

Breaking Family Strongholds by Don Rogers

(Breaking Generational Curses)

Exodus 34:6-7 - "And He [the Lord] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' "

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 - "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse - the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known."

Generational curses are judgments that are passed on to individuals because of sins perpetuated in a family in a number of generations. Generational curses are similar to original sin curses because they can be passed down on a generational basis. They differ in that generational curses do not impose eternal judgment. They bring judgment or bondage during an individual's life, reducing the quality of life, until that individual addresses the sin issues that put the curses into place.

Moses addressed this issue when the Israelites were preparing to enter the promised land. He told the new generation that was preparing to enter in that they would not enter unless they dealt with their own personal sins and also the sins of their fathers. The account can be found in Leviticus 26:39-42

"Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their fathers' sin they will waste away. But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers - their treachery against me and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies - then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land."

As I have said in other writings, curses take away the quality of life. They can bring failure, shame, sickness and even physical death. They are temporal in nature, causing much grief. They are administered to get our attention and encourage us to turn back to God. Those who are humbled by them, repent and find restoration and renewed freedom from the Lord. Those who become angry, self-righteous and rebel against what God has permitted, and thus remain unrepentant, go deeper into bondage and darkness.

The Scriptures reveal a two prong approach for dealing with generational bondage. We have to address (1) Personal sins and also (2) Generational sins (in the family).

At this point, I know that many Christians will reason, "I thought that all the past is under the blood when I received Jesus as my Savior!" As far as your salvation and eternal destiny is concerned, that is true. But our enemy loves to cause us grief when there are sins connected to our lives (personal or generational) that has not been addressed through repentance and confession. Do you remember that time when you received Jesus into your life? You acknowledged your sin in a general way and asked Him to be your Savior and forgive you and cleanse you. The Lord was very gracious with your general confession, but later on the Holy Spirit began to convict you of sins in your past. You were led to repent of them and confess them specifically to the Lord. Why did the

Spirit do that? He wanted you to be free of any legal claims of the enemy upon your life. It had nothing to do with your salvation, but the quality and freedom of your new life in Christ.

Why does God permit the enemy to do be such a hindrance? Because the Lord, in His sovereignty, can use even the enemy's activities to accomplish something good in our lives. Some of the effects include chastisement, testing of faith, a guard against complacency, humility, and the motivation to pursue a sanctified life.

How do we begin to address the problem of generational curses and bondages? First, you must develop two sin lists - one personal and one for your family (including parents and the members of each of their families). You must be specific and thorough. Take your time. Go before the Lord and ask Him to help you prepare those lists.

The following is a list of sin categories to help you prepare your lists. Check the following:

IDOLATRY: _Eastern Religions (list) _Meditation _Chanting/mantras _Cults (list them) _Secret Orders/Lodges _Material things _Money _People

OCCULT: _Astrology _Fortune telling (various types) _Ouija Board _Seances _Dungeons & Dragons (or similar games - board or computer) _Hypnosis/Self-hypnosis _ESP _Crystals _Psychic healing _Occult literature _Occult beliefs _OOBE (Out of body experiences attempted/experienced) _Spiritism _Parapsychology _Psychic beliefs and practices _channeling _mind control

WITCHCRAFT & SATANISM: _Incantations _Spells _Dedications _Rituals _Ritual abuse _Blasphemy/Mockery _Literature _Beliefs _Sacrifices _Perversions _Magic _Santeria _Voodoo _Wicca _Powwow healing witchcraft (Pennsylvania Dutch) _Maloike (Italian witchcraft) _Druidism (Celtic witchcraft)

SEXUAL SINS: _Fornication _Adultery _Pornography _Rape _Incest _Lust _Masturbation _Homosexuality _Abortion _Bestiality _Pedophilia _Exhibitionism _Abuse _Fantasy _Other perversions

DRUGS/ADDICTIONS: _Illegal (list) _Alcohol abuse _Smoking (abuse of body) _Prescription drug dependency _Food dependency

BELIEVING SATAN'S LIES: _Regarding self-image _Regarding God _Regarding religious beliefs _Regarding people _Regarding behavior _Regarding world standards and philosophies

FEAR: _Fear of failure _Fear of success _Fear of Rejection _Miscellaneous fears (list) _Anxiety _Worry _Despair _Hopelessness

UNBELIEF: _Lack of trust _Double-mindedness _Doubts _Skepticism

DECEIT/DISHONESTY: _Lying _Stealing _Exaggeration

PRIDE: _Self-righteousness _Self-focused _Vanity _Arrogance

REBELLION: _Disobedience _Disrespect _Self-will _Desire to be in Control _Stubbornness

ANGER: _Hatred _Bitterness _Resentment _unforgiveness _Rage _Revenge _Slander/Gossip

Critical/Judgmental **Blame -shifting** **Prejudice/Bigotry** **Malice**

WISHING DEATH: **For self** **For others**

VIOLENT ACTS: **Attempted suicide** **Abuse** **Murder**

VULGAR & ABUSIVE LANGUAGE: **Cursing (Lord's name in vain)** **Sarcasm** **Condemning**
Off color stories and jokes

MUSIC: (Regarding content of message or performers' lifestyles) **Occult** **Satanic** **Sexual**
Rebellion **Drug oriented** **Focus on Death**

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE: (with roots in false religious beliefs or with psychic/occult influences) **Reiki** **Therapeutic Touch** **meditation techniques (emptying the mind)**
Transcendental Meditation **acupuncture** **acupressure** **sonopuncture** **iridology**
chromotherapy **sound therapy** **kinesiology** **radionics** **astrologic medicine** **orgonomy**
bioenergetics **biofeedback** **hypnotic regression** **reflexology** **polarity therapy** **Rolfing** **Do'in**
Shiatsu **yoga** **Kirilian photography** **autogenics** **iridology** **Ayurvedic Medicine** **Tai Chi**
Qigong **Traditional Chinese medicine** **visualization techniques** **psychic diagnosis** **psychic healing**

UNSCRIPTURAL SEEKING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS OR SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE: **Priming the pump to receive tongues** **Accepting any personal experience without testing it by the Word of God** **Receiving personal prophecies without testing them and having them confirmed by God and the body of Christ.**

This is only a guide to aid you in preparing your sin lists. It is not comprehensive. Not every sin is listed. Add whatever is applicable to your situation.

Make sure that you are truly repentant as you confess these sins. Otherwise the confession means very little. It is important to be repentant on behalf of your family. If you continue to be angry and bitter towards your family, your prayers will not be effective. Ask God to give you a spirit of forgiveness.

After you have confessed all sins on each list, renounce any claims of Satan upon your life in the name of Jesus Christ. Declare that you have placed all his claims against you under the blood of Jesus Christ, your Savior. Then spend a time of worship and praise to the Lord. Thank Him in advance for the deliverance and healing that He is going to bring into your life.

Don't expect everything to come at once. The Lord will unfold to you new freedoms in the days that follow. Don't compare yourself with anyone else. His work in your life will be different than in other lives. He knows what you need and when you need it. Keep close accounts with the Lord. Stay in His Word and in prayer. Stand against the enemy. When you have new freedoms, remember that the enemy will visit you trying to steal them away from you. Keep your eyes on the Lord. The Lord loves you and He is faithful.

NOTE: If family members continue to sin in the present, their sins should be confessed each day, on their behalf, until they repent of their sins. Doing this will continue to bring grace into their lives and it will also hinder the efforts of the enemy. For more information, check our page on "**True Priesthood**" at <http://www.sw-mins.org/strat2.html>.