

The Mountain of Time

It seems we look closely at different periods of **TIME** depending on our age. I think it is a little like climbing a mountain. When we enter this world, we are starting our ascent. At first we are so close to the foothills that we can't see very far ahead or behind. But as we age and climb up higher, we begin to get a little broader view. When we reach our middle years and look out over our own history and the history of the world, we have an even larger perspective. Then, as we enter the final years of life, the eternal Kingdom of God grows closer and the Kingdom of the World begins to fade into the background.

As we make this journey through Life, our perspectives about History and Eternity also seem to enlarge as we travel from birth and the tiny world we see at the beginning, and on into the eternal Kingdom of God. Of course, the concepts we are going to discuss may become apparent to us at various ages—but as I look back across my 93 years, the following pattern best describes the way the realization unfolded for me, and I suspect for many others whom I have observed, as we traveled through the four chapters of life described in “*Four Generations: A Journey Through Life*”.

Generation I “A Time to Learn”, Age 0-25 (Beginning our climb). I believe we can see ahead about as far as we have lived. At the beginning we see a dim concept of our own small world and immediate surroundings. By the time we reach age 25, many of us see to about age 50. During these early years, life is an exciting adventure, calling us to live to the fullest and for our own individual ambitions and pleasure. History is a vague uninteresting era behind us, and Eternity is too far away to be of much interest, except as we are startled by an occasional, uncomfortable, awareness that, “someday”, old age and death are waiting for us. During these years we see “**NOW**” and ask ourselves, “*What will I be and do in life?*” And ask the question “*How do I see me?*”

Generation II “A Time to Do”—Age 25-50 (Reaching the “mid-point”) The years fly quickly by from age 25 to our mid-thirties and early forties, at which time we are often interrupted by the depressing sense that we can see the “end of the road”. We realize, like every preceding generation, that we really are going to die! We are concerned that we aren't where we thought we would be by now, and it causes us to run all the harder. Now we can see a “**LIFETIME**” and ask, “*How do others see me?*” as we, like the builders of the ancient Tower of Babel “*try and make a name for ourselves*”.

Generation III “A Time to Teach”—Age 50-75 (Seeing the Visible and Invisible) As our children grow up and grandchildren arrive, we see clearly that we are no longer living for ourselves alone. We realize our time is running out and we want to leave our mark. To prove there really was a purpose in our being here. So now we look at the future and ask “*How will 'HISTORY' see me?*” Now our buzz word is “**LEGACY**”, and we focus on writing our books, building our pyramids, preparing our grave monuments, or having our names remembered as long as possible by having them on a building on a college campus.

Generation IV “A Time to Finish”—Age 75-100 (Letting Go and Reaching Upward) By age 75, we know life here on earth is nearing the “finish line”. We find ourselves looking back across our own life and history. As many of us move into our eighties we begin to feel a kinship to Solomon as he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes and described the pleasures, possessions and position/power of this World as “*meaningless*” and “*chasing the wind*”. By our nineties we can relate to Moses as he stood on Mt. Nebo gazing at the “Promised Land” that he longed to enter.

Now we realize that **TIME** will soon give way to **ETERNITY** which will continue **FOREVER!**

During these years we increasingly see the goal was never really about **ME** and how I was viewed or what I accomplished for God. Rather, it was about what God was doing in and through me and all the Saints to bring about the **ONENESS** Jesus described at the close of his prayer in John 17.

And we realize that our **LEGACY** wasn't ever a goal for me to create. Rather it is a result of letting God have His Way with me and use me to bring others into the Kingdom of God in this world, so we may all share in the Kingdom of God for Eternity!

The “space and time” Kingdom of the World is a little like being in school—it is not the real world. But when we are young students, we can get so caught up in our studies, the ball games, the proms and all the excitement that we *think* it is the real world! It reminds me of a friend who tried to dispel this false conclusion for College Seniors as he taught a Sunday-School class entitled, “*There is life after college*”.

In fact, there is much more fulfillment, and even excitement, in the real (invisible) Kingdom of God than in the temporary (visible) Kingdom of the World where we now live. Since, only God, His Word, His Love and His People are going to Heaven, why would we work only for other things—and then leave them all here?

Our visible, “space and time” world is like the “*Titanic*”. It is dying and it is going to sink. Our job is to get off into the Kingdom of God, and show and tell others so they can get off into what may seem like a cramped, uncomfortable, but actually very safe, life boat. The closer I get to the end, the closer God becomes and the clearer I see His Perspective. Somehow what was murky and cloudy earlier in life, now becomes more understandable—and credible.

I finally developed a little maxim that has wrapped it all up for me in one short thought:

***Every young person (including me 60 years ago)
thinks they are going to “fix” the world.***

Every old person knows they didn't!

We *do* accomplish great advances in living conditions which are wonderful. But as we grow older, we realize the wars continue, and the earth has been getting warmer since the last Ice Age. We reluctantly conclude only Jesus' “*new Kingdom*” will get it *completely* right!

So, each generation either gets disappointed and finally dies while still wondering deep down what it was all about—or we surrender and accept Jesus and move into the Kingdom of God.

We will always see only “dimly” what God is doing. But as we near the end of our lives, we know in our hearts that after we arrive Home in the Land of Eternal Life and look back at the space and time in the Kingdom of the World from which we are being freed, we will finally be enabled to see and understand it all from **His** point of view.

Then we will receive Our Eternal Reward and Inheritance!

***For me, I Believe It will Be
the Presence of God and All the Saints for Eternity!***

See You in Heaven!

From Grandpa With Love

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