reason why there is a different psychology at work.

Grandparents are people too, but grandchildren will never know that unless there is a relationship between them. Believe it or not, grandparents were once young, but life didn't stop because you were born and they were suddenly grandparents. Relationships are needed to understand better and appreciate grandparents.

Grandchildren need private time with grandparents, without the parents around, so they can build relationships that teach them how to live as well. When relationships are built children learn that grandpa can tell the funniest stories. He learns that grandma can sing; that the two of them can dance, tell jokes, and laugh until they cry. They also learn that grandpa and grandpa still go on dates and enjoy romance! Relationships help grandchildren to learn the one important truth they need to know about life; how to live a fruitful life.

Reverence

Finally, brothers and sisters, there is a t "R" that we learn

ing to stand with her, go with her and to learn from her. "Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."

Naomi was frustrated because both her sons died and left her with no grandchildren, and no heirs and Ruth with no husband.

The women of the community looked at Naomi with pity because she had no grandchildren, but Naomi arranged for Ruth to meet and marry Boaz. When Boaz and Ruth bore their first son, it legally became the grandson of Naomi.

The women of the community came out to celebrate the birth of the child.

The women did not celebrate the mother, Ruth; they celebrated the grandmother. Yet, they celebrated the fact that Naomi had an heir and was not a grandmother

Ruth and Boaz were quickly moved to the background and were never mentioned again. All through the book, their romance was the central theme of the book. However, after the marriage and the child was born the grandmother became the focus of attention. It was as if the people walked in smiled at Ruth, picked up the baby and hugged the grandmother leaving the mom and pop scratching their heads. In fact, after the child is born, Ruth is never mentioned again, only Naomi and the grandchild.

Look at the way the passage reads, "And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Naomi's life work would be to serve as the great-grandmother to King David, the greatest king of Israel. The book of Ruth exists because it tells the story of grandparents and great grandparents of David, the great king of God's people.

Long after Naomi left the earth a child would be born in Bethlehem, who would save his people.

As a grandmother, Naomi guided Ruth and used the Three R's to nurture her grandson to have the qualities that God could use for his purpose.

The Three R's

Naomi's role as a grandmother challenges us to revisit the Three R's of grandparenting for today's generation. The begin with:

Knowing Family Roots

The book of Ruth traces the roots of King David the King of Israel, and it does so by focusing on the lives of the grandparents. The first 17 verses of Matthew 1 cite a long history of grandparents, great grandparents and great-great grandparents whose life work paved the way for the coming of Joseph the husband of Mary. Joseph's father was named Jacob; he acted as a grandfather for Jesus. Matthew 3:23 tells about the grandparents of Mary (Although Mary's name is not used, but her husband's). Her father was named "Heli." The two books make it clear that there was a grandparent presence in the life of Christ and should be in the life of every family.

Paul wrote two letters called I and II Timothy. He acknowledged that Timothy's Christian faith had its roots in his grandmother. Paul tells it clearly in II Tim. 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."

Christian grandparents give their grandchildren deep roots with the assumption that what they say to them today will plant seeds for the lives they will live tomorrow.

Consider the little boy who grew up in the only house in his subdivision that had trees. His family lived in the area for several generations and trees of all kinds surrounded his house. All of the other houses had small shrubs, pretty grass but they had no trees. In the summer, the boy enjoyed the shade of the big trees that were almost 75 years old and climbed high in their limbs. On his 13th birthday, the boy's father came home with a small seedling in his hand and took him by hand in the yard. When questioned his father said, "It is the family tradition for every child on his or her 13th birthday to plant a seedling in the yard. How long will it take for this tree to get tall enough for me to climb?" asked the boy "About 50 years." Came the answer. "I'll be too old to climb it then," said the boy. "We have trees around this house because your great grand-parents came here on their 13th birthday and planted the first tree. The tree you are about to plant is not for you to climb, it's to provide shade for your great-grandchildren."

As parents, we are not always able to spot the qualities of previous generations in our children. However, as grandparents, we see a little of Grandpa in that smart but free spirited grandson. We see a lot of great grandma in the daughter who is highly industrious and proud. Grandparents can also see the flaws because they know the family roots and they earnestly work to prevent a reoccurrence of a grandfather's failure in a grandson, or a grandmother's weakness in a great granddaughter.

The first "R" of grandparenting is important, it is by this means that grandchildren know their roots.