Growing up in Kansas meant that summers would involve a road trip—driving to Florida to visit my dad's parents.

Eating delicious Cuban food (grandma was an amazing cook), visiting cousins, sweating, driving ON the beach, eating sugar cane, hearing mostly everyone speaking in Spanish, and being in the car for 24 hours (one way!) were all a part of the deal.

And yet…one of the things that left the greatest impression was one of the simplest things.

My grandma and grandpa, seated at the kitchen table early (it was still dark outside), with their Bibles open. Every morning they would read their "matutina" (devotional book), their Bibles and pray together.

This left an image in my mind of what a couple was like, what a Christian marriage looked like, and what was needed to have a strong faith in God—daily connection. Spending time with each other and God.

They didn’t do it to be seen; they just kept living their lives the way they always did. Steady. Committed. Faithful.
As a young boy I needed to see that.

I also needed to see my dad sitting on the porch on Sabbath afternoons reading from these little red books he pulled out to grow spiritually. Going door to door in the winter (and taking me with him) to go ingathering (I’ll be honest—I was in it for the cookies and hot chocolate at the end).

I needed to see my mom sit at the piano and sing hymns as she played the piano, as she hosted people at our house for meals, or helped serve at church.

Having the generations before me model elements of a Christian life is what has helped form my own spiritual life.

And now, as a dad/husband…my prayer is that God would use me to model to my own children/wife what belief in God, surrender to God’s Spirit, and a relationship with Jesus look like.

I like how one person said it, “We are the trailer,” for this generation; when they look at us will they want to “see the film” and choose to live a Christian life?

I thank God for those people He has put in my path to show me what being a follower of Jesus looked like; may God help me to do the same for others…the generations that come after me.

Recalibrate

What spiritual habits do you practice that are impacting future generations?

What habits could you start that would leave the impression you want to pass on?

Feel free to send any thoughts or comments to Pedro Perez.
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