

# Raising Up Children

*“These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.” (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)*

In the above chosen Scripture Moses was speaking to the leaders of the Israelites and he was conveying to them the message and the teaching that he received from the Lord. What he was telling them is to observe this teaching in the land that they are possessing so that they will prosper. Moses make it also clear to them that not only themselves need to fear the Lord and obey His decrees and commands but as well as their children and their children after them as we can read here: *“So that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.”* The point that Moses made to them very clear that to enjoy long life all of them they need to fear the Lord and keep all His decrees and commands. And in order that the blessings of the Lord will be transferred to their children and their children’s children they need to teach their children and discipline them according to the Word of God.

*“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)* The commands of God need to be impressed them on their children. So they have to teach them and impress the commands of God on their hearts and lives. It is the duty of the parents to teach the children the Word of God. Therefore parents must know and follow the Word of God, and they should be the one to impart that to their children because God had given the parents the authority to teach and discipline the children with the Word of God as we can read below:

**1- “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)** So parents are responsible to train their children in the right way of life. It is not the church primarily responsibility but parents duty to do that. The church is responsible to teach the parents and train them in the way of the Lord, and then the parents will be the one to train the children the way of the Lord. We read also, *“A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children, but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous.” (Proverbs 13:22)* But what type of inheritance we can leave for our children? Money and material things? This will be of limited value. But the best that we can give to them is the Word of God that they can follow and practice in their lives and be blessed.

**2- Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.” (Proverbs 19:18)** There will be hope for our children if we apply rules and discipline to them from the Word of God. Discipline means rules to follow, limitations and restrictions to observe as well as punishment for disobedience and reward and complement for obedient acts. Discipline is very important for children like the importance of giving them food, accommodation and education. Discipline is the supreme of that all. Discipline will bring life and push death away. If we allow children to do what they like then spiritual death will come into their lives. *“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.” (Proverbs 23:13)*

**3- “Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.” (Proverbs 29:17)** Every parent is expecting the best to have and to receive from their children and the way to achieve and receive that by imparting discipline to them. The outcome of balanced and careful discipline will bring peace to the parents and what they delight.

**4- “Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.” (Proverbs 13:24)** If we really love our children with the love of God we will be careful to spank them when are in wrong and reward them when they do the right thing. Every child should be spank if he willingly break the rules and do things wrongs in contrary to what he was trained to do. The parents should agree with themselves about the rules that the children should follow in the house and in life. Then they will discuss that with the children and explain to them clearly the rules, the reward for the obedience and the consequences of their disobedience. Children will sure test the parents and see if they can disobey and bypass the punishment. Then the parents should be strict with that particular attitude. Children they should not be allowed to control the parents and the atmosphere of the house. God’s commands are above everyone and everyone should express his love to God and his love to one another by his obedience to God’s word.

**5- “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.” (Proverbs 22:15)** When the child disobeys the parents and wants to do what he likes that is his foolishness and it is bound in his heart. He likes to disobey, but there is a way that this foolishness can be removed, this is by spanking using the rod. Spanking on the buttocks can manage and deal with the child foolishness. Spanking should causes pain. The child should feel the pain and should cry so he will be healed and will not repeat that again. Some parents are not willing to use rod and spank their child because they don’t want him to feel pain and cry, but God’s Word encourage us to do that because it is for their benefit and that fulfill our love for them. In addition to what we need to give them from food, shelters, toys, sweet and education, we should not forget to keep a rod to spank them and discipline them if they disobey God and go into wrong direction.

**6- “A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother.” (Proverbs 29:15)** Discipline imparts wisdom and clear understanding to the child to respect rules and people and to fear God and honour and obey His Word. Otherwise if we fail to discipline then he will grow without any regard to the parents, to the people in society and to God’s Word. And sure he will do wrong things and this will bring disgrace for him and for his parents who gave him food but no discipline.

**7- “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)** This is also important point that we should not demand and ask the children more than what they can do and more than what God ask from them. We need also not to forget to do our part and love and care for them and reward them as they obey.

**My Dear and Beloved: “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.” (Psalm 127:3-5)** Therefore children God had entrusted them to us, so we need to care for them and love them, train them and raise them up in the way that God wants us to do 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, who was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself today to obey you and do your will in raising up my children in the way that you want me to do according to your Word to me, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.**