

As I reflected on the sentiments that I wanted to share about Chuck, immediately the Lord placed the word “legacy” on my heart.

Legacy.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines legacy as an inheritance; the secondary definition is something that has come from a predecessor or the past.

There is no question that Chuck has gifted us with a legacy. And when I say “us” that “us” includes Prison Fellowship, Justice Fellowship, Colson Center, and all that were impacted by Chuck’s ministry... I don’t think anyone would challenge that Chuck has indeed left a mark on society. His legacy is much like those found throughout the ages of history. Stories of leaders, visionaries, overcomers who stood relentlessly in their missions. That was Chuck.

When I think about Chuck’s legacy more deeply, I realize that it is multi-faceted. I say that because I think of his thirst for the things of God; his warrior courage to profess Christ to and for prisoners, which is a segment of society that is so quickly discarded, even by believers;

I think of his decades-long commitment to that same segment who were then and still are in desperate need of the Good News;

And his intense desire to present a winsome argument for the Kingdom of God through the proclamation of Christian worldview.

So there is not just one part of Chuck’s life that we can carry. There are many parts.

Losing a loved one is never easy. We want them to be here forever. So we are saddened by this tremendous loss, but more so because the Kingdom has lost such a warrior, such a lion for God and His Gospel. So, we do mourn, but we celebrate, in part because Chuck is in his real home now. He’s in that place that we all ultimately desire to call home.

As we celebrate his transition, we do so with great anticipation of what is to come; it is our turn now. It is our turn to receive this generational transfer,

to carry on the great work that he started. The mantle has been draped across the shoulders of us all. I am so sure that the Lord greeted Chuck with a hearty smile and a warm heart---because Chuck was a faithful servant. He was a loyal servant to the Kingdom...

Chuck, his vision, his leadership, his life, his legacy---left a national imprint, actually a global imprint, not only on the hearts of believers, but on the heart of humanity.

I am reminded of how Elisha received Elijah's mantle—his legacy--- and went on to bring great glory to God. Elisha earnestly desired to continue Elijah's work; but the power and reach of his ministry was due to his relentless pursuit of Elijah's mantle. He wanted a double portion and he never let go. (**II Kings 2:9-13**) The Bible records that Elijah performed 14 miracles. The Bible also shows us that Elisha performed 28 miracles. This is a tremendous illustration of Elijah's legacy carried on through Elisha's ministry, which resulted in a double portion of miracles.

Another great Biblical example of legacy and generational transfer is Abraham, who the Lord called the father of many nations. In **Genesis chapter 12, verse 3**, the Lord said to Abraham "...in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." We are reaping the blessings of Abraham's legacy as we, the Church, receive the eternal inheritance promised to Abraham.

The greatest example of Biblical legacy was when Jesus said to His disciples in **John 14:12**, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." We, the church, have received the legacy of Jesus to do greater works than He performed on this earth.

---

Chuck was walking in a gift, a grace, a power, a ministry that was given to him by God. The time he spent behind the walls provided fertile ground for God to give birth to something—not only a ministry, but a revolutionary movement. Chuck ran a strong race and he finished his calling; but he

longed to pass the baton to the next generation. Like Paul said from **II Timothy 4:7-8**, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Chuck finished his course, but the work is not complete. Jesus’ mandate for the Church to fulfill the Great Commission; in this case it is fulfilling the Great Commission among prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families; declaring God’s justice in the public square; and proclaiming God’s truth to a failing culture through a movement based on Christian worldview. The call is now on our shoulders. We, each of us, must fulfill that legacy as we complete the work of Jesus Christ.

---

Our work cannot stop. In fact, we have to embrace it with the desperation of Elisha and work to reap an even greater and louder voice in the Kingdom and beyond its border; and because of Chuck’s legacy, we already stand to receive great blessings.