



Outlook

Grandparents Ministry Newsletter - Volume 29

From Grandparents <grandparents@yourchurch.com>**Date** Mon 6/16/2025 11:10 AM**To** Grandparents <grandparents@yourchurch.com>

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Grandparents Ministry

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Grandparents in Prayer

By Don Bartemus

Desperation. The feeling of needing air, yet you are still not near the surface of the water. The feeling of falling with nothing to grab onto. The feeling of watching a loved one slowly wreck their lives, and there is nothing to do but watch.



A close loved one was wrecking their lives with an addiction. We gave them advice and counsel, but nothing changed. Promises were made, vows were given, attempts to stop were tried again and again. But the addiction was stronger than words, stronger than our love. Was the addiction stronger than prayer?

What do you believe about prayer? Desperation is the test. Most of us know all about the Lord's Prayer. We know enough about God's command and desire for us to pray. Many of us have several books on the subject. So why does that not seem to help? Desperation. We grow numb to the war for our

souls, and our ears grow deaf to the roar of the demon-lion. So, do we need another admonition to pray?

I say yes. We need to hear it until we get it, and we will not get it until we understand how desperate we really are. Whether we think so or not, we are in grave trouble. My wife and I saw and felt this desperation for our loved one, and we feel it for our grandchildren. If they are not in the family of God, if they do not trust the Savior to pay for their sins, they will go to a Christ-



hell. This is desperation time. When we became that desperate, two things happened. We met with others of faith to pray for our families, and we met with the elders to pray. We tried it our way, and it did not make a difference. These two prayer times have changed everything.

In desperation my wife was on her face in the middle of the night praying, "Lord, do what it takes to save!" That is a prayer of ultimate fear for the soul of one we love. You realize, of course, what that means . . . it could mean severe physical harm to bring about the salvation of a soul. What happened is that we sought out a small group of people who were like minded and wanted to join us in prayer for our loved ones. For a while, we were in two.

Second, we followed the admonition of James 5 to call for the elders of the church. This was a leap because I am an elder and a pastor. But I know that I have needs and I need Jesus. As that group of godly men prayed over us while we knelt and pleaded for God's mercy, the sense of love, care, and relief was palpable. We shared the burden and somehow it was lighter. Within forty-eight hours, God answered. Our loved one returned and agreed to go to effective biblical counseling. God pulled him back from destruction.

What else can be said? Recognize your desperation, get into a prayer group, and ask the elders to pray over you.

How to start a prayer group:

You know like-minded people who have loved ones who are struggling. Ask several to come to your home for a meal and introduce them to the idea of a prayer group. Tell them what you intend to do (don't have them think this is Amway - IYKYK). Have a date for your first prayer group meeting (for instance the 3rd Thursday of each month works for us) and ask them to talk with each other and respond in the next day or so. Even if you get only one positive response, start there. We have been in our group for over fifteen years, and the 3rd Thursday is a sacred time.

How to receive elder prayer:

Go forward on Sunday morning and ask an elder for anointing and prayer. They will know how to set up your special time. Another option is to call

your parish elder and let them know of your desire, and they will set up a time with you. I am serious about this. Your answer may not come in forty-eight hours. It may not come in your lifetime. But prayer is our command, and it comes naturally when we sense our desperation. In this world, we are underwater – prayer is our breath. Breathe.

For more information, [contact Pastor Don.](#)



DID YOU MISS IT? HERE'S A RECAP IF YOU DID...

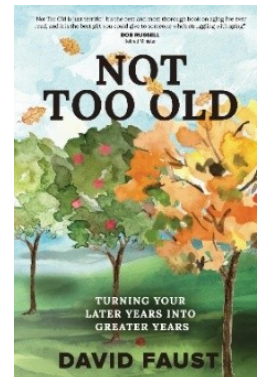
You would have thought we were at a real wedding reception! Guests were seated in rounds of eight. Beautifully decorated wedding cakes were the centerpieces at each table. Balloon sculptures of cream, apricot, and pale yellow created a hint of walls and framed the evening in a cozy space.

On April 28, we gathered to discuss how grandparents could share about God's good gift of marriage with their grandchildren. Dr. David and Candy Faust from E. 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis guided our discussion. Sometimes grandparents need a reminder that this topic may be part of our assignment of intentionally teaching our grands about God's plan for them. The evening accomplished just that.



You're Invited!

College Park Grandparents are warmly invited to a seniors' conference at E. 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis on August 16. The "Not Too Old Conference" is for adults over age 50. Registration for the conference can be made at E91church.com and costs \$39 through June 8, after which the fee will increase. The conference registration includes lunch and a copy of Pastor David Faust's new book "Not Too Old." The event will be from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Come expecting to be encouraged and equipped.



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