

*How do we build a Biblical Faith in our Children?
Part 1 - What Must I become as a Parent?*

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Introduction: The prayer of every godly parent is that their children may go to heaven.

A. Today a large percentage of our young people raised by Christians have either never obeyed the gospel or are falling away.

1. A good number of parents follow their children in departing from the Lord.
2. Some raise all of their children to be faithful. What makes the difference?

I. There are few griefs greater than seeing one's child forsake the Lord .

1. (**Prov 10:1; 17:21, 25; 19:13**) - This is a pain that does not go away.
2. The goal of this material is to gain the wisdom from the scriptures on how to raise godly children.
3. Above all let us learn more and **encourage those parents** who have children in the home.

C. There are few joys greater than seeing one's children grow to be servants of God.

1. (**Prov 23:24-25**) - We need to make this our determined goal!
3. After setting this lofty goal, what kind of commitment is necessary to see it accomplished? (**Luke 14:28-30**)
4. How do we find the strength to accomplish this? (**1 John 5:4-5**)

II. Some things parents must become.

A. You must be a Christian with a strong faith. (2 Tim 1:5)

1. You cannot instill in a child that which you do not live!
2. Many Christians have deceived themselves into accepting a worldly lifestyle while viewing themselves as faithful. **Your children will see the difference** and be discouraged. (**2 Cor 13:5**)
3. In order to have a biblical faith, your faith must cost you dearly. (**Luke 14:33**) In some cases it may be the parent has never become a Christian.
4. The goal of a parent is to teach their children about the God who loves them and for Whom we ourselves should lay our lives down. (**Rev 2:10**)

B. You must be knowledgeable in what is right and wrong.

1. (**Heb 5:12-14**) - If we have a strong faith, we will grow to be able to see the deceitful traps of Satan.
 - a. We must understand that not everything is spelled out in black and white. We must make wise decisions. (**Gal 5:21**)
 - b. This requires a daily effort to discern and prove what is right. (**Rom 12:1-2; 1 Thess 5:21**)
2. The weak Christian cannot clearly see the pitfalls of sin for their lives nor for their children.
 - a. Sadly, some will view strong Christians as unduly limiting their children. Some will even go to the point of expressing gossip and criticism towards those parents who try to warn them.
 - b. In other cases, the weak may actually encourage their children in those

things which are wrong.

3. In matters of right and wrong we will be tested severely. We need to fight the battles of what the Bible teaches **before** the emotional times of pressing personal decisions. **(Dan 1:8; Josh 24:15)**
 - a. While we need to keep a heart open to the word of God so we may correct any beliefs held that are wrong. We must not be constantly vacillating.
 - b. Our children will see this and our influence will be negated.
 - c. Let us be consistent. When should openly confess when we are wrong.

C. You must have a will to stand firm and exercise discipline.

1. This discipline is an outgrowth of God's love. **(Heb 12:5-11)**
 - a. We must be willing to speak the truth and discipline when it is not easy. **(Mark 10:21-22)**
 - b. We must never be blind to our child's faults! If we do, who will be the loser?
2. We must communicate in discipline. **(Eph 6:4)**
 - a. We need wisdom to know how to work with our child at different age levels.
 - b. Do not discipline your child when you are not in control! **(Eph 4:26-27)**
 - c. Make sure you have communicated to the child the lesson to be learned.
3. The parent is to raise the child, not the opposite! **(Prov 29:15; 3:12)**

D. You must be committed to practicing God's will in your relationship to your mate.

1. When a home functions as God wills there is a great strength. **(Eph 5:25-33)**
2. The patterns you have with your mate in communication, affection, respect, faith in God, etc., will have a large impact upon the rest of your child's life.
3. Uncontrolled anger is devastating to children. **(Eph 4:31-32)**

E. You must be committed to being a good teacher. (Deut 6:4-9; Eph 6:4)

1. You will be a teacher! Be the best you can be.
2. Prepare yourself far ahead of the birth of the child to teach.

F. You must put away the schemes of Satan. (James 3:13-15)

1. If you become a critic you will embitter your children towards Christians. Do not be surprised when they take your spirit to its logical conclusion.
2. **(James 3:17-18)** – Instill God's wisdom.

G. You must be a couple who will stand united on these things. (Luke 1:6; 1 Peter 3:7)

1. This would mean marrying a Christian.
2. The parents can avoid allowing the child to pit one parent against the other.

Conclusion: Let us build a solid faith in our children!

A. In the end, if our Children serve the Lord, it will be for God's glory.

B. What influence and example will we leave with our children?

1. "Mirror, mirror on the wall, I am more like my mother after all!"
2. Your voice will speak long after your departure in the mind of your child. **(Prov 22:6; Heb 12:1-2)**