



Lately I've noticed messages about leaving a legacy. It's usually thought of as a monetary financial gift to family or to organizations in whose missions you believe in. What about leaving a spiritual legacy? If we are living for God we should want our influence to continue after us. I want to pass down to my children and grandchildren, and beyond a godly legacy.

Families can a heritage for good or bad. I was impressed by Susanna Wesley's far reaching influence. Born in 18th century England, she had 19 children, 10 of whom survived. She homeschooled them, devoting one hour weekly to spiritual instruction of each child. She would famously pull her apron over her head to signal to her children that she was praying (which she no doubt needed to do!) and not to interrupt. As a result of her efforts, two sons, John and Charles, became leaders in England's "Great Awakening." John founded the Methodist church. Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns. Hudson Taylor, one of the most influential missionaries who ever lived, was influenced by John Wesley's preaching.

But we don't have to be a Susanna Wesley to leave a godly legacy! First, we have to be intentional in bringing up our children to know, love and serve God. Deuteronomy 6:5-7, NLT states clearly: *You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands...repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.*"

Besides being "taught," spirituality can be "caught" by our children. My mother influenced me to believe in God, even though we didn't have "religious" conversations. I felt her caring nature and observed her turning to prayer during stressful times. Her spirituality was thus passed on to me and to my children and grandchildren. Ps. 112: 1-2, NLT states *"How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere: an entire generation of godly people will be blessed."*

But God gives us grace, when as moms we make mistakes or don't know what to do. God certainly rewards us for our humble efforts. According to Prov. 20:7, NLT, *"The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them."* And we can always pray to the perfect parent for help, for *"The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help."* Ps.34:15, NLT.

Our spiritual legacy shouldn't end with our family. We have a sphere of influence over a unique set of people. Why wouldn't we want to spread the precious message of our loving God who guides us through this life and into eternity? And it's our part of the Great Commission to show people Jesus. By our words and actions we can be His representatives and a blessing to all but more importantly, an influence for Him. Matt. 5:16, NIV says *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* What a magnificent legacy!