

Transitions: From My Parents' Faith to My Faith

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- Many parents and local churches are very concerned for their children's salvation and spirituality
- Some neglect it until just before the children leave home, assuming that they will develop faith on their own
- Some think that as long as they make their children attend and follow their instructions that the children will absorb their parents' faith
- And some take a caring interest in helping their children develop their own faith from the faith

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- We watch our youth leave home; we want the best for them, and we pray that they will keep the faith.
- And then we grieve when a number of them leave the faith.
- Why does this keep happening?

Transitions: From My Parents' Faith to My Faith

- We like to blame others
 - Parents blame the schools, other children, the media, the world, or the local church
 - Elders and preachers blame the parents, or the children, or unfaithful members
 - Children blame the church, their parents, or life itself
- What we need to do is stop blaming others, take responsibility for our own part, and work together.

Transitions: From My Parents' Faith to My Faith

- As long as a person's faith is dependent on the faith of someone else, they will be weak and unable to survive spiritually on their own
- In order for a young person's faith to survive on its own, they must transition from their parents' faith to their own faith

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- Elders and preachers can teach them to appreciate the Lord, His word, and to be spiritual for themselves
- Parents must give their children opportunities to grow their own faith, to test their own abilities, to examine their own beliefs
- Young people must be honest with themselves and with those who are helping them grow, and believe that they do so out of love and a desire for the well-being of the young

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- The young can do the same thing adults can do; they can make the faith their faith
- “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. A child is not a Christian child, but a child of Christian parents. A child who is told she is a 'child of Christian parents' should realize that faith is something for her to choose when she becomes old enough to do so. Do not indoctrinate your children. Teach them how to think for themselves, how to evaluate evidence, and that it is acceptable to question and disagree while learning. In such a setting, when the child chooses to believe, it becomes a choice to which she will commit her life.”

Young Adults Can Commit To The Faith

- Joseph - Gen. 39:7-10 - “And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? 10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.”

Young Adults Can Commit To The Faith

- David - 1Sam. 17:37, 42-47 - “Moreover David said, The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you! ... 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he despised him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field! 45 Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands.”

Young Adults Can Commit To The Faith

- Daniel - Dan. 1:8 - “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego - Dan. 3:16-18 - “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

Young Adults Can Commit To The Faith

- Mary - Luke 1:30, 46-49 - “Then the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God... 46 And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.”

Young Adults Can Commit To The Faith

- Timothy

- 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- 2Tim. 2:22 - “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Temptations Distinctive To Youth

- There is warfare within; you may be experiencing it for the first time
 - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Temptations Distinctive To Youth

- There is warfare without
- Pressure from other youth encouraging you to sin
 - 1Cor. 15:13 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits”

Temptations Distinctive To Youth

- Social pressure: humanism, hedonism, atheism
 - 1Peter 4:3-4 - “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”

Temptations Distinctive To Youth

- Hypocrisy and apathy in members of the church
 - Rev. 2:4 - “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”
 - Rev. 3:15 - “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.”

You Have Power

- There is power God gives you
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - Phil. 2:12-13 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

You Have Power

- Eph. 3:16, 20 - “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man... 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

You Have Power

- Eph. 6:10-13 - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

You Have Power

- God stands ready to help you to be spiritually strong
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

You Have Power

- There are weapons in your arsenal
- God's Word
 - Psalm 119:9, 11 - "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word...
11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!"

You Have Power

- Matt. 4:4, 7, 10-11 - “But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God... 7 Jesus said to him, It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God... 10 Then Jesus said to him, Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve. 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”
- James 1:21 - “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

You Have Power

- Prayer
 - Matt. 6:13 - “And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one...”
 - Matt. 26:41 - “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
 - Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

You Have Power

- The Church

- Heb. 3:13-14 - “Exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end”

You Have Power

- Heb. 10:23-25 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- God gives you the same power and weapons to make you spiritually strong that He has given to those you admire

You Have The Ability To Choose

- But you do not have the power to avoid the consequences of your choices
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
- Many lives have been ruined by bad judgment and choices that were not well thought out. Don't spend the first twenty years of your life making the next fifty years of your life painful and miserable

You Have The Ability To Choose

- Choose, for yourself, to become a spiritual person
- Ask in faith, believing that God will give what you need
 - James 1:5-8 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

You Have The Ability To Choose

- It will enhance the quality of your life
 - Prov. 3:13-18 - “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.”

You Have The Ability To Choose

- Become a Christian and serve the Lord from your faith, from your heart, for yourself and no other. In this way, you will commit yourself to the Lord for life.