

## The Newborn Promise Podcast

### Episode 27-Brandon Heath: A Legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love

- Audra Haney: Thanks for tuning into the Newborn Promise podcast, a production of Graham Blanchard Incorporated. You are listening to an interview with Brandon Heath, called, "A Legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love." For today's show notes, transcript, or more information about your Newborn Promise Project, please visit [grahamblanchard.com](http://grahamblanchard.com).
- Thanks for joining us on this episode. I am Audra Haney, and today we are talking to songwriter and recording artist Brandon Heath about the gift he and his wife Siebe are expecting this Christmas, their very first child. Coinciding with the release of his latest album, "Faith, Hope, Love, Repeat," Brandon talks about the legacies he plans to share with his daughter, his new music, and how his new role influenced the writing of the album. Replacing fear with faith has been a big theme for this accomplished songwriter during the project, and his advice for his new daughter, to hope and love, shines through as well. We hope his words of encouragement inspire you to embrace these beautiful tenants of faith afresh and anew, too. Here's our interview with Brandon.
- Brandon, thank you so much for being with us today. You are in good company because our listeners are couples that are expecting for the first time, or are in the early stages of parenthood. So, tell us a little bit about your family, you and your wife Siebe are expecting, right?
- Brandon Heath: Yes, we do. We're gonna have a little baby girl in December, and her due date is December 21st. Lord willing, she will be on time and not late so we're in the hospital on Christmas day, but we're really excited. This is our first, and we're not sure what to expect, but we know God's in it, so we're excited.
- Audra Haney: Yes, that's so exciting. What has been like being a husband and experiencing the whirlwind of your wife's pregnancy and planning and showers so far?
- Brandon Heath: It's funny. My wife had her first shower last week. She's having two, so she got two friends that are throwing her a shower, and I'll get back off the road, and there will be more in the nursery. It's like, wow, this is really happening. This is crazy.
- I didn't really necessarily want to know the gender. I love surprises, so I'm always kind of like, wait til last minute. But Siebe, my wife, is a planner, so we found out fairly early on what we were having, and it

kind of helped us pick out the color of the nursery, which is kind of this pale green, which I guess could work for both boy or girl. But it's a beautiful little nursery that my wife has put together, and we're just excited. We're excited to share our home with a little bambino, and we're getting a lot of tips from friends as far as sleep schedule and eating and those are all things that I think Siebe's ...

Siebe's a little nervous about breastfeeding, and I think there's a lot of pressure that comes for women about breastfeeding. They feel like they have to get it right, and from what we've heard, it can be really challenging. It's okay if it doesn't work, if it's not what works for you or your baby, it's okay. So, we're just trying to figure out how to take care of all that pressure that we put on ourselves, or that others put on us.

Audra Haney:

Yes, that's a good point. It is a very unique time to be a parent because there's an overwhelming amount of information out there, and I think that's great wisdom to own what works for you and your wife.

Brandon, having a baby is a great time to think about and remember the families that we came from. What role did your own family play in shaping who you are today, and how is that even playing a part in the music you create?

Brandon Heath:

I'm an only child, so I had my parents' undivided attention, and I think early on, I discovered how much my mom and dad love music. I grew up in Nashville, Music City, so it was very much a part of our family and I really was singing at an early age. My mom tells me that one of the first songs that I sang was a Roy Orbison song (singing). I used to love that song, and my mom and dad divorced when I was three, and I remember ... I don't have a lot of memories of them being together, but I remember meeting my stepmom, and two step siblings, and it was a bizarre thing for a kid to go through. Divorce is hard on anybody, but I think it's especially hard on kids, but I grew to love my stepmom and my two step siblings. They were more or less became family for me.

Audra Haney:

One of your first songs was actually about your stepmother, right?

Brandon Heath:

Yeah. "I'm Not Who I Was" was actually written about my stepmom, and she and my dad's marriage unfortunately broke up after eight years, and I didn't see them again, I didn't see her or her kids, for about 15 years. That was hurtful for me. I don't think it was that they were avoiding me, it was just such a hard divorce. So, I wrote, "I'm Not Who I Was" as kind of a forgiveness song towards her, and I'm thankful for that.

Divorce is common these days among families, and we as kids, we don't necessarily get to be the ones to make the choice, but when we get

older, we get to choose who we want to forgive, and when I met Jesus, it seemed apparent that forgiveness was very important. That you don't carry these hard feelings towards people through your life, and so that's kind of been a priority for me as an adult, is to learn how to forgive. We as family members can hurt each other, every once in a while, and so I think if we're gonna live in close proximity to one another, we're gonna hurt each other, and we need to forgive.

Audra Haney: Yes, forgiveness is so freeing and important. Thank you for sharing that.

Brandon, what are some things that you are hoping to pass along to your daughter that your parents did well, and maybe some things you'd like to start that are new?

Brandon Heath: One thing that my dad did that I think was so important is that he was an adventurous guy, and eh always invited me to come with him. So, I always felt included. I hope that I do a good job of that with my children. I tend to like my alone time, so I want to do a good job of including them in my life, and even things that I think that they might not be interested in. Just see if they would, and so I hope that I follow my dad's footsteps in doing that well.

We didn't really go to church when I was a kid, and that's something I want to do differently. I really want to raise my kids in a community of believers, and so I hope that I do that well.

Audra Haney: Building that spiritual community is so important. In addition to a new baby, you have recently birthed a new record this year called, "Faith, Hope, Love, Repeat." How has processing your role as a new dad influenced this record?

Brandon Heath: Yeah, I thought that the best advice that I could give my newborn baby is those three tenants, faith, hope, and love. I think it's something that we have to do every day. It's something that we choose on a daily basis, and so that's really the theme of the record, but I struggle with fear in certain areas, and will I be able to provide. Health is kind of another fear. I've had a lot of, my family's had a lot of health issues, so those kind of things can get into my brain, so I want to make sure that I'm not afraid, that my kids see me lead not from a place of fear, but of trust.

Audra Haney: One of your songs, "Whole Heart," was really about trust and surrender, right?

Brandon Heath: Yeah. "Whole Heart" is me turning over my life, good and bad, to the Lord. I think He sees us as puzzles, and he can't put us back together the way that we're supposed to be unless he has all the pieces. I mean, I get that, and I certainly want to surrender the shameful things, the hard

things, that I think God, only God, can heal and redeem. I think He's in the business of redeeming, so He really wants all of us, and "Whole Heart" is a testament to that.

I also want it to be a fun song. I want it to be fun to listen to and sing, so I'm glad that so many people have responded to it.

Audra Haney: That is so great. I know for a lot of artists, songwriting can be a really healing process. Has that been true for you, and how has writing this album impacted you?

Brandon Heath: Songwriting has always been therapy for me. It feels kind of like writing in my journal, and I love that I get to do it for a living. I can't believe it. It's the best job ever, and that people listen to the songs and respond is amazing to me. So, I'm really thankful that I get to do this for a living, and this new record is really ... I'm just having fun with life right now, so I wanted it to sound fun. I always look at records as kind of a yearbook, like a snapshot of what's going on in life. So, it's a fun season, and so I wanted to make a fun record.

Audra Haney: I love that, and I love that in Christian music, we can have that fun side as well as the contemplative side.

Brandon, just going back to being a dad, what are some things that you're looking forward to in the new season of fatherhood?

Brandon Heath: I tell you, I'm not looking forward to the sleepless nights, because I need sleep. But I'm looking forward to honestly just being stretched. I'm okay with the challenge. Gosh, I think every time I look at my daughter, I was literally thinking about this this morning, just knowing that my blood is coursing through her veins, and that my parents and my grandparents, there's just this great inheritance that my daughter is receiving. It's generations of love and nurturing and also being allowed to become individuals and I think that was one that my mom and dad were good at, was letting me become who I was. So, I look forward to that. Just seeing who is she, what makes her different from me, even though yeah, she's got my blood, and hopefully she doesn't look like me, but I want to see who she is. I think that's the miracle, part of the miracle of creation is that we're all uniquely ourselves.

I can teach her, I can influence her in certain ways, but she already is, like, now, who she's gonna be. I'm excited to see that unfold.

Audra Haney: It is so true. They do come out with such big personalities. Brandon, when it comes to faith, what are some ways you're looking forward to shepherding her faith in those early years of parenting?

Brandon Heath: Well, I already know that we're gonna read her Storybook Bible. Siebe and I, my wife and I read that to each other and we have for years. So, we're gonna do that with our daughter. I also want her ask questions, because I think that God respects our questions. I want her to feel like her faith is her own, so I hope that she asks tough questions. Why do people die? Where do they go when they die? Why can't I see God? I think those actually help me understand my own faith, because I have to put it into words, and very simple words. I think a lot about that guy in first John who was blind, and Jesus spit in his eye, and put mud in his eye, and then he could see. That guy didn't have a lot of theology, he didn't go to a big Christian college or seminary. He just knew he was blind, and now he could see. I really want her, I want to raise her to have a simple faith like that.

Honestly, I look forward to learning from her about being a child again, and I look forward to that. I hope there's some mutual teaching happening.

Audra Haney: Yes, it is so great to relive some of that childhood fun, and I would say you are way ahead of the game. Those are some great answers.

Brandon, one of the verses that means a lot to you is first Corinthians, 13:13, which says, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love." You really named your album after that verse, but what does it mean to you now that you are expanding your family?

Brandon Heath: There is a big responsibility in being a parent, I would say, and I think if I rely on my own devices to be a parent, I don't know that I will be as good as I could be. But if I allow the Lord to instill faith, hope, and love, and just to realize how I've always had it, I think it's gonna require a lot of trust in God. So, I'm just looking forward to putting that into practice, and I think it's gonna be humbling and I don't know. I'm certainly willing to be taught. But gosh, I think I said it earlier, I just want to experience the love that God has for us, just a little foretaste as being a father. I'm most excited about that, and somebody told me recently that when the baby's born, the way that you look at your wife and the way that she looks at you will forever be changed. You'll never look at each other the same way again. I'm looking forward to that.

Audra Haney: Yes, this is really such a special time, and we are so excited for you and Siebe. Just to close out our time, would you mind praying for these new moms and dads that are in the exact same season, and praying for them as they embrace this new journey as you are?

Brandon Heath: Lord, first of all, I just want to thank You for the miracle of birth, and the miracle of creation, and that we get to be a part of it. I know that as I've had my hand on my wife's belly recently, I just feel those little kicks, and

I just get this little foretaste of how You feel about us, and I am so thankful and grateful to be included in such a great story that You are telling through Your children.

Lord, as we all look back on our childhood, the things that stick out in our memory, the happy memories, the sad stuff, I'm realizing now as an adult that you were always in the midst of it all, and that's gonna be the case for our children. Lord, that gives me a lot of courage, and so thank You for always being faithful to me, especially when I wasn't faithful to You. Lord, I'm just so excited to see how people who are listening, how their lives unfold, and what it's gonna be like to be a dad, just know how much You love me.

In Your son's name, I pray. Amen.

Audra Haney:

Thank you so much for joining us today for this amazing interview with Brandon. Please join us for our next episode as we talk with Margie Trip, from Shepherding the Heart Ministries about the great responsibility and joy of grand parenting, and how grandparents can help shape the faith of their little loved ones.

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