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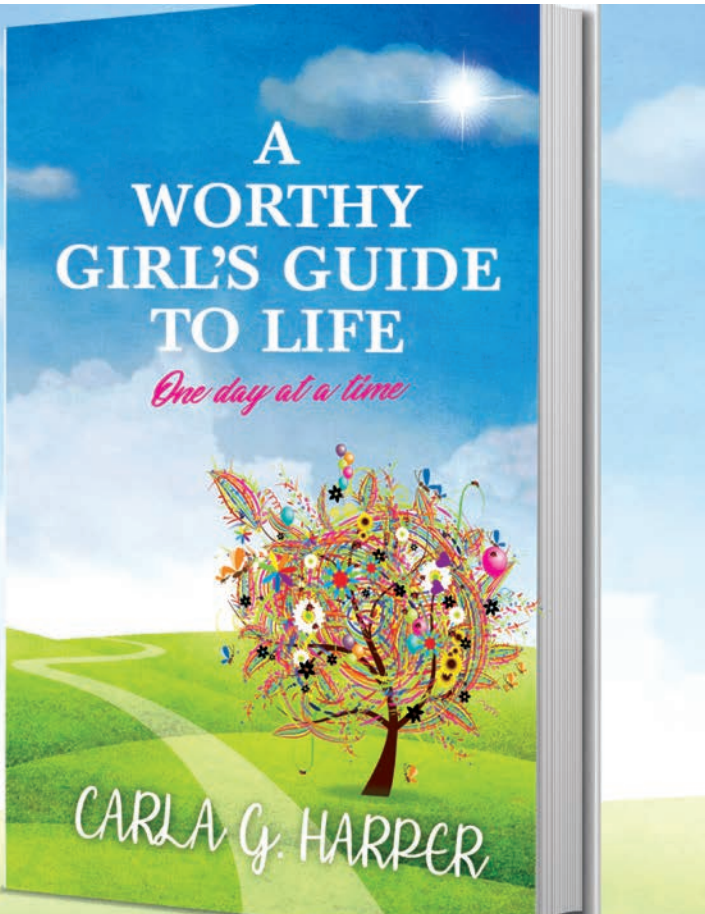
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# The Generational Curse

*Dr. T. D. Worthington*

My wife was looking at an old picture of one of our sons a couple of days ago, and she commented on how much his children resembled him when he was young. She was right. We often comment about how we see the parents in their children. If not physically, then we might see the parents through their mannerisms. We have all seen how the characteristics of parents pass on to their kids. You may have a big nose from your granddad or a beautiful smile from your mother. You might be short or tall based on the physical traits of your ancestors, but one thing is sure; much of who you are is influenced by heredity.

Heredity also has an influence on your talents, abilities, traits, and even how you think and behave. We have all heard the phrase, *“Like father, like son.”* But did you know that it can be just as true in the spiritual realm as it is in the natural? Set theology aside for a moment.

Common sense tells us that behavior, just like physical characteristics of height, weight, hair color, and complexion, tend to run in families. In the same way, certain tendencies to sin can be passed from generation to generation. This is particularly true of addictive behaviors such as alcoholism. Similarly, physical and sexual abuse might become ingrained in the psychological legacy of certain families.

A scientific study revealed that not only do we pass along the DNA sequence to our children, but they also discovered that additional information can be inherited and transmitted through generations. In an experiment, researchers trained mice to fear a fruity odor by pairing it with a mild electric shock to the foot. Ten days later, the mice were allowed to mate. Incredibly, their pups feared the odor even without having encountered the smell before. But even more

fascinating is that the offspring of those pups, the grandchildren, were born with the same specific memory.

Now, let’s put that under the spiritual microscope for a moment. Suddenly, your habits may have far greater implications for your kids than you ever imagined. If we become addicted, we can pass along to our children gene instructions that may make them more vulnerable to the same addictions. Take pornography addiction for example. According to a recent study, 68 percent of Christian men are addicted to porn. Most likely, they are unaware of the potential hereditary ramifications of not gaining victory over this weakness.

Probably the most devastating consequence is that God says that if you are in some form of bondage to sin and don’t get an effective plan for dealing with it, it can be passed on to your kids. Of course, it is possible to



break the curse. You can go either way. You can pass along either positive or negative characteristics, depending on the choices you make in life.

But here's the big question: If a Christian is set free from his past after being born-again, why are there so many believers who still see the effects of generational curses in their lives? Could it be because we are not applying the power we have in Christ to deal with it? Once we are saved by grace, we can truly have the mind of Christ which transforms our behavior. Suddenly, we are empowered to break the curses, knowing that the blood of Christ covers us. This transformation is physically revealed in the genetic changes in our bodies, but also on the legacy we will be leaving behind.

Don't think of it as a battle you're just fighting for yourself. You're fighting for the very lineage that God will give you. It is not irreversible. Spiritual deliverance is available to everyone who sincerely calls upon the name of the Lord. Generational influences have the ability to bring blessings, or curses, to your life and to those who will follow.

Family is important to God, and it is clear that He does not think merely in terms of individuals but also in terms of generations.

***“So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.”***  
**Matthew 1:17**

When God looks at you, He also sees your family. He sees where you came

from. He looks at your ancestors, and He looks at those who will come after you; your children and grandchildren.

When making a covenant with Abraham, God never once said, “I’m going to bless you.” He always said, “I am going to bless you and your descendants.” We read an example of this in the book of Genesis where God said:

***“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”***  
**Genesis 22:17-18**

Abraham obeyed God and was blessed, and his descendants were blessed, too, because blessings tend to run along blood lines. But, curses also run along blood lines. In the Old Testament God warns the children of Israel not to follow false gods, saying, ***“I the Lord thy God am a jealous***

***God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”***

**Exodus 20:5-6**

The word “iniquity” means to be bent toward a certain sin, and we see that the iniquity of the parents is carried on to the children to the third and fourth generations. So, a child can be bent like his or her parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. Although each person has a free will, the child may have an inner inclination toward the same certain sinful habits as their ancestors. **Lamentations 5:7** says, ***“Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities.”***

In other words, even though they may be dead and in the grave, their iniquity is sticking with you. **Deuteronomy 28:15-68** contains fifty-three verses listing generational curses. There you can find everything from poverty to perversion listed in the Scriptures.





Each of these can be, but are not always, the result of a generational curse. Most people can identify some of these symptoms that have passed on from generation to generation. When you look at your family tree, do you see a pattern of any of these things? Do these things exist in your life?

Do you struggle with a particular sin and see a history of that sin in past generations? Maybe you've been told that the depression or fear you deal with runs in the family or perhaps you struggle with marital infidelity and can identify a pattern of affairs and divorce going back to a parent and grandparent. These could be symptoms of a generational curse. The good news is that generational curses can be stopped through the blood of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 9:22** tells us, *“and almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* It is all about the blood of Jesus Christ.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to*

*be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”*

**Romans 3:23-25**

To define “justified” in simple terms, you could say, *“I’ve been made just as if I’d never done it, just as if it never happened.”* The same is true of deliverance from generational iniquities and curses. These are included in what the Bible calls the *“sins that are past,”* and just as salvation must be appropriated through faith. Until you personally appropriate Jesus’ sacrifice through faith, it is not effective in your life, and the curse can remain. However, the generational curse will be cancelled when you, through faith, appropriate the blood of Jesus for your deliverance.

We saw previously how God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth of generations, but did you notice the rest of that verse?

*“I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”*

**Exodus 20:5-6**

It says that the curse goes to three or four generations. That would likely include several hundred children. But, the blessing goes much further as it is applied to thousands of our children coming in the future. The blessing is always much stronger than the curse! How do we pass this blessing on to future generations? We do it by loving God and obeying His word.

Remember, I am not saying your children will give account of your sin. The Bible says that each person must bear his own guilt. I am only saying that your children may have a tendency to have the same weaknesses that you have if they are not dealt with. Battles that you fight and win may be battles your children never have to fight, but even if they do, they will have your example of victory to follow.

*“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”*

**Deuteronomy 30:19**



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.*



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## *Almost There!*

We are slowly, but surely, getting there. We have been so blessed by the great response of our **Faith Partners** over the past few months. It all started back at the beginning of March when we began receiving the *Pre-Share-A-Thon Contribution Cards* in the mail from our faithful listeners. As most of you know, we were scheduled to have our bi-annual fund drive in March, but had to postpone it due to Covid-19. Since then, we have received hundreds of mail-in contributions

and held two successful *Mini-Share-A-Thons*; one in June and one in July, both for 3 days each.

As a result, we have been able to meet just over 80% of our goal of \$250,000.00. Praise the Lord for Christian Radio being 80% funded! So now, we are faced with the task of raising the last 20%, a little less than \$50,000.00. With our wonderful listeners just like you, this should be a piece of cake! Our goal is to have one more *Mini-Share-A-Thon* at the beginning of August to go ahead and nip this in the bud. Be listening to one of our 8 frequencies for an announcement on the exact dates. Of course, we'll also be updating our website at [www.gomixradio.org](http://www.gomixradio.org), and you can follow us on FaceBook for more details as well.

We'd like to say a big "Thank you" to all that have already contributed during these difficult times. For our new **Faith Partners**, we'd like to say, "Welcome to the **GoMix** family." If you missed your opportunity to give over the past few months, another opportunity is on the way. You can always give via our giving website, [www.givegomix.org](http://www.givegomix.org) or give us a call at **1-877-747-8887**. As always, thank you so much for your continued support.



For Additional Information:

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### *Artist Spotlight - Tracy Coward*

Hello everyone! I pray this finds you all well. If you're like me, you're trying to make the best of these crazy times we are living in. Every day there's something new to do (or not to do), and at times it can be overwhelming. I'm so glad that in these unpredictable times we have a God that is never-changing. All of this is in His hands, and He knows what He's doing. It's so comforting to know that in times of unrest, His peace is unending!

Most of you reading this probably have no idea who I am, so let me share a little about myself. My name is **Tracy Coward**. I was born, raised and still reside in Vanceboro, NC. I was brought up in church, cut my teeth on pews so to speak. There was never a time the church doors were open that we weren't there! I accepted the Lord as my Saviour at 15 years old laying in my bed listening to The Isaacs sing, "He Understands My Tears." It was the best decision I ever made! Now I attend the Bridgeton Pentecostal Holiness Church. I'm a preschool teacher at Our Children Child Care, where I have been for about 15 years. My passion in life is to share the Gospel through song. Whether I'm singing with my kids in class, at my home church, a revival, or online, my prayer is that the song going out will be exactly what someone needs to hear. I want to reach the lost and encourage the saints.

I have been writing songs for a number of years now, and last year I finally recorded my first studio album, **Trust Him Either Way**. It was a bitter sweet experience for me because my precious Mama wasn't there to see it. She unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord

in 2018. The songs chosen for this record all reflect different trials I had faced in the past, but yet they all took on a new meaning for me after her passing. I was put to the test. Did I really trust the Lord like I thought I did? Could I really accept His plan, though I didn't like it? The answer turned out to be yes! Though my heart was broken, I knew that the Lord knew best. For where we can only see down the road, He sees what's around the curve. I can testify today that He has never failed me, though often times I have failed Him. He carried me through that dark trial and gave me a peace I couldn't fully explain. A day will never go by that I don't miss her, but I have a great promise that I will see her again.

If you are facing a difficult trial, and you feel it's too much to handle, remember who is helping you carry it. The child of God never faces anything alone. Jesus is, and will forever be, by your side. Your trials come to make you stronger, wiser, and more dependent on Him. Everything happens for a reason, and it never takes Him by surprise. He's trustworthy, so put all your trust in Him!

I'd love for you to connect with me online. I can be found on **Facebook: Tracy Coward Music**, and my **YouTube** channel: **Tracy Coward**. My music can be found on digital platforms such as: **iTunes**, **Amazon Music**, and **Spotify**. If you're interested in a hardcopy CD, you can email me at [tracycowardmusic@outlook.com](mailto:tracycowardmusic@outlook.com). Thank you so very much, and I pray you have a blessed day!





It's a scorcher outside today. No doubt, summer is in full force. The sweat is pouring down my face at the slightest exertion, and it is difficult to stay cool. A nice, cold glass of water is always welcome.

My husband says, *"About the time I get tired of summer, the Lord sends the fall."* It doesn't take my husband long to get tired of summer, especially with the storms. It is an expensive time of year for the radio ministry. However, the change of the seasons is always nice. The seasons will come at the same time each year, whether we like it or not. Life is much more pleasant, for ourselves and others, if we look forward to the changes with anticipation, and make necessary adjustments. We would look strange walking around in a wool coat in the summer.

Just as the seasons change, our lives are full of changes. How we handle those changes will determine our

effectiveness throughout life, but most importantly, in our Lord's service.

Changes are happening in our lives all the time. Our bodies are growing older, which at this phase of our lives, means the aches and pains are here to stay. The mind is not as clear as age creeps upon us. I seem to forget more than I did a few years ago. My husband tries to make me feel better by telling me I forget more because I have so much more to remember. The key is to accept what we cannot change and work on the things we can. If not, we will be miserable and frustrated because we will never live up to our expectations.

Our children are grown now with their own children. Our oldest grandchild is driving, and our youngest is potty training. Quite a change from when we all sat around the table at dinnertime and rode in our van together to church. Our relationship to our children has changed from

provider and disciplinarian to friend and confidant. They have their own houses to care for, yet they find time to help us with ours. Our lives have had a role reversal. We used to have to assign chores at home, but now they are trying to help us around our house. Boy, how things change.

One major change in my life has been the loss of my dad. My father passed away last August. I not only lost my dad, but I also lost my friend. Mom is alone now and having to chart new waters and experiences. As our parents age, we need to be careful to appreciate every moment. Perhaps we need to change our schedule in order to minister to our aging parents. We do not want to live with regrets.

Our world is changing. The events of the last few months have grieved my heart so much. People's businesses and homes have been violated by a chosen few. They do not represent the majority, but everyone is afraid to



deal with them. We cannot believe what we hear on the news. Most of our politicians are dishonest. The people who died so we could have the freedoms that we enjoy have been villainized. In recent years the morality of our country has been waning. No one knows what marriage means, and the life of an unborn baby is expendable. Many Americans want handouts from every source. They have not learned that there is no such thing as free. There is an endless list.

Our ministry is growing and experiencing change. Many changes are seen in the technology. When the ministry started most people paid by check, now the automatic draft or debit card is most popular. We have a web page and a Facebook page for all of the facets of our ministry. The academy utilizes a “Remind” feature for communication with our parents. This has happened in the last five years. Most of our communication was over the phone. We no longer mail out packets of information for prospects. We just refer them to the webpage, unless they specifically ask for a packet. Only a few years ago, most of our students did not have access to the internet and went to the library to research their assignments, but now most students have the ability to use the internet as well as have access to it on their phones. If they don’t know the answer, they just google it.

GoMix Radio has 100,000 listeners with the potential of reaching 2 million people. It has grown from one full-power station to 8 full-power stations. GoMix Radio also streams on the worldwide web which makes the outreach limitless. All of these changes have increased our budget and our needs across the board. Equipment



is growing old and needs to be replaced. We pay royalties on songs and buildings need to be repaired. And don’t forget, the lightning strikes are more plentiful with 8 towers. We also are constantly adding new programs and songs while holding on to the great classics. GoMix is just that. It is a mix to appeal to different preferences and faiths. Even though our audience is changing, we desire to meet the needs of all Christians.

We changed the name of our ministry magazine from Carolina Life to Pathpointe because our ministry is no longer solely based in North Carolina. We send out magazines to 6000 Faith partners each month which includes articles to minister to each person. We also put the magazine online to ensure that everyone has access to it.

Our ministry, along with many others, has had to endure several tragedies over the last five years. In 2016, we experienced Hurricane Matthew, in 2018, we experienced Hurricane Florence, and this year we are experiencing the Coronavirus. Along with the expense of these events, we have had emotional and physical hardships. We persevered through the hurricanes, and we will persevere through Covid-19. God has been the

strength of the ministry, and He is our strength in personal tragedy as well.

How do we keep going when a loved one dies or is diagnosed with a terminal disease? What keeps us from total depression when our business fails or we are rejected by the ones we love? These heartaches are going to come because they cannot be avoided. There will always be difficult times, but we must move on and not let them control our lives. If we don’t, then we lose our effectiveness for God because we stop ministering to others. The best medicine for making it through the changes a tragedy brings is to help someone else.

Like the seasons, the changes are going to come. How we handle those changes will determine our successes and how the Lord will use us. We must depend on Him. **Matthew 6:33** says that we must seek the Kingdom of God first, then everything else will come. He will help us through the changes, especially the tough ones.



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and eleven grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*





So often we find ourselves walking in defeat. Even Christians can find themselves in this position and face repeated discouragement over their failures. I learned a secret recently that helped me figure out why I was failing so much: I had been excusing my sins as weaknesses, rather than calling them what they really were. In turn, my cries to God for His strength through His Spirit were seemingly unanswered, but it was all my fault. I just did not see.

I knew I wanted the Holy Spirit to fill me. I just could not seem to get His filling. I began searching the Scriptures, knowing most of the verses concerning Him, but still missing something...somehow. I felt defeated and knew I should have victory, but why wasn't I?

I began reading a book called "Spirit-Controlled Temperament" by Dr. Tim LaHaye. The first half of the book helped me to understand the four basic temperament types that make up the human race, and the second half told of how God through the Holy Spirit changes each of us from our fleshly self into a new creature.

As I read the book, there was a chapter on being filled with the Holy Spirit and the reasons most Christians never experience it. It said many Christians who are faithfully serving the Lord are about 95% on their way to being able to be filled with the Holy Spirit. However, it is the 5% they are holding back from surrendering to Him that hinders Him from being able to fill them. One cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit and sin at the same time.

As I took the words to heart, I also came across a chapter on the different forms the sins of anger and fear can take, and it opened my eyes to ways I had not realized I had been sinning. Would you believe the sin of anger can show up in sixteen different forms: bitterness, malice, clamor, envy, resentment, intolerance, criticism, revenge, wrath, hatred, seditions, jealousy, attack, gossip, sarcasm, and unforgiveness? The sin of fear slithers into our lives in the forms of: anxiety, doubts, timidity, indecision, superstition, withdrawal, loneliness, over-aggression, worry, inferiority, cowardice, suspicion, hesitancy, depression, haughtiness, and



social shyness. Or how about depression is most often from the sin of self-pity, unless in the rarer cases where there is a chemical imbalance of some sort.

As I began to see that my life was grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit through either anger, fear, or self-pity, I began to confess my sin to God and call it what it was – sin!

As I came to these realizations, I also saw it was time to let go of two to three things I had been holding onto tightly, unwilling to completely surrender them to Him. I began to pray, crying and surrendering them to Him. My heart ached as I struggled to let go, but I finally gave them and the future to Him. I had to willfully and purposefully...let go...surrender...and yield. Then the most amazing thing happened. There was no longer anything between me and my God, and now the Holy Spirit could fill me. I began to be amazed at the different way things looked around me and how I viewed those surrounding me. I began to see my husband, my children, my family, and the entire world differently. Did things around me change? No, they did not. But I was looking at them through His eyes and responding to problems through His Fruit of **Galatians 5:22-23** – love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (*self-control*). It finally hit me that THIS was a life worth living! Now I was truly living. And it all began by dying to self!

Have I stayed filled with the Spirit since that time? No, sadly, sin has reared its ugly head, and my old nature has not stayed dead. I have to come to Him and repeat my confession of my sin and claim His forgiveness. This is why Paul tells us, **“I die daily.” (I Corinthians 15:31)** I am trying to keep a short distance between my sin and my repentance. For I desperately know now just how much I really need Him and *the difference between* living without His filling and living with it. I still fail, and it is a constant battle to stay surrendered, but by God’s grace, I want to keep walking with Him moment by moment, day by day.

May I recommend reading “Spirit-Controlled Temperament” if you struggle in your Christian walk? It has helped me tremendously to understand

others better, but most importantly to understand and see myself more clearly. It helped me to see what my strengths and weaknesses were. It taught me to surrender to God my weaknesses and view them as a challenge to be overcome rather than depressing failures. The book is not miraculous; it was the work God did in me as I remained open to what He wanted to teach me from this book. With God’s help, through the work of the Holy Spirit, by the blood of Jesus, I can be a new Amber. Jesus came to save us from our sins. Not just for salvation and for all eternity, but to save us from our day to day sins we struggle with. My prayer had become, *“Lord Jesus, save me from my sin.”* I had a besetting sin, as most of us do. Jesus came to save us from those too.

I had been battling doubts and fears about the near and far future, and of what seemed to be needed from me. I really and truly did not feel up to the task, that if it all rested on me, things were going to crumble. Once I surrendered to God fully, I gained new confidence and assurance that I really, really could **“do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.** Now I know that I can do what lies ahead, for whatever comes, He will make me able to bear it. For He will be inside me, giving me exactly what I need to get the job done!



*Mrs. Amber Sherman is the mother of four and serves as a part-time teacher at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro, NC.*

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# And Finally...



## My Hometown...

*I am from the small town of Rutherfordton, North Carolina. I hated living there when I was growing up. I always felt like I was bored with nothing to do in such a small place. Now that I'm older, I've learned to love and appreciate the small community so much! It seems like everybody knows everybody and there really aren't any strangers. The motto of Rutherford County is "Small Town Friendly" there really is a sense of hospitality and hometown pride that is hard to find in larger cities. It's the kind of town where neighbors help each other and families are important. No matter where I travel, Rutherfordton will always have a special place in my heart.*

**J. R.**

*I grew up on the other side of the country in the town of Stockton, California. As a child, you went to school, came home, grabbed a snack, did your homework, and then you begged your mom to let you play outside with the neighborhood kids. There wasn't much to do in my city, but there were quite a few things that made living here very memorable as I was growing up. I'll never forget the memorable trips to Golfland, where you could ride down watersides and play miniature golf, or visits to Hammerskate, where EVERYONE came from all over the city, on Friday and Saturday nights, just to eat Nachos and skate with that boy or girl they liked... the joys of being a child.*

**J. M.**

*My family moved around quite a lot when I was a kid, so I'm really not sure where exactly to call my hometown. I can say that North Carolina is my absolute favorite state by far. Within a day's drive I can be at the mountains or at the coast. I love the 4 changing seasons of weather, sweet tea, vinegar-based barbeque, church steeples, lightning bugs, the variety of college sport teams, and the sense of community you feel in so many towns. Regardless of where my true hometown was, I believe North Carolina will always be my home.*

**A. L.**

## “Voter Registration Day”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us why it's important for you to vote.

The deadline for submission is August 30, 2020.

You can send an email to:

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