



Biblical Foundations

Legacy

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

— Hebrews 11:32–12:2 (ESV)

Legacy: *The long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life.*

— Google Dictionary Search

People talk about leaving a legacy. “Legacy” can have many connotations. For some, legacy is the inheritance they leave to their family and loved ones. It’s the money, possessions, and things they leave behind. But legacy has a much broader meaning. It refers to everything a person leaves behind—the resources, the memories, the values, and the impact.

I love Hebrews 11, the great faith chapter of the Bible. In this chapter, we find brief bios of some of the spiritual heroes of the past. Some are little known except for the testimony they left behind; take, for example, Enoch: “Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God” (Heb 11:5). Others were honored for their faith, and still others for their willingness to die for their Lord.



The legacy we leave is not determined by the fortunes we've accumulated or the estate plan we've drafted. Rather, it's created by the lives we live. Every day, each of us is building a legacy, one day at a time, one human interaction at a time.

What will your legacy be? If your first impulse is to state a dollar amount, then think bigger. Consider this instead: How is the world better because you're in it? What values are you passing along to your children and grandchildren? What impact are you making in your community and around the world? How will you leave this world better off when God takes you home?

Imagine the biography that could be written about you. What people will remember are the things you're doing now as you live your life, one day at a time. We have one life to live, one chance to make an impact, one opportunity to create a legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave?



A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when the forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.

— **Charles Spurgeon**