

# Prayers for Generational Sins

*“Do not hold against us the sins of the fathers; May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need.” (Ps 79:8)*

The Bible makes a distinction between the effects of personal sin and the generational sins of our forefathers. At the time of salvation, a person is completely forgiven, and he is instantly granted eternal life and a place in the family of God. Forgiveness is our immediate position, and God also works in us to cleanse us. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn 1:9)*

However, the sins of our fathers will affect our lives if we do not deal with them. We must speak them, repent of them and bring them to the cross of Jesus to ask God to separate us completely from the sinful inheritances of our family line. God will forgive us of our sins, but He will not release us from the consequences. God’s Word says that sins will affect future generations. (Ex 20:4-6, Deut 5:9-10). On the same hand, we can reap generational blessings on our children and their children. The law of reaping and sowing also works positively. (Ps 103:17-18).

Each family needs some measure of release from generational bondage. Sometimes a sin bondage is a behavior that is repeated in generation after generation, for example, anger, sexual sin, gossip, alcoholism or laziness. God will not hold us spiritually accountable in our eternal destiny because of the sins of prior generations, but the consequences can hold us bondage. Thankfully, the cycle of strongholds generation after generation can be broken. After being convinced from the Scriptures and the flagrant evidences in your own life, pray to break the negative generational cycle.

1. Be specific in identifying your family’s issues. First, observe. Ask relatives. Remember what you saw growing up, especially “family secrets.” (For example, if you see divorce or infidelity in your extended family, you may safely assume there are bad roots such as covenant breaking, sexual immorality, selfishness and more.)
2. Repent. Name these sins before God. Ask him for forgiveness.
3. Take back Satan’s legal foothold in your family.

Ask God to establish a new line of blessings to your succeeding generations.

*“In Jesus’ name, we acknowledge the generational chain of iniquity in our family. We confess it and repent of the sins on behalf of our forefathers. Father, forgive them. We hold the cross of Jesus between us and our parents and grandparents, back to the beginning of our generational line. The finished work of Jesus on the cross cuts the chain of inheritance of family weaknesses, generational sins, curses and strongholds.*

*With the blood of Jesus, we bind all powers of darkness that operate through these strongholds, so that the power of evil can no longer control our lives or the lives of our children, grandchildren and generations to come. We ask that the blood of Jesus cleanse this generational line of every trace of curses and family inheritances of sin. Reverse the curses and establish blessings to a thousand generations by Your mercy and Your grace, for Jesus’ sake. For freedom Christ set us free (Gal 5:1). We will stand firm, alert in all the will of God, lest we be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. In the name of Jesus, we stand free in Him. Amen.”*

*This information is taken from Sylvia Gunter’s The Father’s Business. For more on prayer, look at all of her resources.*