



CHRISTIAN
Grandparenting Network

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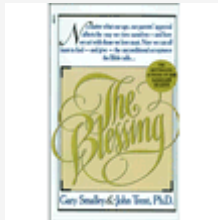


February 25, 2008

Grandparent's Prayer
Suggestion

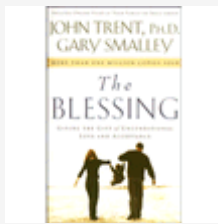
[Hopes and Dreams](#)

Suggested Reading



[The Blessing, Original Edition](#)

By Gary Smalley /
Simon & Schuster Trade
Sales



[The Blessing, Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance](#)

By John Trent & Gary Smalley / Thomas Nelson

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THE GIFT OF HOPE Through The Power of Blessing

Dear Cavin

"Bring them to me so I may bless them." (Jacob with his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh) Gen. 48:9

Howard Hendricks tells of his troubled childhood. Teachers would pass him to the next grade just to get him out of their classroom. Fortunately, things changed for young "Howie." When he entered the fourth grade his teacher took him aside and told him that she "believed in him," that God had something very special in mind for him, and that she would never give up on him. That "blessing," the first he had ever received, changed his life forever.

The significant practice of speaking a "blessing" into a child's life has been with us since Abraham. The spoken blessing is one of the most powerful and effective tools God has given us to give wings of hope to a child. For this reason, the spoken blessing has become the most important thing we do in our GrandCamp programs each summer.

A blessing speaks of that special future and plan that God has already prepared in advance for each of us. It speaks of the value and worth that each of us has because we are created in the image of God. It speaks of the commitment to stand with that child and let them know that there is someone who truly "believes" in them and that God has a plan for their life. The power of a grandparent's blessing today is as great as it was in Jacob's day. Children need to know not only that they are loved, but that they are BLESSED!

ACTION STEP:

Make a pledge before God that you will become a "student" of how God has wired your grandchildren. Determine to gather them to you to communicate your "blessing" upon them and then continue to speak of it often. [Click here](#) to link to the CGN web site for information and helps for preparing a blessing.

GRANDPAUSE:

"The best defense against a child's longing [hope] for imaginary acceptance is to provide him or her with genuine acceptance [the family blessing]." -Gary Smalley and John Trent

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Christian Grandparenting Network | 5844 Pioneer Mesa Dr. | Colorado Springs | CO | 80923