

How to Bless Your Family

"... believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

Rahab is a wonderful example to learn from with regard to being a blessing to your family. It is recorded in Hebrews 11:31 "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient." As we read in Joshua 6:25, "But Joshua helped Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lived among the Israelites to this day." We see that Rahab was not only saved but her entire family was also blessed by her faith in God.

In the New Testament, Matthew tells us in Matthew 1:1, 5 and 6 that Rahab thought a Gentile and a prostitute was included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. So you should not despise yourself; Satan may want you to believe that you are unworthy for God to love you and to help you. Remember what Paul says in Romans 8:1-2, "Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

It is the will of God that you bless your family. The second chapter of the Book of Joshua gives us the account of who and what she did. I would like to point out six characteristics about Rahab's faith that blessed her whole household.

First, she heard and believed (Joshua 2:8-11)

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. Rahab heard what God had done through Israel. Even though all who live in her country were melting in fear because of the Israelites, she believed in God. You do not have to be somebody to have faith. She was not the cream of society and yet she believed what she heard about the God of Israel.

Second, she committed herself because she believed (Joshua 2:2-6)

Rahab had faith in God and she took the risk to hide the spies in the roof and later let them escape by holding the rope and letting them down from the window. Faith without works is as good as no faith. The Bible calls it 'dead faith'. But she committed herself to take the risk for God because she believed.

Third, she had faith for her own salvation and for that of her household (Joshua 2:12-13)

She pleaded with the spies to save her and her family from death. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. This is not just physical death but spiritual death too. As a believer, what are you pleading before the Lord? Do you pray, intercede, fast and live a life so that you are a God-fearing believer? To believe in Christ is to be a new creature. We must not talk but live the way we believe so that our family will also believe and be blessed.

Fourth, she believe that those who did not accept God and obey God were lost and without hope.

The Bible says, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18 NKJV). Rahab believed in the damnation of those who were lost; who turned their backs on God. Do you believe that your loved ones are heading towards destruction? Do you believe that God's plan of salvation is through Jesus Christ? Salvation belongs to God. Rahab knew the living God through the people of Israel. She believed, obeyed the instructions and she was saved from destruction.

Fifth, her faith gave her passion for the souls of her family (Joshua 2:13)

Has your faith given you a passion to see your family saved and not destroyed? Jeannie is the eldest in her family of six, and she accepted the Lord in 1978. Since then she has been praying for her family's salvation. One year later one of her brothers got saved. In 1989, another of her brothers also received the Lord together with his wife. Through her persistent prayers and witness, all her brothers and sister together with her parents have since accepted the Lord as their personal Savior and are baptized in water. Your family can be blessed, if you believe and put your faith into action.

Sixth, she was alone in her faith.

Your faith will sometimes lead you on a lonely path. Just like the Bible says in Psalms 68:6, "God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in the sun-scorched land." Are you the only one saved in your family? You can be a blessing to your family just Rahab was to her family.

A scarlet cord was used as a sign of Rahab's salvation and that of her family (Joshua 2:18, 21). It was the symbol of her expression of faith. To bless your family, your faith will be a means to reach even the worst sinners. On the other hand, the spies were the instruments God used to help her bless her family. Have faith in the instruments that God has ordained to help you bless your family. God will answer if you pray for the salvation of your family. God can use us and the preachers of the Word of God, the Church and others. They may have weaknesses, but do not give up on them, hold on to your faith and believe like Rahab for the salvation of your family.

You do not need extraordinary faith to bless your family. In Jeremiah 38:7-11, Ebed-Melech used a rope that was padded with old rags to pull Jeremiah out of the pit of death. Likewise, your family and friends can be pulled out from the pit of destruction with what may be considered the weak things of this world. Do not let anyone discourage you because of your faith. Believe that all your family can come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and do whatever is necessary. Your dynamic faith can bless your family!

(All the above quotes are from The New International Version unless otherwise stated.)

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