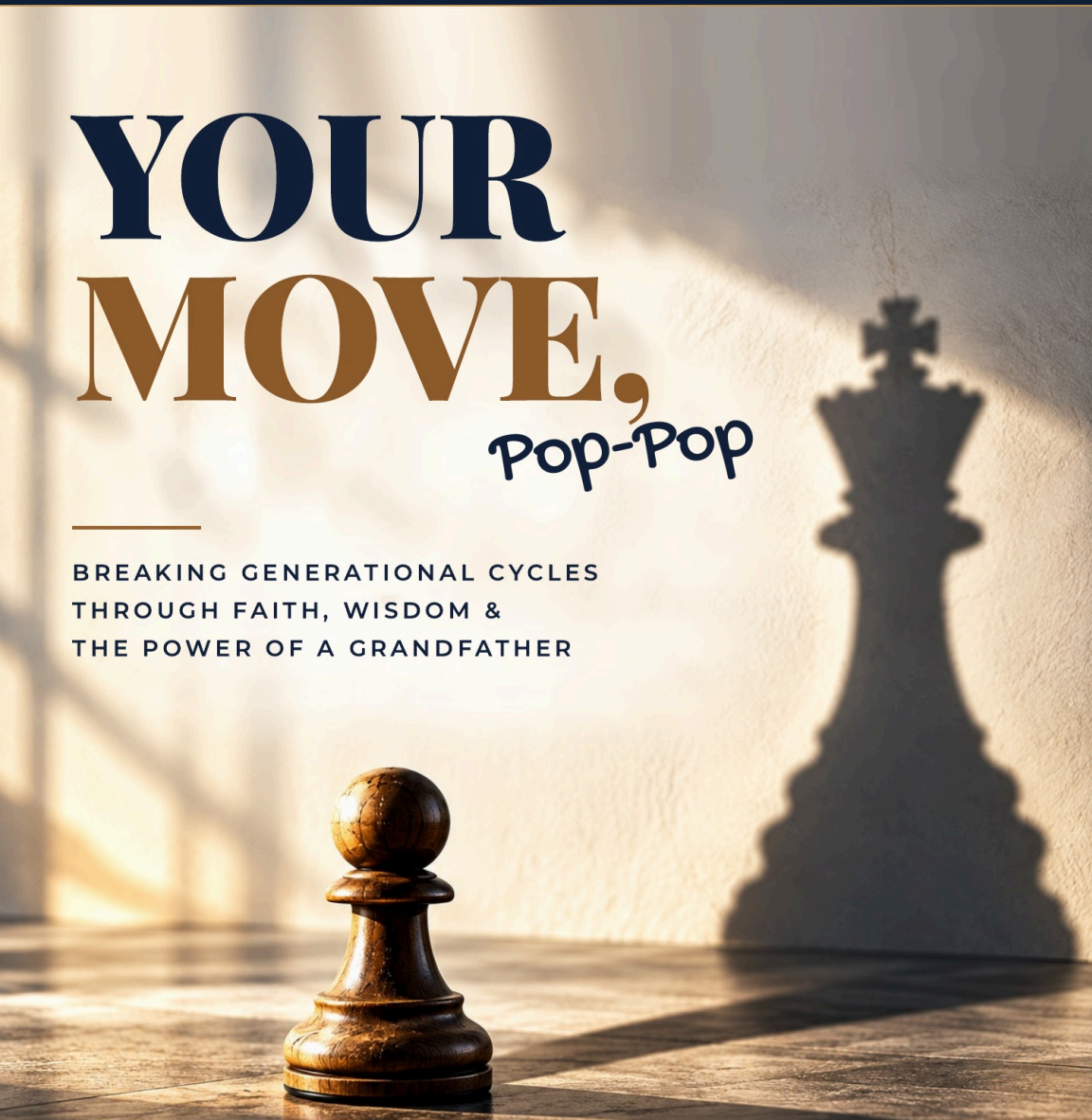
GRANDFATHERS & GRANDSONS | TEN MOVES · TEN MONTHS

YOUR MOVE, Pop-Pop

BREAKING GENERATIONAL CYCLES
THROUGH FAITH, WISDOM &
THE POWER OF A GRANDFATHER



A CHRISTIAN INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORING BOOK
& GUIDED WORKBOOK

DEON BARBER



INTRODUCTION

Your Move

“I was 18 years old, standing in my mom’s house with everything I owned stuffed into the same bags I used to bag leaves, and nowhere to go.”

I had made one decision, and I knew I couldn’t take it back. I didn’t know where I would sleep that night. What I didn’t know was that God already had a plan, and it would take me forty years to see it.

Deon Barber, Pop-Pop

INTRODUCTION · CONTINUED

I didn't set out to write a book. I was already living it. The coaches who pulled me aside. The grandmothers who prayed over me. The young men I coached through our nonprofit in Baltimore. The young leaders I poured into at work. Every Pop-Pop and Little Buddy Time with my grandson. God was writing this book in my life, one Move at a time.

Everywhere I looked, I saw the same gap: lessons a young man needs early, from a man who loves him, skipping a generation. They skipped my father. They skipped me. I've watched them skip so many young men I grew up with, coached and led. This book is my answer to that gap, for my family and for yours.

For me, it started with three words.

"Good luck, son."

Those were the words my father said when he dropped me off at college. To understand how I got to that moment, you have to know about Sunday mornings in my mom's house.

THE REST OF THE STORY IS IN THE BOOK

Some lessons skip a generation. Not this one.

CONTENTS

Ten Moves. Ten months.

PART ONE · THE OPENING

1 **Who You Are Before They Tell You** — *Know your piece* — MONTH 1

2 **The Lines You Don't Cross** — *Learn the rules of the board* — MONTH 2

3 **Your Word Is Your Name** — *Touch it, move it* — MONTH 3

PART TWO · THE MIDDLE GAME

4 **Find the Hidden Gift** — *See the whole board* — MONTH 4

5 **Sharpen the Blade, Choose Your Circle** — *No piece wins alone* — MONTH 5

6 **More Than Just Enough** — *Practice your openings* — MONTH 6

7 **Follow Well, Lead Well** — *Every piece has a role* — MONTH 7

PART THREE · THE ENDGAME

8 **Choose This Day** — *Every move is a choice* — MONTH 8

9 **Fall Seven, Rise Eight** — *Losing teaches the game* — MONTH 9

10 **It's Your Move Now** — *The pawn crosses the board* — MONTH 10

Plus the Covenant, the Scoreboard, a Certificate, and letters to your grandson and great-grandchild.

A LOOK INSIDE

How every Move works

Each Move follows the same four-week rhythm, so you always know what to do next. Here's a sample from Move 1.

WEEK 1

The Sit-Down

Read Pop-Pop's true stories together, then talk it through with Porch Talk questions you both answer.

WEEK 2

Make Your Move

Real action steps to take together between Sit-Downs, checked off as you go.

WEEK 3

More from the Board

More stories, a laugh from Back in My Day, and the chess lesson behind the Move.

WEEK 4

Review the Game

Write what you learned, affirm him, pray over him, and play your monthly game of chess.

YOUR TURN

Throughout every Move, the book stops and asks the grandfather to tell his own story. Every grandfather's life becomes part of the book.

One intentional hour a week. One Move a month. One young man who knows someone is in his corner.

MOVE 1

Who You Are Before They Tell You



Before the world labels you, you must know who you are and whose you are.

THE PAWN'S JOURNEY · MOVE 1 · IDENTITY

Every pawn starts on the same row. Before it moves an inch, it has to know what it is.

Turn the page. It's your move.

POP-POP'S PLAYBOOK

The voice you listen to most becomes the voice in your head. Choose it on purpose.

MEMORY VERSE · SAY IT TOGETHER ALL WEEK

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:14 NKJV

WEEK 1 · READ TOGETHER

The Sit-Down

Study the Board

Before you can play chess, you have to know your piece. A knight doesn't move like a bishop. A rook doesn't move like a pawn. Every piece on the board was made to move a certain way, and the player who knows what his pieces can do has the advantage before the game even starts.

Life works the same way. Before the coach, the kids at school, or the comments on your phone tell you who you are, you need to know who God says you are. If you don't decide who you are, somebody else will decide it for you.

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

Psalm 139:14 NKJV

The day I listened to the wrong voice

From about 13 to 15, I played travel baseball. That meant all summer, every summer. My coach picked me up for practice pretty much every day. I was the only kid in my neighborhood playing travel ball, so while everybody else was at the court playing rec basketball, I was gone.

One of my friends started making fun of me for it. “You’re not going to make it in baseball anyway,” he said. “I don’t know why you keep putting all this time into it.”

I believed him.

One day I went to the basketball court instead of practice. I didn’t call my coach. I didn’t tell anybody. He drove over to pick me up, and I wasn’t there. That was disrespectful, plain and simple.

WHAT IT COST HIM IS IN THE BOOK

The first fastball

It was my freshman year of college, spring training, indoors because Maryland was still cold. I’d been catching since I was 7. In high school I caught 75-to-85-mile-an-hour pitches without a face mask. I could see the ball. I was good.

Then the first college pitch came my way.



By the time I saw the ball leave the pitcher's hand, it was already in my glove. I had never seen a ball move that fast. Right there, that second, a voice in my head said, *You don't belong here.*

I got up and went straight to the equipment room. I put on a face mask and a chest protector.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS IN THE BOOK

> ***"A voice only gets a vote if you give it one."***
>
> Pop-Pop

YOUR TURN · STOP HERE AND TELL HIM YOUR STORY

Put the book down for a minute. Tell him about a time doubt hit you: what the voice in your head said, and what you did next. If you gave in to it, tell him that too. He needs to know that the men he looks up to have felt it.

Four truths about who you are

1. You were made on purpose. God didn't make you by accident, and He didn't make you to be a copy of anybody else.

> *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him."*
>
> **Genesis 1:27 NKJV**

Hear this: whether your dad is in the house or not, you are not missing a piece. God made you whole.

3. Doubt is a feeling, not a fact. Fear will talk to you. It talked to me in that college bullpen. You don't have to obey it.

> *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
>
> **2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV**

TWO MORE TRUTHS ARE IN THE BOOK

WEEK 1 · TOGETHER

The Sit-Down

Porch Talk

Sit somewhere comfortable: the porch, the car, across the chessboard. You answer every question too.

1. What are three words you'd use to describe yourself? What three words do you think God would use?

GRANDSON _____

YOU _____

2. Whose opinion of you matters most right now, and why?

GRANDSON _____

YOU _____

3. When do you feel doubt the most: at school, in sports, with friends, at home, or online?

GRANDSON _____

YOU _____

ONE MORE PORCH TALK QUESTION IN THE BOOK

WEEK 2 · TOGETHER

Between Moves

Make Your Move

Do these between Sit-Downs, together. Check each one off when it's done.

- [ ] **Write your "I Am" card.** Together, write five truths from this lesson on an index card (for example, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" and "God looks at my heart"). Tape it to his mirror.

- [ ] **Say it out loud.** Each of you names one thing you admire about the other, face to face.

- [ ] **Catch the doubt.** For the next 24 hours, every time a negative thought shows up, the grandson writes it down and replaces it with something true. Talk about the list at your next Sit-Down.

ONE MORE ACTION STEP IN THE BOOK

A TIP FOR YOU

You'll be tempted to fill in the plan for him. Don't. **Ask questions and let him write it.** It's his move.

BACK IN MY DAY · POP-POP

It was my freshman year of high school, and I had never returned a kickoff in my life. I had never played running back in any organized way either. All I knew was street pickup football: seven-on-seven, eight-on-eight, no pads. But my friend Harvey went to the coach and told him I was a running back and a kickoff return specialist with blazing speed. The speed part was true. The rest of it, not so much.

The coach listened. At summer practice he put me on the first-team kickoff return. Here we go. The ball went up in the air, and I'd seen that before. What I had never seen was eleven players in full pads running full speed to take down the guy about to catch it.

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BOOK

Back to the board

The pawn is the smallest piece in chess. It moves one square at a time, and it's easy to overlook. But it's the only piece that can become something greater. When a pawn keeps moving forward all the way across the board, it's promoted, and a promoted pawn gains options, power and influence it never had. Every great move starts with knowing your piece, and then moving it forward.

YOUR MOVE, GRANDSON

Write the sentence you want people to say about you when you're your grandfather's age. Then pick one thing you'll do this month to start becoming it.

WEEK 4 · TOGETHER

Review the Game

Move 1 Recap

What I learned (grandson, in your own words):

What I saw in him (you: one specific thing to affirm):

Where we'll keep working:

Memory verse: grandson says Psalm 139:14 from memory. ☐ Done

Your prayer over him:

If you need a place to start: "Lord, thank You for making my grandson fearfully and wonderfully made. When doubt talks to him, let Your voice be louder. Show him who he is before the world tries to tell him. Amen."

THAT'S ONE MOVE

Nine more are waiting at the table.

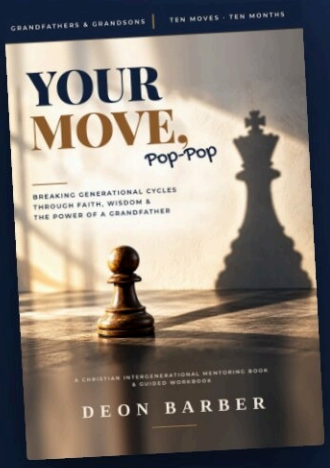
- **Ten true stories**
  from Baltimore to the boardroom: a pool hall, a depth chart, a 14–12 loss, and the day he walked the aisle at 12.
- **Ten chess lessons**
  that follow one pawn across the board, from its first square to promotion.
- **The Covenant**
  a grandfather and grandson sign together, and Covenant Cards to hang on the refrigerator.
- **The Scoreboard**
  with a monthly chess game that gets young men ready for the Your Move National Chess Tournament.
- **Help for families who live far apart**
  by phone and video, and a Certificate and two letters to keep for a lifetime.

Written by Deon Barber: more than 30 years developing leaders in corporate America, twenty years in youth ministry, and Pop-Pop to the Little Buddy who inspired this book.

YOUR MOVE, POP-POP

Ready for your next move?

Some lessons skip a generation. Not this one. Get a copy for the grandfather, uncle, coach or mentor in a young man's corner, and one for the young man too.



$29.99

per copy · every grandfather and every grandson gets his own

Church and group pricing available

Founding 500 sign-up is open now. Preorders open January 1 for Founding Members and January 8 for everyone.

CLAIM MY FOUNDING SPOT →

It's your move.