



Highlighting Our  
**Heritage**

WEEK 13

Leaving a Legacy

**Life Application:** Understanding the vital necessity of valuing, maintaining, and passing on the spiritual heritage that has been given us.

**Key verse for meditation:** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. – 2 Timothy 2:2

**For personal study:** Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:6-9; 11:19; Psalm 78:1-8; 1 John 1:1-10

Handing  
 It Down

ELSIE AND ALONZO OTT were among the early pioneers of the Apostolic Faith work. Elsie told of their desire to attend their first Apostolic Faith camp meeting: “I wanted to camp on the grounds so badly, but we had three small children. We also had a cow and some chickens on our hands. We didn’t know what to do, but thought we might sell the cow and chickens if we could find someone to buy them. So I asked Sister Crawford and some of the

workers to pray, and we got so many buyers for them that we hardly knew who to let have them. God wonderfully opened the way for us to camp.” Elsie and Alonzo set an example of godly living before their children, who also became Christians.

Years later, their son, Paul Ott, testified: “I will never forget that Sunday morning, March 11, 1923, when I stepped out into the aisle at Sixth and Burnside and headed for the place of prayer. I made a total commitment to God that day, for time and eternity. The devil said, ‘You can’t keep it; you can’t live it if you do get it,’ but I was determined I was going to try. I prayed with all of my heart and Jesus came in. Oh, what a wonderful change! The love of the world that I couldn’t give up, the Lord took it out slick and clean.”



*The Ott family. Elsie is on the left, Alonzo on the right. Paul is seated next to Elsie.*

Paul’s daughter, Jane Ewers, tells her story: “It is just amazing how God can talk to a little girl, and He talked to me. I was sitting in a children’s meeting orchestra when God called me. I could hardly wait to put my violin away. I went down and prayed, and that day the Lord made a real change in

my heart. That was just the beginning. Over the years, God somehow helped me, and now I can watch my own grandchildren learning the way.”

Jane’s son Brian, a father of two toddlers, testifies: “I am thankful that the Lord saved me when I was nine years old. He really grounded me when I was young. He kept me through high school, college, and now at work. He helps me to be a light there. I am so thankful that He gave me a strong desire to stick with the Gospel no matter what comes up.”

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**Historical Context:** The band of zealous believers who gathered with Florence Crawford in the mission hall at Front and Burnside, and the faithful saints of God who followed after them, were instrumental in shaping a God-given message into a worldwide ministry. These Gospel pioneers determined to proclaim without fear or compromise God’s power to save the repentant heart, sanctify the converted soul, and pour out the Holy Spirit on sanctified believers. Believers today must cherish and preserve that spiritual heritage, and determine to pass it on to the next generation.

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*A Closer Look . . .*



- 1.** Why is it important for believers to instruct and train the upcoming generations?
- 2.** What are some environments where instructions should take place?
- 3.** Name at least three Biblical examples of people who passed their spiritual heritage on to succeeding generations.

**Challenge:** Draw a dot surrounded by a circle, and then a larger circle. The dot represents you. Inside the first circle, write the names of your immediate family and of people you see every day. In the larger circle, write the names of people you see on a weekly basis. These represent your primary responsibility in passing it on. Now, evaluate how well you are doing in reaching out to them.

### *Leaving a Spiritual Legacy*

What type of spiritual legacy do you want to leave to future generations? Psalm 78:4 speaks of the importance of “shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.” Are you communicating your faith to others in both word and deed?

Here are some steps you can take to make sure your children receive the spiritual legacy a Christian parent desires.

- Have a genuine, up-to-date experience of salvation and a personal relationship with God.
- Be a student of God’s Word, and align your life to it. Set an example.
- Depend upon God. Pray persistently and fervently for God to turn the hearts of the next generation toward Himself.
- Control the climate of your home. Protect those in your care from ungodly influences.
- Show respect for God, His Word, and His house.
- Make spiritual activities a routine part of life.
- Establish clear moral values and reinforce them by your example.
- Incorporate spiritual principles into everyday living and teach them diligently.
- Establish leaving a legacy as a priority. Cultivate a personal sense of responsibility for the spiritual condition of the next generation.