

Lastly we need to look ahead, because after we have finished our pilgrimage through the stages of our own life, **there will be another group of people doing the same thing.**

You see there has never been a time in human history when society was not composed of people from all stages of life and **if our community neglects any one group people at any one stage of their lives,** then people will slip through the cracks and **leave our fellowship when they reach a stage we are not prepared to handle or relate to.**

One of the challenges we have in our community is our lack of young people, or rather our lack of people who are going through that **particular stage** of their pilgrimage from the cradle to the grave. **All of us in our shul were once young people** and our lovely children will also one day pass through this challenging stage of life and what we need to pray about and work towards is **providing fellowship which will meet the needs of all of our people through all of their stages on their journey from the cradle to the grave.**

Well let's look back at the previous generations and see what we can learn from their pilgrimage. One of the mystical truths which comforts me and which thrills me is that **Adam's blood has never died generationally.**

In unbroken succession, his blood has been passed on through every generation until it came to you and I. This should teach us that no matter what we may encounter, our faith will survive, because it has also never been extinguished, though it has sometimes been a close thing.

Our job is to both figure out **what it was that drew us to faith** and also figure out how to communicate this faith (and these reasons), so that when it is our turn to sleep with the fathers, **we do not take our faith with us because we were unable to pass it on.** In my understanding it is this attack on the generational nature of faith that is the greatest threat to our faith and it our babies and young people who are being targeted the most.

What are we to do? Let me ask a question which will contain the solution. **How well do you relate to people younger than you or older than you – or yet how do you relate to people your own age?** I want us to remain a fellowship composed of all age groups, because all of us are only temporarily in our current age group and there should be never be a time when our faith and our fellowship does not fully apply to us in every age group we are passing through.

Next, let's look around and learn to see each other differently. Instead of seeing the babies, the youth and the older folks, we need to see people who begin life as babies, and who become youth and then move on into old age **all at the same pace** and there should be no age group where they feel they have to disappear from our midst and only return after they have gone through one particular stage.

As we come to Purim and to Passover, I want us to pray that our community and our fellowship will be enriched to always contain people in all stages of their journey through the different age groups.

You see, our faith and the meaning of life it teaches, applies to all mankind in every culture, race and language and to everyone one within each language, raced and culture **in every age group through which we all shall pass.**

This brings us to **looking ahead** when we shall have fallen asleep and are waiting for those who are just behind us, all the way back to those who have just joined the journey as people who begin lives as **babies**, then become **young people** who grow up into **adults** and then who get ready to leave this life as they **gradually age**. **We need to see people as always moving through these stages and never as those who permanently belong to any one stage.**

If we lose our grip of our faith at any stage of our lives or if we lose our grip of our people at any one stage of their lives, then we place our message and our fellowship at risk of extinction, not because it lacks any truth or any meaning, but because we have not succeeded in passing along this meaning as we ourselves move through the age groups and stages of this life. This is the only permanent feature of our lives which we can count on – **never belonging to one age group for very long**. Learning to see each other and our lives from this perspective will prevent us from ignoring those among us who are going through one stage or age group of life which we have trouble relating to.

I want us to pray for our babies and for our children that we do not lose them or do not raise them to feel that there is one stage of their lives or one age group where participation in the life of spiritual community is not important and essential. This is because **they are also just travelling through these stages on their way to sleeping with those who have fallen asleep before them.**

Will you pray with me that the reality of what David saw in Ps. 37:25 will be the reality we experience in our community, in every age group as our babies travel through them (I was young and have grown old, but I have never seen the righteous forsake nor their seed begging their bread)?

Adam's blood has flowed through the generations until it was our turn to let it flow through us to the next generation until the kingdom comes. **How well is the generational message of faith and obedience flowing through you at your stage of life (in your age group) on its way through you to the next generation?**

We are a **mini gene pool** of people who are always moving through the various stages of life and who are always passing through different age groups. Will you pray that not a single stage of life or age group is missing from our community – **that there is never a hole through which people at any one stage fall through and go missing.**

Well lets look ahead. We are also a community where **all of us here present will one day lie down and take our turn sleeping with the fathers.** Does this scare you? What do you want to be said about you when you are gone? How do you want to be remembered? Are you preparing for the next stage or age group in your life?

Is this how you see life? It has always been people moving from the cradle to the grave and we will always need to be a community which both contains all age groups and which also reminds people that **this is how life works. It is never sad to leave one age group and join another and there is never one stage of our life that is useless or unnecessary or to which spirituality does not apply.**

Age will no longer apply when we are in Eternity. May we all keep our faith ageless and may our fellowship and our community always relate to the generations from an **eternal perspective**, teaching faith and obedience from the cradle to the grave as we look in all three directions in our lives. Backwards, around and forwards – and may we always be a truly generational fellowship of Jews and gentiles, for all the age groups in our midst.

Let's pray