

# Warriors On The Move

## Joshua Generation

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### Does God Really Change People?

Otelia Anderson

I made a promise to myself when my dad died to write a book about his life. That day is not quite here, but I would like to share some things with you about my father.



you either loved him or you ran from him, there was no middle ground. My father came to know the Lord late in life, but when he gave his life to Christ and asked the Lord to come into his heart, Willie Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Davis of Darlington, South Carolina, the first of 8 children, changed; he turned 180 degrees.

I see people every day that say they have changed. They are saved, yet the same old words come out of their mouth's, and they dress the same, look the same, behave the same. The change seems to be that you see them in church one or two times a month, they carry a Bible, still cuss you out if they get angry, still lie, cheat and steal when they think no other "church folks" are around. That wasn't the case with my dad. The day that dad met Sweet Jesus was the day he changed; he got a new heart, new attitude, new song, new language, and a new love. Perhaps the only real fault that I can see looking back is that his love was out of order; he loved God, Jesus, the Word above all living things, then his grandson, his wife and his child. His grandson was more than special to him, the son he never had. You had to know dad, before he met Sweet Jesus to really understand the completeness of his new birth.

My dad was a very attractive man. What I would often hear were the terms, "Ladies Man " or "Slick Willie". He liked to dress to impress, smell good, flash a beautiful smile, and loved to gamble and a drink was not far off.

My dad liked to go fishing. We went often and would sit for hours fishing and talking.. ..until he met Sweet Jesus, then he no longer had time to fish..he would say that now he was fishing for souls. He would get up 5 o'clock in the morning singing praises unto the Lord. Worship the Lord, and read the Bible for several hours and mediate on what he read. He most often read out loud (faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word you must hear the Word). If you did not want to hear him reading out loud – that was just too bad - he was putting the Word in himself and his home. He visited the hospital weekly, visited the prisons, if you missed church, he went to check on you. He would drive 120 miles to tell someone God loved them. He was always available for his Pastor, no matter the day or hour. He prayed for everyone. On his deathbed, weighing less than 100 pounds, he was still praying for others....some of you reading this - know that it was you that even as death knocked, he lifted your name to the Father.

On more than one occasion people have told me that they saw angels in the car with my dad (at the time I thought some people were a brick short (the brick short was me with my unbelief)). Once my dad left Monterey California on a Sunday morning at 6 a.m., he arrived in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday evening about 8p.m. You do the math. During the drive from Monterey, he has time to witness to a truck driver at a rest stop and lead him to Christ.

Pastor Sheldon related this story to me. One day he was home and felt that the Lord was talking to him, gave him a name of a woman and told him to go minister to her. Dad came by his house and he related to my dad what the Lord told him. Dad asked Pastor Sheldon, 'Well, what are you doing just sitting there?' "If God told you to do something, get going." Pastor Sheldon said he didn't know where to go. Dad told him to get in the car and this story ended up at a hospital where they were told there were no such patient by that name. Pastor Sheldon was ready to leave, but dad, told him no, that if God said this was the place, it was the place. They went back and asked again, and the woman was found on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. The woman asked them what took so long, they were supposed to have been there yesterday. Pastor Sheldon prayed for the woman and she was healed!

People could cuss Dad out, yet he never got offended. He would just shake his head and say, "Oh man." He would keep praying, keep loving, never giving up, trusting God each day to bring about what God does best, changes in the lives of those who are lifted up to Him.

I saw a man change totally and completely before my eyes. A man that "knew there was a God, but did not want to hear about him, never went to Church, and his life was lacking nothing as far as he was concerned

How many of us are born again, but if our children do something wrong, we still enable them, we help them, when we know we are stepping outside of God's will, but God understands.

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## FOUR WIVES

There was a rich merchant who had 4 wives. He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to delicacies. He took great care of her and gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the 3rd wife very much. He's very proud of her and always wanted to show her off to his friends. However, the merchant is always in great fear that she might run away with some other men.

He too, loved his 2nd wife. She is a very considerate person, always patient and in fact is the merchant's confidante. Whenever the merchant faced some problems, he always turned to his 2nd wife and she would always help him out and tide him through difficult times.

Now the merchant's 1st wife is a very loyal partner and has made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and business as well as taking care of the household. However, the merchant did not love the first wife and although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.

One day, the merchant fell ill. Before long, he knew that he was going to die soon. He thought of his luxurious life and told himself, "Now I have 4 wives with me. But when I die, I'll be alone. How lonely I'll be!

Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I loved you most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" replied the 4th wife and she walked away without another word. The answer cut like a sharp knife right into the merchant's heart.

The sad merchant then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you so much for all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!" replied the 3rd wife. "Life is so good over here! I'm going to remarry when you die!" The merchant's heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the 2nd wife, "I always turned to you for help and you've always helped me out. Now I need your help again. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!" replied the 2nd wife. "At the very most, I can only send you to your grave." The answer came like a bolt of thunder and the merchant was devastated.

Then a voice called out: "I'll leave with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The merchant looked up and there was his first wife. She was so skinny, almost like she suffered from malnutrition. Greatly grieved, the merchant said, "I should have taken much better care of you while I could have!" Actually, we all have 4 wives in our lives. The 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it'll leave us when we die. Our 3rd wife? Our possessions, status, and wealth. When we die, they all go to others. The 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how close they had been there for us when we're alive, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave. The 1st wife is in fact our soul, often neglected in our pursuit of material wealth and sensual pleasure. Guess what? It is actually the only thing that follows us wherever we go. Perhaps it's a good idea to cultivate and strengthen it now rather than to wait until we're on our deathbed to lament.

## AS I SEE IT

### The Blessing of Unity

Dr. Jean Jackson

In this Psalm, King David is describing what it is like when brethren dwell together in unity. But before I get to its description, please note that the Psalm is to the brethren (members of the household of faith) who dwell (abide, continue, remain) together in unity. This is not to those who drop in from time to time, nor for those who continue or abide but do so with malice, envy, unforgiveness, etc. It is for those who make the effort to continue or remain together in unity. Many times we think we're in unity because we're in the same place at the same time, but this is not necessarily so. Unity speaks of that which we have in common beyond location and time. David says this place is both good and pleasant. There are many things in life that are either one or the other, but unity is both.

Since true unity is much of the time rare, David illustrates for us what it can be compared unto. He says it's like the oil that ran down upon Aaron's head, beard and all the way down to the hem of his skirts. Aaron was the high priest, and, the oil was both sacred and costly, both costly and symbolic. It was sacred because it was formulated by God and used to set apart every person and thing it touched.

Mostly because its composition made it expensive. It was fragrant to give it distinction from the common or ordinary anointing oil, and it symbolized God's deposit of authority and power upon the one receiving the anointing. It not only sanctified Aaron, but as it ran down his beard and on to the ephod, it anointed the stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

It not only set Aaron apart for God's service, it set his garments apart also, and it symbolized the anointing that is available to every believer today who will walk upright before God. David says when we come together in unity it's like that. He further likened it to the dew that comes down from Mt Hermon. Mt. Hermon is 10,000 ft. in elevation. It collects the moistures of heaven and they flow down to the dry, parched lands below bring life, giving refreshment to the crops and orchestrate its base. This was most significant in David's era before the use of wide spread irrigation. Likewise, when the brethren dwell in unity, it brings life giving refreshment that causes our lives to be lush and fruitful. It sets us apart as a sweet smelling aroma unto God with the anointing to destroy the yokes of bondage that have bound the lives of those we move among every day. Yet, the 11 o'clock hour of worship is still one of the most segregated hours there is for the body of Christ.

When are we going to stop allowing the enemy to keep us apart and away from our blessings? For the end of the Psalms says when we dwell together in unity, ...there God commands the blessings, even life forevermore. That Word there is not merely external superficial obedience, but internal heartfelt delight to do the will of God, imagine that! Those God sends to bless you will delight to do. Beloved, let us labor to dwell together in unity, and watch what God does in us, to us, and praise God through us. Let Him begin with you.

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**QUOTABLE QUOTES...Quite often we change jobs, friends, and spouses instead of ourselves.** Author: Akbarali H. Jetha



Behind closed doors, we treat our spouse with disrespect. We raise our hands high unto the Lord in the sanctuary, but get to the parking lot and are we glad the window is roll all the way up. Yes, I know, we are still in the flesh. So was my Dad, but I saw first hand what born again could be. I believe that the more we love the Lord the more we change. Yet some of us have not changed since the day we confessed salvation. Dad's love was so complete that his change was so profound. God blessed him with an anointing to pray for the sick and be an effective prayer warrior.

Dad never met anyone he didn't like after he met Sweet Jesus. Many of you reading this knew my Dad, and you already know these stories, but if you didn't know him, you missed a shining diamond. God took a lump of dirty, ugly, piece of coal, and pressured it into a beautiful diamond. Thank you Father for loving my Dad enough to change him. No one who knew him can think of him without hearing the word ringing in his or her ears, "Do you know Sweet Jesus?" and if you do, "Do you Love Sweet Jesus?"

If you met Dad, you may not have loved Sweet Jesus, but you would not leave without knowing Sweet Jesus. When Sweet Jesus moved into his heart and God washed him in the blood of the Lamb. Willie Davis became a new creation; he was now the son of the Living God. If anyone tells me that that knew my Dad, my first response is "Really, what is the first thing my Dad said when you met him?" If you don't say, "Do you know Sweet Jesus?" then you never met my Dad. No matter where he was or who he met the first thing out of my Dad's mouth was always, "Do you know Sweet Jesus?" not hello, or nice to meet you... just "Do you know Sweet Jesus?"

Yes, God does change people, He gave "Slick Willie", a new name, Bro. Davis, a new heart, new attitude and many victories. God's changes are real! Knowing that God did it for "Slick Willie," I know He is faithful to do it for you and me.

## Word of Life....

Erica Anderson



Obedience.....

**Deuteronomy 6:18** And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land in which the Lord sware unto thy fathers.

**Job 36:11** If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

**John 15:10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

## JOSHUA GENERATION CHURCH

**MORNING WORSHIP SUNDAY - 11:00 A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.**

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY - 7:00-8:30**

If you do not have a home church, prayerfully consider Joshua Generation Church... Always remember Jesus is simply one breath away and He loves you

**(317) 894-9410**

**MEETING AT 2650 SHEFFIELD DRIVE  
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**Broadcast Sunday 5:30-6:00 P.M.  
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Coming Events..... Coming Events  
Evangelist Frank Semster**

**13 -14 September 2002**

**Topic: The Tabernacle**

**Praise & Worship - Minister Rondey Groce**  
Call for additional information (317) 894-9410

**Joshua's Mission Trip to Uganda, East Africa**

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Your Prayers are requested

**LeSEA Ministries Pastor's Conference**

August 16-17, 2002

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(317) 894-9410

## Fresh Oil Ministries



**Fresh Oil International  
P.O. Box 715  
Marina, CA 93933**

Pastor Dona of Fresh Oil Ministries, in Uganda, East Africa is about the Father business. Please be a blessing as the Father provides the increase. When you can't go, you can send His servant.

**MAIL YOUR PRAYER REQUEST TO:**

**Joshua Generation  
P.O. Box 269094  
Indianapolis, In 46226-9094**



## WHERE IS THE SALT?

IT'S A FOUR-LETTER WORD, AND IT AIN'T BAD!

**Evangelist Deborah Bridgewater, SALT Ministries, Inc.**  
(A New Birth Ministry)

In 1994, God gave me the command to minister to Christian women burdened with the horrid memories and effects of abuse. SALT, Survivors of Abuse Learning to Trust, was a name I struggled with because I was ignorant of what it meant. I didn't know the worth or value of salt. I didn't know the process of its creation. However, I have realized that not only my destiny, but also the destinies of many others were tied to the meaning of this four-letter word. How can I say my destiny and other's destinies are tied to SALT?

Jesus compares Christians to two things that are very influential: light and salt. Whatever these two things touch cannot ignore their presence! Biblical commentator, Matthew Henry wrote, "Mankind, lying in ignorance and wickedness, were as a vast heap, ready to putrefy; but Christ sent forth his disciples, by their lives and doctrines to season it with knowledge and grace. If they are not such as they should be, they are as salt that has lost its savor."

We see in Numbers 18:19 that salt was associated with permanence. The expression "covenant of salt" was used to emphasize the binding or permanent nature of God's laws.

We know from the food industry that salt is a preservative. It prevents decay and corruption from taking place. Not only does salt preserve, salt transforms everything that it touches. Likewise, Christians are to be transformed and are to influence others. Sadly however, we find Christians seeking to influence others without first being transformed themselves.

Being salty means being reliable in the Scriptures; ably qualified to teach others God's doctrines, not your own doctrines. Salt preserves. That means it keeps things pure by making sure nothing gets into it and corrupts it.

Salt's influence is very powerful; just like light's influence on darkness. No matter how little there is of it in something; its presence is felt and noted. Its effects are not overcome or diminished even though there might only be a small quantity. Is it possible for salt to lose its saltiness? Can salt be robbed of its saltiness? Is it authentic salt if it indeed loses its saltiness? Notice that being salt involves preserving peace. Jesus says in Matthew 5:13 that "Ye ARE the salt of the earth." If you are indeed authentic salt, then you cannot lose your saltiness. Jesus is letting us know, if you lose it, then you are not authentic. A little drop of authentic salt will influence the environment. My question is: Do you?

Paul tells us in Colossians 4:6 to let our speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, so we can know how we ought to answer every man. As you grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, remember your speech. As people see the change in you, they will be drawn to you and ask questions. Knowing how to speak to someone involves being able and willing to preserve peace and grace. Insignificant, corrupt, or obscene speech does not edify. It insults, creates discord and opposes peace.

Finally, since salt prevents corruption from taking place, it has a purifying effect. Take the time to read 2 Kings 2:20-21. What effect did the salt have on the water? What symbolism did the salt have in this miracle that the Lord did through Elisha? Think about the purifying effect of God's command, its influence and its permanence. According to Titus 2:14, the Lord purifies you the same way. God's people are peculiar and zealous of good works. What the salt did to Elisha's water God does to you: purifies and makes you fruitful. 2 Peter 1:4 tells us we are to escape corruption by partaking of God's divine nature. Your saltiness is a reflection of this nature in all you do: when you speak to your Christian brothers and sisters and to other people; what you read, you watch on TV, and the music you listen to, etc... James 1:27 says that pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this ... to keep oneself unspotted from the world. How can any other Christian or I influence others if we don't strive to honor God by keeping ourselves from corruption and decay? It is not legalistic nor "super Christian" to watch what we say - we just can't say anything we want; or to monitor what we read, we watch on TV or what we listen to - these have unconscious influence on us. It is your and my responsibility in the covenant to keep away from corruption. It is amazing how we have strength and power to do everything else, but we just give in when it comes time to fulfill our obligation and keep away! It is not that we lack strength and power; it is that we just don't want to. We cannot blame our society or culture for our unholiness. Believers in New Testament times were in a society as immoral as can be imagined ... yet were taught and expected to be holy. "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God." (2 Cor.7:1) You will find in Scripture the truth - that holiness can never be accomplished by any of us just trying hard .... Jesus' death is absolutely essential for us to experience the new birth and new life in Christ. It is HIS righteousness that is now at work in us. Since God's holiness has been placed within us, we should now make our best effort to live out that life of holiness as we keep our eyes on our Holy God. And God expects us to strive for personal holiness, which is demonstrated by the way that we live our lives. If you have not accepted Jesus and His righteousness, then all that is written here will be of no lasting effect. You may appear to be very salty through your own efforts, but salt becomes through a process and only Jesus can say to you, "Ye ARE the salt of the world!"

Finally, since salt prevents corruption from taking place, it has a purifying effect. Take the time to read 2 Kings 2:20-21. What effect did the salt have on the water? What symbolism did the salt have in this miracle that the Lord did through Elisha? Think about the purifying effect of God's command, its influence and its permanence. According to Titus 2:14, the Lord purifies you the same way. God's people are peculiar and zealous of good works. What the salt did to Elisha's water God does to you: purifies and makes you fruitful.

Want to contact Minister Deborah Bridgewater? **(317) 926-8734**

We want to congratulate Evangelist Bridgewater on her recent marriage to Mr. Emerson Bridgewater. May you both continue to walk in God's Grace.

Send your inquiries to:

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ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

*Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4*

