

It's my privilege as a colonial member of a couple of decades to report to you that not only is colonial vibrant, but colonial has great opportunity ahead. Because what I'm going to share with you today was really birthed at Colonial 2014. After moving back from California, doing a stint at a university, I gathered with some other grandparents because I had noticed the impact of grandparenting, particularly on my wife, who's now with the Lord, with these other saints that we honored. And I gathered in a Sunday school room and I said, we really need to take a look at what God is doing with this elder generation. Why is he extended our life? For what Purpose, and how are we applying this extended life that we're so blessed with here in America? So I began to churn through the Scripture and look at the nuances and the message to grandparents, and I discovered something. Now I have a PhD and I do social science research. I founded the National Center for Fathering and fathers.com. I've done tons of work both scientifically and then practically. And as I looked at the scripture, it was kind of, oh my goodness, you have Lois, the grandmother of Timothy, who faithfully taught Timothy the Scriptures. Come on, Grandma, you are doing powerful work. This becomes the Bishop of Ephesus. He was all ready for the apostle Paul. Why? Because his grandmother was involved. I think of other leaders. Even Ruth, You know, the great grandmother of King David. I think of even the leadership that has been expressed, you know, over the generations. And then I said, okay, grandparent, grandmother. Grandfather, grandson, granddaughter. Less than 30 passages relate to those words. I said, there's got to be something more. So I dug deeper and I saw generations. We know the sins of one generation can pass on, but the blessings of generations that

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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are tuned in, like you and I have been tuned in, can go for a thousand generations. I thought, Wow, this is big, big stuff. So then I factor analyze because as a statistician, you take the corpus of data and analyze and say, okay, this speaks to this, this, this and this, and how does that mesh with all this stuff about grandparenting? And then observing my wife who at that time was just glowing with a different aura that grandmothers glow with, You know what I'm talking about. If you've had that privilege and by the way, you don't have to be a biological grandmother because one of the most powerful spiritual grandmotherly influences never had natural children. Her name was Anna. She was at the temple when they brought Jesus and Simeon, a spiritual grandfather. And Anna blessed this child. You have not only dignity but destiny as a blesser we talk about being blessed or blessings we receive. You are anointed as a blesser and I believe if we can capture that, will reinvigorate acts two young men, young women. They're going to see visions. Old men, old women. We're going to dream dreams such as what was expressed right here. So I want to start by just giving you a touchstone passage. After reading through the Scripture, I have one Scripture that's worth memory and pondering, and then I'll unpack some others that I do think will lead us powerfully to this role that we can embrace and have the generational impact God has designed and that Scripture is found in this book. Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is the hinge pin of the Old Testament. If you want to understand the entire Old Testament, you've got to see what Moses collected in the book of Deuteronomy. The 90 plus year old scholar Dr. Bruce Walshe, a colleague and a teacher of mine, said Ken, the Old Testament, he's fluent in Hebrew, eukaryotic all the ancient Near East

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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languages. He is a scholar, retired. It's Deuteronomy. You need to 00:04:51  
understand, not only the Ten Commandments, but the application. Look 00:04:59  
at what this says and note the word children's children. Deuteronomy 4:9 00:05:06  
Only be careful now the reason. Be careful this is italicized because in 00:05:11  
Hebrew that is a verb. That means this is an activity that we need to be 00:05:16  
constant and vigilant in and watch yourself closely so that you do not  
forget the things that your eyes have seen. This is so good, Pastor Greg, 00:05:29  
this blessing where we can talk. What's God doing? I see him over here, I 00:05:33  
see him here, I see him in my siblings life and needs to continue to have  
the water from above. But then look what it says. Don't let them fade from 00:05:43  
your heart eyesight. It does fade. But what doesn't fade is the work that 00:05:50  
God has allowed you to see. And this is the important. As long as you live. 00:05:56  
Every time we have breath, God wants to use that breath to send a prayer, 00:06:00  
a prophetic word to a generation that is now needing those words of  
assurance and encouragement. Teach them to your children and to their 00:06:17  
children after them. The need to be that remembering voice teach. Now, 00:06:23  
you might say, I don't have the gift of teaching you by your example, and I  
will parse that in just a minute Are, a teacher. Little eyes watch the big 00:06:37  
adults that provide for them, that help them, that discuss issues with  
them, that help others, that minister at this church. So taking this 00:06:50  
scripture, I then then looked at, you know, some of the scientific literature  
and say, how does this mesh up? Well, you know that the foundation of 00:06:57  
grandparenting is love, love, love. And I liken it to this and seeing these 00:07:06  
images right here of what grandparenting is all about. This is you, this is 00:07:13  
me. And this reminds me of of something that I've wrestled with. You 00:07:15  
know, what grandparenting is? Parenting is Pastor Tammy and Greg and 00:07:22

## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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others would allude to is rooted in the richness of giving guidance, providing discipline, direction, accountability. Parenting is Old Testament. 00:07:34

You got to establish the law. You've got to have boundaries. Brothers and sisters, do you know what grandparenting is? It's the New Testament. It's 00:07:36

just love, love, love. Now, aren't you glad that you've moved from the Old Testament to the New Testament so you can revel in this joy? God has 00:07:43

given you life to experience that. But be reminded Jesus didn't come to abolish the law but fulfill it. As you fulfill the guidance and the directives 00:07:49

of your children who are parenting your grandchildren. The doorway to that household will be open. And this becomes particularly difficult when 00:07:58

they say, Hey, I don't want you to take them to church. I don't want you praying with them. I don't want you teaching them God's word. This is 00:08:02

difficult because you know what God has endowed you with. Presence, presence of just being there and following those as long as they're not 00:08:10

upending. Guidelines that the parents have set up allows you entrance to the hearts of that generation. So I say that because that's a difficult area. 00:08:19

I hear a lot of well, I would like to take them. I would like, you know what the power of this supersedes the power of parental control. That doesn't 00:08:24

allow the spiritual truths that we know. Search the globe, do an ongoing studies. And I'm going to tell you a grand parenting case study and this 00:08:30

case study relates to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren full time. Over 2.2 million grandparents are raising 7.5 million grandchildren 00:08:32

under the age of 18 full time. That takes a hit on your health. That takes a hit on your energy. It's it's like you're not wired. It is so important that kids 00:08:40

have parents, but when grandparents have to fill that role. They're one of my heroes. If you're a grandparent right now that is doing that, I salute 00:08:51

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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you. And if I get to heaven before you, I'm going to say, Lord, we need a Congressional Heavenly Medal of Honor to bestow on these grandparents. And if you know a grandparent that is doing this in a custodial way or over the top, encourage them. Give them a word of blessing. I know what you're doing. Is there anything as I challenge the Overland Park campus, I said, Hey, the flower garden take vases of flowers to those heroes because they're doing yeoman's service. So the story is well known and documented. And I can share this with you. This is Shannon. She's raising single mother, three children in Ohio. The father is not in the scene. This is a single mother trying to make it. But as single mothers are challenged to do, it is tough. And Shannon succumbs to addictive behaviors, so much so that the children are put in foster care. This is Shanann's dad. His name's Ron. And Ron said, My children are in foster care isn't going to be. I just can't stand that. What can I do? And it's arduous to get a child out of foster care, but grandparents have a special way that they can do it. As kin as related. But it's complex because this is Ron's wife. Ron's wife, Nellie. These are her grandchildren. And so he's saying to Nellie, Hey, I got three of my grandchildren. They live at a different state in Texas. And this is what I want to raise to the lionesses of the kingdom that are here. We know in Chronicles of Narnia, Aslan was the hero. You know who the heroes of the family are? Grandmothers. It's time that the lionesses of the kingdom hear roar, roar on behalf of their children and their grandchildren. And that is you. Don't underestimate your power or influence as a grandmother or grandfather. You have no idea. So to Nelly, I salute you for what you did. You rescue these children and look what God did. This is

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

one of those grandchildren. Simone Biles, the Olympian that made all of	00:12:47
America proud, was reared by her grandparents. So don't forget,	00:12:56
whatever the situation. And right now, we're in family fracture. Things are	00:12:59
messy everywhere you go. When you reach in with the grace of God, he	00:13:06
shows up in a powerful way. Now I want to go on and give you what I	00:13:14
believe to be a coherent theology and a practical resource built on an	
acronym, Heart. And these are the components of healthy grandparenting	00:13:26
grandmothers, grandfathers and surrogates. The first is this HERITAGE.	00:13:34
Your leaving a heritage establishes identity. Identity in this generation,	00:13:38
you know, is for grabs. Oh, they say you're this. They say you're that.	00:13:48
When you allow your grandchild to have connection to your history. Now,	00:13:52
don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying, you know, you go to your four	00:13:59
year old grandson and say, hey, granddad's been carrying this a lot of	
years. You know, when I was in college, you know, I succumbed to alcohol	00:14:07
and da da da da da. Okay. No, I'm talking about being appropriate.	00:14:13
However, we do know the more you're aware of your heritage, so says Dr.	00:14:16
Marshall Duke at Emory University. It builds resilience. This is a resilience	00:14:23
builder. In other words, if you know where you came from, if you have an	00:14:32
awareness of that, that gives a sense of depth and dignity. And in a world	00:14:41
that doesn't know the right hand from the left, a grandmother can calmly	
say to a grandchild that may be struggling, Hey, I helped changed your	
diapers when you were young. I know who you are because that is even	00:14:55
under attack, your basic identity. So my. Challenge and encouragement is	00:15:03
let the heritage come out. And I can tell you, in the Canfield household,	00:15:10
we have 15 grandchildren, actually, 16 grandchildren, okay? Nine	00:15:18
granddaughters, the rest grandson seven. And what they like to hear in	00:15:23

## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

HERITAGE is where granddad screwed up. I don't get it. Just tell us a story. And if it's not that, it's how did their parents, you know, do something out of hand? So I have to gingerly think, okay, what can I say? And so forth. And and when I tell the story in third grade, I was in third grade and I was in a public school classroom. And the brownies that is the Girl Scouts. The younger had brought candy bars to share with the kids. It was Halloween day and they had them at the back of the room. I went back to sharpen my pencil. I just grabbed one of those, took it back to my desk, unfold it, you know, chewed on it. A teacher caught me. I was busted, called my dad. My dad said, Oh, you did that. Guess what? You're not going to go trick or treating. You're going to stand at the door and give candy to all those that come by. Oh, my gosh, my grandchildren every Halloween. Want to hear that story? Will you tell us, Granddad, about. I told you that story. No, but tell it to us again. Oh, my gosh. Now, what I'm saying is simply this HERITAGE means sharing the things that are good and being vulnerable, appropriate to your grandchildren's age about things that would be helpful and encapsulated in HERITAGE. Is inheritance. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children. Let me expand that. It's not only this, it's this and it's this. We have. Lots of this. Now you can always leave more, but we're woefully needing to give more of this and more of this. So as we move forward in this HERITAGE, I do believe not only will identity be strengthened, but resilience. And what Duke found out during the teenage years, what do you need? Resilience. Because there are things that they are going to face. And if they know where they came from, they have a storehouse as it's been given by you. Here's the second thing. An example. Boy, as I

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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looked at the surveys of over 800 who were queried to ask how their grandparents, their grandparents influenced them, they would say over and over how my grandfather cared for my grandmother when she was sick, how my grandmother took care of my grandfather, how they learned and taught us how to forgive others, how we learn to be grateful and full of gratitude. Those things that example just fixate in the mind of a young child as they go forward. One of my colleagues, who was a therapist had a young collegiate woman that was struggling as she adjusted to a collegiate college life. And he asked her, What keeps you from getting involved in the behaviors that you know are not healthy and reckless? And she looked he she looked back and said, I can never do that. Because my grandmother told me and was an example I could never go against. She was deceased. So from the grave here was this young collegian protected by the example of a grandparent. Now the next piece. Yes. What I discovered from a secular journal. And it's the Journal of Marriage and Family, a well known journal not known for its biblical what I'd say insights. But the author of this article who interviewed grandchildren, said something that really struck a chord. He noted that those adult children whose grandparents were deceased, said, My grandpa, my grandma, my nana was like an angel. An angel in disguise. A guardian angel. And I thought about that. Now I am not stretching the theology to say we're angels. Please understand. But you know what? You're kind of like angels. What do angels do? They bring messages of good tidings. Angels show up and they have words prophetically that will guide that next generation. And what do angels do? In the Book of Revelation. They war spiritually in the heavenly realms. If we get the lionesses and the lions of the kingdom

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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roaring right now, we're going to have familial revival or the revival of the family. And that is what is before us. It's our opportunity. And I tell you, I am vested here. I know Ted Nelson. Ted and I were friends. Phil Truesdale, Doug Rumford, Jim West, It's Pastor Greg. I haven't met and got to know him. Todd There there is. What's great about Colonial is there aren't any big what I'd call schisms or crises. You know, you're just doing solidly and consistently what God wants according to his word. So this angelic influence, I do believe, is something that we need to think of only as it was shared by these grandchildren, thinking, Man, my grandmother or grandfather, they were like angels. The fourth thing is this and you'll see this is an acronym that. Helps us remember. It's RECONCILING now as a grandparent of so many. This is where I am vulnerable, simply because I haven't been a perfect father. I have not been a perfect grandfather. And it's recognizing sometimes things I may have said or done brought hurt to my children or grandchildren. So those three famous phrases, which I teach fathers become the regular language when needed. By grandparents. I was wrong. I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? You know, the repentance that Pastor Greg just spoke about. It really does have power. And, you know, thinking humorously, even when I was fathering before having grandchildren, I remember one time I was at the house and I was thinking through, you know, something that I could have done probably better and not get upset. And I said, you know, with five children, I said, you know, guys, before we did it, I just thought, you know, I, I was kind of out of hand what I said. And I'm, you know, sorry for what I did. And and will you forgive me? I mean, you could hear a pin drop. Dad, could you repeat that again? Could you be more self disclosing? And so

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## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

before I know it, what am I doing? Bringing myself to a humble place	00:23:20
where I should be in anyway? My point here is that you do have the power	00:23:26
to reconcile generations. Now, it may not be people have their own issues	00:23:32
and go their own ways. And so they may say, Hey, you did your best. I	00:23:38
don't want to talk to you anymore. Then get with another grandmother or	00:23:43
grandfather or put that on the prayer request. As I saw people coming in	00:23:48
praying because God's going to show up. He wants his family healed, his	00:23:52
spiritual family, the woundedness that is so pervasive. The balm of Gilead	00:24:01
is wanting ready to be applied wherever it is needed. And the last is this.	00:24:09
And this is the heart of grandparenting. It's the TEACHING mode.	00:24:11
Teaching helps us develop discernment. Teaching helps us share stories	00:24:16
that that are very important because they're part of your history. I mean,	00:24:28
your house is like a museum to your grandchildren. It has artifacts now.	00:24:31
I'm serious. Okay. Start unloading the museum. Okay. Pass it on. Invest	00:24:33
that, and God will use that. Those mementos that have meaning to you	00:24:45
that set proudly those pictures and so forth. Someday they're going to	00:24:49
get dispersed. Earlier is better. If it's done in the right way, Then the	00:24:51
stories you have, oh, my gosh, they're rich. You have a unique gift that no	00:24:59
one else can give. This history is important and as the scripture said,	00:25:04
teach them. To your children and your children's children. How did you	00:25:11
come to know Jesus? When were you baptized? When did you see the	00:25:16
first miracle of somebody coming to Christ? What happens when you get	00:25:23
together with others in a fellowship like this? They need to hear those	00:25:28
things that will draw them forward. So I need the help of some younger. In	00:25:34
the audience, Do we have anybody that is under 21 years old? Okay. Will	00:25:46
you stand up wherever you are? Anybody under 21. Hey, thanks, guys.	00:25:49

## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

Hey, Thank you. Okay. All right, now, look, this. This is the future, okay?	00:25:51
Now, typically a colonial. You know what we do? We read God's word.	00:25:59
When you proclaim God's word, I'm going to read this with you. There is power released, so follow me and let's read this word together and be loud. Okay? Be loud. All right. Gray hair is the crown of glory. It is gained by living a righteous life. Better to be patient than powerful. Better to have self control than to conquer a city. We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines where they fall. Better. A dry crust eaten in peace than a house filled with feasting and conflict. A wise servant will rule over the master's disgraceful son and will share the inheritance of the Master's children. Fire test the purity of silver and gold. But the Lord tests the heart. Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip. Liars pay close attention to slander. Those who mock the poor, insult their maker. Those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished. Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the age, and parents are the pride of their children. Thank you. Thank you. You may be seated. There's purpose in that because when you read out loud, it was so good to see so many grandsons stand up when you read this out loud. Do you know what you're doing? You're calling forth what God has desired for every family and every household. This book (the Bible) Which is probably the most important treatise on parenting, marriage, family, depression, anxiety, history and a lot of miracles can change the world. This is prophetic right here. And when God came down, the word became flesh and dwelt among us. You know what? When you stood up and read that, the word became flesh and you ministered to all these grandparents. Am I correct? Amen. Now, as we go forward, I just want to make a few observations on	00:26:04 00:26:16 00:26:27 00:26:36 00:26:42 00:26:51 00:27:00 00:27:06 00:27:13 00:27:23 00:27:31 00:27:49 00:27:51 00:27:58 00:28:15 00:28:17 00:28:24 00:28:33 00:28:34

## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

those scriptures. First of all, gray hair or no hair, it is a crown of glory.	00:28:42
How do you get gray hair? By living a righteous life. Better to be patient	00:28:48
than powerful. Better to have self control than to conquer a city. Isn't it	00:28:58
interesting in the Book of Proverbs? Those are two of the fruits of the	00:29:04
spirit that Paul would enunciate. Being patient, having self control. We	00:29:09
may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall. Yes, we think	00:29:16
we take chances. But the Lord knows how those numbers are going to	00:29:19
come up better. A dry crust eaten in peace than a house filled with	00:29:25
feasting and conflict. It's not about having more stuff. It's about the	00:29:31
peace that comes when we're together. A wise servant. And this talks	00:29:38
about being industrious. All you that read that will rule over the master's	00:29:41
disgraceful son and will share the inheritance of the Master's children.	
Why? Because God shows up for industrious, God fearing young men and	00:29:51
women. Fire test the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.	00:29:58
This is where you get tight with judgment. The Lord knows what's going	00:30:02
on in the heart. We don't. Those who mock the poor insult their maker.	00:30:08
Those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished. This is	00:30:13
what I love about you younger generation. You see what social social	00:30:20
justice is in the right way. You don't mock people that have been through	00:30:24
a very difficult, onerous situation. You see if there's anything you can do	00:30:31
to help bring good news. Grandchildren. You're our crowning glory. You	00:30:38
guys are. You are someone's grandchild. Now, if you don't have a natural	00:30:43
a grandparent alive. This is your spiritual household where you can take	00:30:50
root. That's one of the heritage experiences I have, having the elders	00:30:55
here, the pastoral leaders. Bless me when I was your age. Lastly, parents	00:31:05
are the pride of their children. There's no one like you. There's no one can	00:31:12

## Dr. Ken Canfield (continued)

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replace you. And be assured, new beginnings. We all get a second 00:31:17  
chance. This is a household of second chances. And following this lead 00:31:23  
that God has provided us, we'll get to see another day in the world  
through our children's children's eyes. As I said earlier. I want to 00:31:43  
encourage you. Don't underestimate your role as a grandfather, natural or 00:31:47  
spiritual as a grandmother. Natural or spiritual. As I hope you get to 00:31:57  
experience a great, great of both. Because you are. The word becoming 00:32:06  
flesh and tightly weaving yourself to those in this body. And what God is 00:32:18  
doing will be part of your success. I believe that and want to pray that 00:32:22  
over you right now. Lord, we have fulfilled and are seeking to fulfill your 00:32:28  
word. We've submitted our lives to you, but we want more. So I pray a 00:32:32  
new and fresh outpouring of your spirit on the grandchildren who stood  
up and recited your word over the mothers and fathers that are  
stewarding, children that need to hear your voice and over the  
grandparents that are able to do things that only you can do through  
prayer and the diligent work that you have done already. Don't let this 00:33:08  
fade from their heart and may colonial and all that call Colonial home rise  
with new power in Jesus name. Amen. 00:33:19