

# Freedom FOCUS

## NEWSLETTER

March—April 2009

“...to turn them  
from darkness  
to light...”

www.indianabcc.com

### Overcoming the Sins of Our Forefathers *(Part 1)*

*“He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.”*  
(Psalm 78:5-8)



The majority of people I have counseled have not had fathers who faithfully served the Lord. Many clients are first generation born-again Christians. They often come to our office with a need to address the impact of the sins of their forefathers in their lives.

Psalm 78 is a psalm of Asaph, who was a Levite in the court of King David. A skilled teacher and leader, this man was an example of godly fatherhood. Following God’s command in Deuteronomy 6, Asaph faithfully taught Israel’s history to his children, grandchildren, and future generations. In a gripping and memorable way, Asaph used Psalm 78 to document Israel’s history from the exodus all the way to the time of King David. Three themes recur throughout the psalm:

- The repeated disobedience and ingratitude of unfaithful fathers
- The recurring and unfailing mercy of God to the disobedient nation
- The vision cast for future generations by the study of Israel’s history

This Psalm is especially applicable to us today in our understanding of history. It can teach us and our children valuable lessons to keep us from falling into the same sins of those who have gone before us.



In addressing these issues I find two mental roadblocks for people to overcome. First of all, some believe it is dishonoring to their parents to admit that there is some negative influence from them that has impacted their lives. Yet Psalm 78 as well as other passages clearly encourage us to address the sins of our fathers that have had an impact on us. In Zechariah 1:4-6, God says:

*“Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’” But they did not hear or pay attention to me,” declares the LORD. “Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake our fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”*

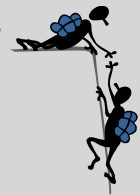
The truth is, that there are no perfect fathers or mothers. No matter how godly or ungodly our parents’ examples have been, there are some things from their lives that do not need to be repeated. How then are we to respond to our fathers’ unfaithfulness? One thing we must learn to do is to ask the Lord, *Are there any sin patterns I acquired that need to be addressed? How has my forefathers sin impacted my life?*

*Continued on Page 2*

### Upcoming Events

#### Counseling Training Seminar II

**Date:**  
Saturday,  
June 6, 2009



**Time:**  
10am-4pm

**Location:**  
2nd Reformed Presbyterian Church  
4800 N. Michigan Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46228

*For more information, contact our office at 317-585-1845.*

#### November 6 Fall Praise Banquet



**Mark your calendar now for our 2009 Fall Praise Banquet.** Don’t miss this great opportunity to share first-hand what God is doing in the lives of individuals through this ministry!

**Date:**  
Friday, November 6

**Time:**  
7:00 p.m.

**Location:**  
Indianapolis Training Center  
2820 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

## Overcoming the Sins of Our Forefathers (Part 1), cont.

The second roadblock to overcome is the belief that the sins of my forefathers do not really matter. I believe that Satan's goal is to get us to believe that our forefathers' sins do not affect our lives now. However, Exodus 20:5 tells us differently. "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me." (See also Exodus 34:7; Deuteronomy 5:9-10; Numbers 14:18)

Moses, Jeremiah and Daniel understood that God wanted them to acknowledge and agree with him about the iniquities of their parents and purpose not to continue in them. In Numbers 14:17-20, Moses recognized God's promise to visit the iniquities of the fathers on the children as he entreated the LORD to pardon Israel's sins.

The prophet Jeremiah prayed, "We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you." (Jeremiah 14:20)

Finally, Daniel cried out to God, "O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins,

and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us." (Daniel 9:16)

Dr. Neil Anderson brings insight to this matter when he says, "You are not guilty for the sin of your ancestors, but because of their sin, you may be predisposed to certain strengths and weaknesses. You can be influenced by the physical and spiritual atmosphere in which you were raised. These conditions can contribute to causing someone to struggle with a particular sin." (Steps to Freedom in Christ; Gospel Light)

Even though we are born under the disadvantage of the influence of our parents' iniquities, we can rejoice that our merciful Heavenly Father has promised to be a father to us. "I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.'" (Psalm 2:7) Because of the cross of Christ, there is great hope! As we acknowledge the iniquities of our forefathers, we can at the same time claim the grace of God in our lives to not continue in them—but rather to walk in the ways of our Heavenly Father, who is our perfect example in every way. " '...and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me,' says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18)

-Rev. Jeff Pokone

For more information on this subject, we invite you to download Rev. Pokone's message entitled *Overcoming the Sinful Patterns of Unfaithful Fathers*, available at [www.indianabcc.com/family\\_series.htm](http://www.indianabcc.com/family_series.htm).

## Resource Review—Biblical Principles for Building a Strong Family



The rise in divorces, rebellious youth, conflicts in the home, and other such evils reveals that the home is under severe enemy attack. In this series of 21 audio messages, Rev. Jeff Pokone exposes Satan's agenda against the home and provides key principles for thwarting the enemies attacks. These powerful truths provide a strong defense for victory and a hope for healing.

Some of the subjects Rev. Pokone addresses in this series include:

- Overcoming the Three Enemies of the Family
- Having a Multi-generational Vision
- Breaking Free from the Curse of Rejection
- The Battle for a Man's Heart
- Biblical Headship in the Home

A father from Indianapolis says of the *Biblical Principles* series:

"I have had the opportunity to listen and benefit from the audio series produced by Rev. Pokone. The series is practical and informative, using solid Biblical foundations. My wife and I have

been able to use the series as an aid to our home structure with our three children. In the time that I have spent with Jeff, I have come to appreciate not only his approach to Biblical counseling, but also how he presents the Word. Thank you Jeff and the entire staff at IBCC for your fine work and service to the Lord!"

Another father shares:

"The principle which has impacted me most in this series is having a multi-generational vision for my family. As a father of six children, I have come to understand that my actions as a father truly impact the lives of my kids. God has been teaching me that the most important thing is for them to see me leading an upright life. I have a renewed desire to put God first in my life so that my children will see and want to put Him first too."

His wife writes:

"Now we can share our vision for our family. For the first time in a long time, I feel that my husband and I are a team—a team ministering together in other peoples' lives. He has been able to bless so many people by sharing about the help he's received."

If you are interested in purchasing the series, the set is available through the IBCC office for \$50.00.