

Raising Up Children

Part 3

Reading and discussing further Scripture will teach us more about how to raise our Children according to the Word of God and His good plan for them:

2- The Parents of John the Baptist: *“5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. 8 Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” 18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” 19 The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.” (Luke 1:5-25)* Zachariah as a priest trusted in the Lord and was praying that his wife Elizabeth will have a child, because he and his wife were stricken in age. Finally the Lord answered his prayer and sent His angel to announce to him the good news that his wife will be pregnant, *“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.” (Luke 1:13b)* The meaning of John is this: *“Jehovah is a gracious giver.”* God is the gracious giver for each and every child. God wants you to realize that He gives children to accomplish His purpose:

A- To increase and build up your faith: God is the giver of life and you need to trust Him that He will be the one to give you children. Do not be afraid; believe the word of God and do not doubt.

B- To bring you joy and delight: *“14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,” (Luke 1:14)* That is very true if you abide in His will to raise the children that God gives you in the prescribed way; in the fear of the Lord.

C- “Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.” (Proverbs 29:17): When you discipline your children they will be a source of joy to you and to others. As you commit yourself to live in the fear of the Lord, to abstain from worldly pleasure, to train your children and keep them away from worldly things like watching TV and movies, video games, going out with friends, joining parties and clubs, having affairs with other gender, then you see that your children are given to you by the Lord to be raised up to do the great things of God. *“15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.” (Luke 1:15)*

C- Be aware of the great purpose of God in the life of your children: *“15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.” (Luke 1:15)* God had called you from your mother womb and he wants you to accept and realize that He had called your children to serve Him even before their birth. When you keep the atmosphere of your home clean and away from TV and Satellite programs, away from video games, away from bad friends and relatives, but filled with the reading of God’s word, prayer and kneeling down, instructions and advising with God’s word then the Holy Spirit will dwell and fill even your children.

D- Your children are called to be God’s ministers: They are called to prepare the way for the Lord: to bring lukewarm back to revive and serve God: The Lord would use them to change people’s heart and lives: and to raise up new generation to serve God with compassionate and caring hearts of true spiritual fathers and mothers: *“16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:16-17)*

“59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” 61 They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was

with him. 67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— 72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham: 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.” (Luke 1:59-80)

E- Thus will be the testimony of your children when you raise them according to God’s standard, “What then is this child going to be?” (Luke 1:66b): Your children are God’s wonderful work in your life. Therefore you need to be aware that you are a royal priest and is called by God to raise a holy godly generation, future minister who would prepare the way before the Lord Jesus and bring the light of God’s salvation to the rest of mankind who are away from God.

F- Encourage your children with this message, “76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.”: They should hear that from you, and that will be their ministry from the Lord and you are the one whom God called to train them and equip them for that particular mission that God had prepared for your children.

My Dear and Beloved: Your children are God’s children, and He gave them to you in order to raise them up in a the prescribed way that they would finally serve Him and take the lead to do the will of God and the work of God and be His instrument to deliver mankind from the peril of sin and devil. To this you are called as parents and God desire to work hand in hand with Him and do properly your part as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that clearly declare to me your will and your good plan for me and my family. I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I accept your calling and commission to me to lead my family and to raise up godly children, who will be servants and ministers of yours to lead others in righteousness. Lord increases my faith and my trust in you. Lord equip me more and provide for me to continue to do your work and your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

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(Luke 1:76)

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