

Relationship Reflection

Let me ask you an important question, how are you reflecting your relationship with God to the outside world? Why is this so important? Because I know that you are divinely designed to impact those around you.

That's why the Holy Spirit has put it on my heart to ask you, **"What impression are you making on others because of your walk with God?"**

The Apostle Paul declared in 2 Corinthians 3:2, *"You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all people"* (NASB).

This means that your life is an open book, inscribed not with ink, but with the evidence of your daily walk with the Lord. How then is your story being read by those whose eyes are watching you?

It's an inescapable truth that your life is a testament, a living epistle, observable and readable by all. The question you must ask yourself is, what message resonates from your pages? Somebody is reading your life every day. What message are you sending them?

Are you embodying faithfulness, loyalty, and dependability? Or do you fall short, your actions not aligning with the teachings you hold so dear, causing others to question the sincerity of your faith?

As I write these thoughts, I'm reminded of 1 John 2:6, which states, *"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."* To walk in His footsteps is no mere suggestion but a calling to mirror the life of Christ Himself. The Message paraphrases it beautifully: *"[We] ought to live the same kind of life that Jesus lived."*

In setting His example, Jesus indeed set the bar high, and while we may sometimes feel daunted by the height of this standard, it is a calling that brings both profound responsibility and immeasurable joy.

How are you establishing your legacy?

What stirs in the minds of those who know you when they hear your name? Do thoughts of faith and love naturally arise? These are the questions that should lead you to consider the depth and authenticity of your impact.

It's crucial to recognize that every day, consciously or not, you are making an impression on someone. **The weight of your influence can either build a bridge to God for those around you or, regrettably, drive a wedge between them and the Lord.**

The adage rings true: "You have one chance to make a first impression but a lifetime to make a lasting impression."



Your legacy is not just in the words you speak but in the consistency of your actions, the resilience of your faith, and the expression of your love. It is these qualities that can guide someone to see the goodness of God because of your daily life.

Every day, you are setting an example for someone. Your actions, your decisions, and your very demeanor are lessons imparted to those who observe you, consciously or otherwise.

The Apostle Paul, as a role model for the faithful, boldly instructed the Philippians to follow his lead by declaring in Philippians 3:17, *“Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”*

Similarly, the writer of Hebrews says to emulate those *“who through faith and patience inherit the promises”* (Hebrews 6:12). It is a call to diligence, perseverance, and steadfastness that is rooted in the very character of God.

It is not enough to merely follow the footsteps of the faithful; you are urged to become pioneers in your own right, to be the tenacious example that is worth emulating. **As a believer, you carry the responsibility and the honor to be a living epistle, known and read by all, reflecting the love and steadfastness of the Lord.**

Not only should you follow these kinds of people but become one of those people yourself so others can follow your example. What a profound truth! What an inspiring challenge!

In this world, where constancy is a fleeting rarity, what should stand out in you is a COMMITTED FAITH—a faith that does not waver in the face of trials, a faith that displays a "never give up and never turn back" attitude.

Paul spoke with great admiration of the believers in Thessalonica saying, *“When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions”* (1 Thessalonians 1:5 MSG).

Paul recognized their determination to imitate the lifestyle he demonstrated. In doing so, they were not just imitating Paul—they were imitating Christ Himself. What a powerful legacy to leave behind!

And so, your legacy too should mirror this model. **You should strive to live in such a manner that when others look upon your life, they see a reflection of the Master's unwavering commitment and love.**

When Paul wrote to encourage Timothy, his words should also encourage you, *“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity”* (1 Timothy 4:12 NIV).

This is our call, our mission, and our privilege. I want to help you rise to the occasion and set a standard that draws others closer to the heart of God.

In Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV), Jesus said, *“You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

This is not merely an instruction; it is an identity bestowed upon you—an identity that radiates Christ's love through your life.

What will others remember about you? Will the echoes of your faith, your love, and your steadfastness in the Lord reverberate through the lives of those you've touched?

If I should pass into eternity before Jesus' return, I want it to be said of me, "He finished his course, he kept the faith, and quitting was not an option" (2 Timothy 4:7). It's my prayer that this might be said of you also, that your life would be a testament to the endurance of a faith that never yielded to the temptation of surrender.

We are building this legacy together. Let's inspire one another to be relentless in our pursuit of righteousness, unwavering in our commitment, and bold in our presence in this world. Let's be the ones who, long after our voices have faded, leave behind a legacy of love and faith that continues to echo in the hearts of those we've reached.

Together, let's strive so that it will be said of us that we were lights in the world, reflecting the One who is the true Light.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Savelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Jerry Savelle