

FAITH FOR GENERATIONS

*50 Devotions to Ignite a
Passion for Christ through
Love and Worship*



CECE WINANS

EIGHTEEN-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER

with Suzanne Gosselin

KLOVE
BOOKS

Faith for Generations: 50 Devotions to Ignite a Passion for Christ through Love and Worship
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With Suzanne Gosselin

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A Note from CeCe



AS THE EIGHTH of ten children born to David “Pop” and Delores Winans, I have always enjoyed my rich, faith-filled heritage. I remember two major things about my childhood. The first is that our home was always filled with music. Gospel music played throughout our house morning and night. Most of my siblings played the piano and wrote songs, so someone was always either playing the piano or rehearsing for a program.

The second thing I remember is the faith that surrounded me: It was as strong and consistent as the air I breathed. My parents’ commitment to the Lord and His Word enveloped us and guided everything we did. He was unequivocally the center of our home.

Both my parents came from broken homes. Despite their fractured beginnings, my parents vowed together that they would stay married and raise their children to fear the Lord. I was blessed to have a front-row seat to the power of this faith and commitment.

By the way my dad and mom raised us, you would think the whole family tree was filled with saints. But no, like all families, we had our issues and generational curses. For me, the beauty of the Winans story is

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that when my parents committed themselves and their family to God, it changed everything.

As I've raised my own family, and now watch my children raise theirs, I've realized that no family is perfect. The world has become a difficult place in which to pass on authentic faith and a solid identity in Christ. Still, I am totally convinced God honors our commitment to Him and our prayers for the next generation. My parents are an example of that. They raised ten children who not only loved to sing but who grew up to sing God's praises.

In this devotional, I want to encourage you that passing on faith to the next generation is possible. After all, God used two young people committing their marriage and home to Him to raise up a family that would proclaim His wonders and glorious deeds around the world in ways that they never could have imagined.

Even if you don't have children of your own, or your children are grown, God still invites you to participate in this calling. In Old Testament times, the charge was delivered to the community—the people of God. Our God is big and has a heart for all generations to believe in Him and be part of His big story. Our world has never been more in need of truth and the power of God's Spirit. I pray these devotions help you discover new ways of passing on powerful faith to the next generation.

—CeCe



Tell it to your children,
and let your children
tell it to their children,
and their children
to the next generation.

Joel 1:3

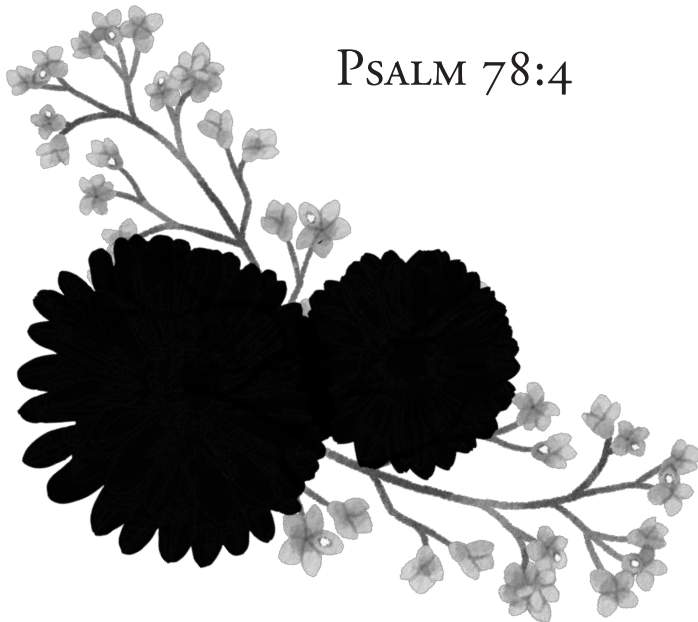


THE MISSION

THIS MISSION OF PASSING on faith to the next generation didn't start with me, and it will not end with me. You and I are part of a greater story that stretches across generations. How we live matters deeply because our children are watching and learning what it means to follow Jesus. The world and the devil battle fiercely to win the hearts of the next generation, but God has given us everything we need to stand firm and pass on vibrant faith. In the following devotionals you'll be reminded of the important mission God has given you and the powerful ways He'll help you fulfill it.

*We will not hide them
from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds
of the LORD, his power,
and the wonders he has done.*

PSALM 78:4



ONE

Tell the Next Generation



IT'S FITTING THAT music is what brought the Winans family together. My parents, David and Delores Winans, met in 1950 as members of the Lemon Gospel Chorus, a citywide gospel choir led by gospel great Louise Lemon. Dad and Mom fell in love and married in 1953 at the ages of nineteen and seventeen.

Both of my parents came from broken homes. My dad was conceived out of wedlock and raised by a single mother, Laura Glenn. Since his father, Carvin Winans, wasn't in the picture when he was growing up, my father went by the surname Glenn. My seven older brothers—David, Ronald, Marvin, Carvin, Michael, Daniel, and Benjamin (BeBe)—were born Glenns.

A short time before I was born, my great-grandfather, Isaiah Winans, who was a bishop in the Church of God in Christ, approached my dad and

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requested that he take the name Winans. My dad consented to his grandfather's wishes out of respect, and that's how I earned the bragging rights of being the first child of my family to be born a Winans.

My mother's childhood was also far from perfect. Her parents weren't believers, nor were they married, and Mom remembers dreading weekends when drunkenness and fighting would break out.

Despite imperfect childhoods, when Mom and Dad married, they committed to tell the next generation of the power and wonders of God. And that's exactly what they did. In big and small ways, they consistently praised God for His glorious deeds. They told us when God had answered a prayer and gave Him glory. My dad yelled out praises everywhere he went!

I'm thankful for a foundation of praise. I never wondered if God was good or worthy of praise. I just *knew*. God makes no secret of His plan for faith to be passed from generation to generation. We're instructed not to hide His wonders from our descendants but to *tell* them of His mighty deeds.

We do this by proclaiming stories of God's goodness and faithfulness. We do it by praising Him aloud for the broken pieces of our stories He's redeemed. We do it by testifying to answered prayer and giving Him glory for the blessings in our lives. As we speak intentionally of God's power and the wonders He has done, we help our families see that the same God who worked in the past is still working today.

Our faith isn't meant to be kept private; it's meant to be passed on. Let your children and grandchildren see you pray and hear you express gratitude. Tell them how God has carried you through seasons of hardship or doubt. Create family moments centered on Scripture and praise. When faith is modeled with sincerity and joy, it becomes contagious and leaves a lasting impression.

TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

Reflect

What are some praiseworthy deeds or wonders of God you can share with the next generation? _____

How can you model faith to the young people in your life? _____

Believe for It

God has called you to proclaim His wonders to the next generation. May you be a faithful storyteller and worshiper who ensures that others know about the greatness of God.

*The end of all things is near.
Therefore be alert
and of sober mind
so that you may pray.*

I PETER 4:7

