

What Are You Giving Your Children

**By: Sandy Haga
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Introduction

I am writing this book after over 40 years of teaching school and working with parents and children. Especially in today's world, I see how parents are often failing to give their children the things that will keep them through life's storms. I watch them concentrate on giving them physical things like name brand clothes and shoes, giving them all the gadgets that they want, encouraging them to get into sports, etc., giving them anything that they want even if they go through financial challenges to do what I call spoil them. But none of those things that they give them will hold them through the storms that they are facing. Matter of fact, doing your children this way will only make them weaker and not able to stand.

Seems like, especially in this new crazy world we are in, so many kids and young people have a lot of issues. Issues like anxiety, just plain fear, depression, stress, and worry are at an all time high. Drug addiction and alcoholism are at an all time high with young people and old alike. I believe that it is because as parents, we

have failed to give our children the tools that they need to overcome this crazy mixed up world and the tools they need to find the victory in spite of it all. You see, in Christ we can rise up to be victorious and we can overcome. Not only that, but we can also rise up to be a light to light up the night. But to be victorious we have to have certain tools, certain things in God's Word that we understand. We have to have certain traits that the Spirit of God can give us when He is inside of us.

We need to be sure that our children have those tools. It is hard for us to be sure that they have those tools, though, if we don't possess them ourselves. It is my prayer that when you read this book you can find these tools for yourself, that you realize the importance of passing them on to your children, and that you see how you can do that.

What are those tools? What things can you give your children that will be like the life preservers in the floods? What can you give them that will help them make it through the storms? When you go on vacation you carefully make lists so that

when you get there everybody has their tooth brushes, socks and underwear. And summer camp? Wow, you send them with everything but the kitchen sink. You want them to be prepared for whatever comes up. What about this trip called life? Are you getting them ready and prepared for whatever comes up? Are you giving them the things that they need to meet the challenges they'll face?

What are you giving your children? We are going to talk about some tools that you can give them that will help them to walk with victory. And we'll talk about how you can equip them with these tools. Stay tuned.

I want to add something here. When you think about getting your kids ready for life, it is easy just to concentrate on the older kids, the teens who are growing up and you know that it won't be long before they will be out on their own. Also, when you think about your children going through difficult things, you may think right away of your teens that so obviously have a lot of issues and problems. You may think of them first because when they go through

things, everybody goes through things. But when I think of those who are being affected the most by the craziness in this insane world, I think of the little ones.

Why? Because many of them are not very vocal about how they feel. They close it all up inside because they haven't yet learned to be open and to share, and they aren't even sure about what is going on enough to talk about it. You think this stuff is hard on you, can you imagine how it is when the little ones feel the fear and confusion that their parents have and it is just a nameless fear to them. Something is trying to take everybody's lives, and they don't understand what that thing is exactly. They hear the confusion and fear in our adult voices, but they don't understand what is causing it to be there. There are just things out there, like monsters under the bed, that are messing up our world, and they don't know what those things are.

Think of the times when you were afraid because you didn't understand what was going on. Can you imagine how they feel? They understand very little of what is

going on. Sometimes we don't talk to them about this stuff, which may be wise, but then we forget they are around and we talk about the things that are fearful to us. So they hear and don't understand, just that there are fearful things going on. Yes, it is important to give our older kids the tools to be able to be out on their own, but even more importantly we need to give the smaller ones the tools that they need to be able to deal with the things that they are facing as well.

So let's talk about these tools, how to get them ourselves, and how to pass them on to our children.

Chapter 1

The Knowledge of God

I am so glad that my mother gave us the knowledge of God. What do I mean by that? Let me explain. From the time we were born and all the time that we were under our Mom's roof, we went to church. There was no need to argue. We grew up knowing about God and knowing His Word. The idea of God wasn't a foreign idea to us. It was a way of life. It wasn't something that we just heard in passing, but every day we saw it being lived out.

I have been very thankful for having this opportunity especially after working with young people and children who have no idea of what God is like and they have no idea of how to relate to Him. The only knowledge that they have about God is the perverted ideas they have gotten from movies and games and music, and believe me there is no truth in all of that. Their idea of who God is has become so mixed up that they cannot see Him or understand Him at all and have no idea of how to come to Him. It is only through God's grace that they can find Him at all.

It is very important that we give our children the knowledge of who God is and knowledge of His Word.

From the time that I was small, I can remember Bibles being in our house, and I can remember that they were read. Matter of fact, when we misbehaved, my Mom would give us time out and we had to read Bible verses when we were in time out. Her favorite book that she made us read was the book of Proverbs which was written by the wisest man who ever lived. The book of Proverbs was a book that he wrote for his son to pass down wisdom to him. So it was a good book for us to read even though we didn't realize it at the time (when you're being punished you don't think that there is any good in it).

While we were being punished, we were actually gaining bits of wisdom from the Lord. Each of us had our own Bible, and we were expected to read it even when we weren't being punished. We grew up knowing about God's Word and learning it and taking it to heart. We grew up knowing who God is, knowing what He is like, and knowing how to find Him.

As I mentioned before, we were also expected to go to church, not just on Sunday morning, but we participated in everything that was going on there. In whatever church events that we went to, God was the main focus. We didn't just have social gatherings, but the purpose in some way was related to God. We talked about God to one another and we shared our experiences. We grew up knowing that God is real and we knew that He will walk with His people. We grew up knowing what He is like and that the way that we can find Him is through His Word. When it was time for us to accept salvation we knew how to do that. We knew how to be saved, and we knew how to commit to God and we knew what that meant. We had been taught all these things.

Now when I said that the things of God were what we had in our household, I want to add to this. My mom was a Christian and she did her best to raise us in God. But our Dad wasn't. He did get saved when I was an adult, and I believe that it was through my Mom's dedication to God that he was saved. He was saved

just a few years before he died. He was a wonderful man, but his way of life differed from my Mom's way of life. We had two opposing views in my house. There was a time when I followed after my Dad's way of life. But after I wrecked my life and wound up on the bottom looking up, I knew the way back home. I knew how to come back home to God. I knew who He was and I knew where to find Him.

Now on the other side of things, let's talk about the kids who don't have the knowledge of God and His Word. I have taught kids at our Christian school who had no idea about what God was like. They had a strange sense of it all that they had gotten from their gaming, and videos, and other people that they talked to. Their ideas were often from a mixture of different religions.

Often they were looking for God, but they looked in all the wrong places. They looked in the many different religions that they were exposed to, and came up with a strange mixture of things and ideas that they thought might be the truth. They didn't know that they could find the truth,

and that His name was Jesus. They didn't know that God could be real to them and that they could find a relationship with Him, a relationship where He would be closer than a brother to them. They didn't know that His Spirit could come inside of them to live and help them from the inside out. Life was really hard on them because they lacked knowledge of these things. These things bring peace and hope, and they lacked those things so they lacked true peace and real hope.

I want to add here a quote from my book titled, I AM. It talks about what God is like according to His Word. I am including this here because if you are going to give your children knowledge of what God is like, you have to have sound understanding yourself. *When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, God spoke to Moses to go set His people free. Moses immediately (like most of us do) began to look at the desperate situation he faced. He then looked at his weaknesses. Read this section of scripture, Exodus, Chapter 3. He asked God in Exodus 3:11. "...Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the*

children of Israel out of Egypt.” God answered Him in verses 12 to 15, “Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be at token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses I AM THAT I AM: and He said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you.” God could tell Moses this, because He knew that Moses knew some things about the God of his fathers.

When Abraham looked at the land as far as he could see and he was promised that one day his seed would be a mighty nation; the ancient of days was there, the

God of His father. God spoke to Abraham's son Isaac in Genesis 26:24, "And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee...." When Jacob left home after cheating his brother from his birthright, he had gained a lot but lost a lot.

God spoke to him in Genesis 28:13, "I am the God of your Father". God raised him up and established him. When that part of the world faced starvation, the God of their fathers appointed Joseph to feed them. The hand of God kept that part of the world from famine.

So when God spoke to Moses and said the God of your fathers, Moses knew exactly what He meant and what He could do. He had an inheritance in God. He knew what God could do and he knew what God could do through him. There is no greater inheritance than the knowledge of God that we leave our children. What greater thing can we teach them than the

knowledge of His ways, His Word, and how to live in Him in victory?

When they are grown they can rely on the God of their fathers. Their children can grow up knowing this, and it will keep them in their trials. Your great grandchildren will hear about the God of their Fathers. This will only happen if your life is victorious before them. We have to remember that the every day life we live before them will speak louder than any of our words that we speak. If we don't have the victory of God, how will they even be expected to know what that means.

Our God is not new at what He does. He has not just arrived on the scene. To know Who He is, we have to know that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.") He is the same God that spoke and created everything. He never changes . How do we know? How about taking His Word for it. (Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not...") God will be the same for you as He was for Daniel in the

lion's den, or David before Goliath. You must expect no less from Him. In a world bound with fear, where men's hearts are literally failing them from fear we need to remember the God of our Fathers. Do you know anyone else that can promise you something for eternity? God can and does. His Word is one you can depend on to last forever.

The church of today has moved away from God. When we follow God from far off and live in a state of compromise and disobedience, we don't know Him. When we commit ourselves to follow Him and obey Him, and we get a real relationship with Him, we will hear His voice echo through the ages, "I am the God of Your Fathers, and I am able to keep you. Psalm 125:1, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

Isaiah 50:10 says, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and

stay upon his God." Deuteronomy 1:21, "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged." What a mighty, mighty God we serve. It is important in our faith to know who God is. We have to know that same God that declared to Moses from the burning bush when Moses asked who sent him? God simply declared, "I AM."

We can read about God's greatness. We can watch the miracles we see God do for those around us. But the key to being able to say I know whom I have believed is found in the two words I know. For you to really know God and His Son Jesus, and the mighty Holy Ghost, you have to have a real relationship with them that is personal. When you first get to know someone you probably won't know what to expect from them. You won't know right away all there is to know about that person. Building a relationship with someone takes time. The closer you get, and as time goes on, you learn what that

person is like. You learn how they react to certain things, and you learn what to expect from them. You learn whether or not you can depend on them and on their word. You learn whether or not you can depend on your friendship.

As you get closer to them, you learn their characteristics. Nobody has to tell you what that person is like because you know them. As we get closer to God and as our relationship with Him grows, it is much the same way. Then when you gain this relationship, you can pass it on to your children. And your children can see the evidence of these things in your life.

Here are some scriptures that talk about the greatness of our God. Read these for a blessing. The first two sections of scripture I am not writing out because they are lengthy. Please get out your Bible and read them. Psalms 65 and Psalms 78. In I Chronicles 29:12 we read, "Both riches and honour cometh of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give

strength unto all." We read in Romans 16:25, Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began. God has the power to keep us. He is an awesome God.

When we remember His greatness, we can also remember His faithfulness. Deuteronomy 7:9 says, "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." I Kings 8:56 tells us, "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised..."

Psalms 36:5 tells us, "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Hebrews 6:18-19 says, "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who

have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..."

When we remember His greatness and His faithfulness, then we know that our God is able to keep us and we remember that He will keep us. We know that we can trust Him. Whatever the battle, whatever the situation, our God is able. He will deliver us, save us, shield and protect us, and meet our needs, no matter what they may be. Especially when we know who we are in Him and we know Who we believe. And when we have this knowledge and we pass it on to our children, then it will change their lives as profoundly as it changes ours.

So do you see how important it is that you give your children the knowledge of God and who He is. We have to give them the knowledge of what He is like, how He relates to us, how we can go to Him and find Him. Most of all we have to give them the knowledge of how we can be saved. All of this comes from the knowledge of

God's Word, knowing that it is real and that it is true. Let's talk some about how it is important to give our children the knowledge of God's Word

Chapter 2

The Knowledge of God's Word

I have had kids come to our Christian school who did not have a clue of what the Bible is all about. To them it was just another book about another religion. It wasn't true. It was just a book full of good stories. Then I have had another group of kids come to the school and they were even sadder than those who didn't know anything about it. These were the kids who had been to church most of their lives, but they weren't taught about the Bible. They weren't taught the truths that are in the Word of God.

Let me let one of the students explain what I mean by this in his own words. When students enroll, I try to find out how much they know about the Bible. I ask if they have gone much to church and how much they know about the Bible. I asked this young man this question and I will never forget his answer. He said, "I have been to church all my life, but I don't know much. They only taught us little Bible stories, and we did crafts and had refreshments. I really don't know much

about the Bible.” I asked him if he had ever been saved, and he asked me what that meant. That was sad. He was a teenager at the time when I asked him this question. That really opened my eyes.

The Bible is the foundation of what we believe. There is an old saying that says, “If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything” The Bible is the truth that we are founded on. It is what gives us something to stand on and we can stand sure on its foundation. Matthew 7:24-27 says, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Our lives will not be destroyed if we build

on that solid rock foundation of the Word of God. It doesn't matter how crazy the world gets. We can still stand on the Word of God. It doesn't change even though the rest of the world is tilting upside down it seems. God's Word is still a solid rock foundation.

Where would we be without God's Word? Where would we be if we didn't know that it was true? There would be no truth. Nothing to depend on. Nothing to hold to. We would just be tossing on the waves of life with nothing to hold to. No reason to live. No hope for things to get any better. We would just grab onto anything that looked like it might make a difference. What is the difference from the Bible and any other religious book, say for example the Koran? Why is it different? Let's look in the Word of God to find that answer.

We read in 2 Peter 1:19-21, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private

interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." God told the writers of the Bible what to write and they wrote His Words down. I am enclosing here a section from my book, *The Power of God's Word*. I am doing this so that you have an understanding of how we know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Also, I am sharing this with you so that you can teach these truths to your children.

We will be talking about how we know that the Bible is God's Word. Here are some general truths about the Bible that prove that it is God's Word. In just a minute we will go to the source to find out. We will go to God's Word directly. The Bible was written over a 1,500 year span for over 40 generations by over 40 authors from every walk of life. It was written in many different places, and at many different times. It was written on three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Bible's subject matter includes thousands of subjects. Subjects that in today's world can't be agreed on when discussed. Yet there is an agreement between the writers that could only exist because God's Spirit inspired them. They agree as if one author had written what they wrote. There is a continuity that runs throughout the book. Think of this for just a minute. How many times have you met with a group of Christians, or a group of ministers, or even just with family or friends, and a discussion of God's Word broke out into an argument because you couldn't agree on an interpretation of a part of the scriptures. When you look at the facts that we mentioned about the different writers, how could they all agree?

Remember, most of the writers wrote their part without having all the rest of the scriptures as a whole. Even if they had it all, how would they have all agreed? That isn't human nature. The only way they could have agreed would have been that the source of information wasn't human. It was divine. This is proof that the Bible was inspired by the Spirit of God. God's

Holy Ghost led these writers to write what they did, each adding their part to the whole, each adding to the whole, many not even knowing that one day, there would be the Bible as we know it today.

II Timothy 3:16 tells us, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. For a blessing, go to a concordance and count how many times a writer of a part of the Bible made the statement that the Word of the Lord came to them. (A good online concordance that I love using is found at this site, www.kingjamesbibleonline.org. Another great concordance is Strong's Concordance. It is a hard copy book, which works great for study. It actually has every word found in the Bible. I think that it is available online as well, but not sure.)

I searched using "the word came to". When I did this, I counted 100 times that this phrase was used in the context of the word coming to someone who had written a part of the Bible, and I was only halfway

through the search when I had counted 100 references. I stopped out of desperation of there being more than I could count. Now I am not talking about just the words "word came to", but I am talking about specifically that phrase used in regards to writers whose words became part of the Bible. These people didn't just write their part of the scriptures by coming up with it in their own fleshly mind. There is no way that could have happened. The Spirit of God moved on them, or in them, and they wrote what the Spirit directed.

Another fact that proves the Bible is the Word of God is this. No other book has been attacked like the Bible, yet through time it has stood every test and still stands as the Word of God today. Countless generations of people have tried to prove it wrong. Many of these people have started out to claim that the Bible was wrong, and only succeeded in proving it to be right, and later accepting it as God's Word. These are only a few of the reasons why we know that the Bible is God's Word. The number one place to go to prove that God's Word is true is by

looking in God's Word. There are historic proofs as well. There are many proofs, historical and Biblical, that prove that God Himself inspired the writers of the Bible.

One example that proves God inspired the Bible is the prophecies found in the scripture. There are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible. These were things that were written detailing events that happened hundreds of years later. How else could these have come to pass just as they were spoken if they weren't given by inspiration of the Spirit of God? There are historical proofs that prove that the prophecies in the Bible were written before the prophecies were fulfilled.

There is no other book that has prophecies that are proven countless times over like the Bible. There are many prophecies, but the most remarkable example is over 300 prophecies about Jesus. There are historical proofs from sources outside the Bible to prove Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled these prophecies. There is also historical proof from Jewish writings, the Jewish Talmud, that Jesus lived and fulfilled the prophecies regarding Him. Here are only a

few of the prophecies found in the Bible. I did not write out the scriptures in this section of the book. Please get out your Bible and read these. Don't just read the reference, and go on. If you do, you will get a lot more out of this book than just my words.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 talks about several of the prophecies. The prophet Isaiah wrote this around 700 BC. Please read this section of scripture. In it we see that Jesus would be beaten beyond recognition. That He would be beaten with stripes. In Psalm 22:14-19 David wrote around 1000 B.C. that they would pierce Jesus' hands and His feet. It was written that they would divide His garments among them, and cast lots (gambled) for them. I am sure that the Roman soldiers who cast lots for Jesus' robe that day had not read the scriptures. They weren't doing this to obey the scriptures.

In Zechariah 9:9 Zechariah at around 520 B.C. wrote that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt. Here are some more prophecies. I have written

them beside of their fulfillment. Please read each of them for a blessing. Prophecy found in Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-23. Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-23. Micah 5:2-3 was fulfilled in Luke 2:4-7. Isaiah 42:6-7 was fulfilled in Luke 4:17-21. Isaiah 49:6-7 was fulfilled in Acts 13:47, 15:6-18. Isaiah 61:1 was fulfilled in Luke 4:17-21. Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled in Matthew 21:5-6. Isaiah 50:6-7 was fulfilled in Mark 14:65. Psalm 16:8-11 was fulfilled in John 20:14-30. Psalms 49:15 was fulfilled in I Corinthians 15:1-8. Isaiah 53:10-12 was fulfilled in Matthew 28:1-10.

There are countless other prophecies that are recorded in the scriptures. Some of them prophesied the rise and fall of whole civilizations and countries. Always they happened to the detail of what God's prophets had written in the scriptures. There are many events that are happening today that have been prophesied in the Bible. I have seen more Bible prophecies being fulfilled in the last couple of years, than I have seen my whole life as this world is drawing to a close.

Just a note here: I was studying prophecies in Daniel concerning Persia. I had out my encyclopedia and was looking at Persian history. I had the Bible on one side, and the encyclopedia on the other. I was amazed at how events that happened long after they were written about matched the scriptures that foretold them. God set in motion things that have happened throughout history even through today by the Words that He spoke.

The greatest proof that the Bible is God's Word is Jesus' death and resurrection. It is the greatest proof of the Bible as being God's inspired Word. What other religion claims to have a risen Savior? If the Buddhists could get by with claiming that Buddha rose from the dead, they would. Why haven't they? Because he didn't. It was proven in history by many, many eyewitness accounts that Jesus rose from the dead. If that wouldn't have been so, then we couldn't claim it today. You couldn't just go around saying that somebody came back from the dead and have everybody believe it the way they believed that Jesus came back from the

dead if it hadn't been proven to be true. Where do we find the account of this miracle? In the inspired Word of God.

When you give your children the knowledge that the Word of God is the true inspired Word of God, then you give them a foundation that will hold them all of their lives. When you also teach them the Word of God then it will be there to hold them forever. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

I learned the Word of God in Sunday school and in church and at home. And when I got older and stupid, I wanted to see what else was in the world besides God. It didn't take long for me to wreck my life totally. But there was always this voice, this thing that would play over and over in my mind. It was God's Word that I had learned when I was young. When I was finally tired of the mess that I had made in my life, and I was ready to get some sense, God's Word led me back home to the one who was waiting for me to return. How did I know that God was

waiting for me to come home? Because I had read it in His Word.

James 1:22 says a very important point when it comes to passing on the Word of God to your children. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." I have parents to tell me all the time that they know that God's Word is true and that they want their children to study God's Word. But then they tell me that they don't live by it themselves but they want their children to because they know it is the best way to live. Hey, preaching do as I say and not as I do is not the way to influence your children. Your actions will speak way louder than your words. They will often live by the examples that you set in their lives.

Also, if you never have time to read God's Word and all your time is taken up by other things, then don't expect your children to make time for God's Word in their own lives. My grandparents changed my life. Every night without fail they would have a Bible study prayer time. We would all read the Bible out loud together

and talk about it. Then we would have a genuine prayer time that wasn't just a Lord help us prayer, but we had to all get down on our knees and kneel by our chairs and really pray. We knew better than to protest, because it wouldn't do any good. As we got older, we realized how precious it was to do this. My grandparents' faith and how they honored God's Word was obvious by the way that they lived. Every day.

So learning about the Word of God, learning to honor it, and learning how to hide it in our hearts is an important thing to pass on to our children. (Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.") I want to add here another section from my book titled, I AM. *To understand Who God is, you have to get an understanding of His Word. The Word of God comes from God and is a part of God just like your words come from you and reveal who you are. Any of God's things have to be revealed to us by His Spirit. We can see a little of something, but God has to reveal it to our heart for it to become life-changing knowledge.*

For example, I used to read the Bible because I knew that I was supposed to. I did it because I felt guilty when I didn't. I thought I knew why I was supposed to read it, but until God revealed to me the power of His Word and how it can change my life, I really didn't know. That's how it is with anything about God. The things of God have to be revealed to us by His Spirit in our Spirit. People can tell us, but until we get a hold of that truth for ourselves, we don't know it.

Even salvation has to be revealed that way. You heard about what it means to be saved, but until God revealed it to you, you really didn't understand. We have to be careful not to take the truth that we have and think it is the great ultimate truth and there is nothing else to learn. We may be going around with half a truth thinking we have it all. I asked God something once when I was marveling about how great He was and how wonderful the knowledge of Him was. I asked how long would I be learning new things about what He is like and how great He is. He answered me by saying,

"You will be learning new things about me for eternity." He is that big of a God and that great. When we think we have a corner on knowing all there is to know about Him, we are fooled.

The Word of God is powerful. (Matthew 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.") It comes with a full guarantee. If It isn't working in our life, then the problem is not with the Word of God. We need to find out what that problem is, and with God's help fix it. It may be that we have unrepented of sin and attitudes. It may be that we are too full of our self to even see the truth.

We can't see it our way. The truth is the truth and we have to see it as it is. It may be we don't want to commit and submit 100% to what we read. It may be that we allow fear and doubt to cloud us from seeing. Maybe we are too far away from the Author to read His book. We have to draw close to God to understand His Word. Whatever the reason, if the Word of God isn't working

for you it isn't the fault of God's Word. It has a no fail, eternal, guarantee.

Another reason that many Christians fail to reap the blessing and power of God's life-changing Word is that they don't take it in. They don't eat it and let it be a part of them. (Jeremiah 15:16, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by the name, O Lord God of hosts.") We have to take God's Word in, digest it, and let it become a part of us.

Picture this for a minute. You go to a wonderful, delicious restaurant. You get a plate and head for the buffet. You smell it and look at it. Your mouth waters. You go back to your seat without a thing on your plate. You hear everyone talk about how delicious the food is. You talk about it with them. Then you get up from the table and leave hungry. A lot of Christians hear about the things of God. They smell how good it is, but they never allow the Holy Ghost to reveal them it to them personally. They

see how it works for others, but never apply it to their own lives. They sit at the table and hear others talk about it, but never let God reveal it to them. They never digest it, or let it become a part of them.

It is wonderful to read books about God's Word. I would rather open its pages myself and let the sweet Holy Ghost reveal the truths that I need for my life. I would rather fellowship with God and allow Him to open up its pages to my heart. When I sit down at His wonderful table, I want my plate to be so full that it overflows. And I want to eat it all, every bit. So many times I have opened up the pages of His Word, and the right verse of encouragement, strength, or peace leaped into my heart from its pages. I can truly say I cherish the Word of God and the stronghold it has been in my life. My strong and mighty tower.

Let's read some things that the Word of God says about Itself. Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for

ever." II Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ephesians 5:26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." It being the church. John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Do you realize that God's Word is settled forever, not just in heaven but on earth? In an age of constant change, we have something that will endure forever. That is why I like the old versions of the Bible instead of the new. I like the one that has stood the test of time. There are few things that will make it into eternity. You and I can, but we will actually have to go through a change to be able to get there. But the Word God will be there. It will certainly endure the storms of your

life. Let God's Word work in your heart and life. Teach your children about how it can work in their lives. But more importantly live it before them.

Next we'll talk about how it is important to pass on to our children faith and the power of prayer.

Chapter 3

Faith

Seems like there are so many kids who are getting caught up in crippling anxieties. Anxiety about going out, anxiety about being around people, anxiety about covid, anxiety about driving, anxiety about every thing. It really is crippling them to the point that they aren't able to work a job, come to school, get their work done, or function in society. They are in a prison and the one who is holding the key, the one who is keeping them in this prison is the devil. When I see this, it tears my heart out and I know that it is not God's will for them to be there in that prison.

I think of the scripture in Isaiah 42:6-7. This verse is talking about Jesus. "The LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." Jesus is the light that can stop that darkness

that you are caught in. He will set you free from the prison of fear that you are in. God's Word and His Spirit will deliver you and set you free and lift you up out of this.

When I see kids that are caught up in this web of destruction, I start wondering what happened to put them in that way of life. When their parents come in, I often realize what happened. When they open their mouths to talk, I see. They can't say anything positive. Their talk is totally about the issues that they have in their lives. I can tell as they talk that they are using those issues to get attention. They are talking about their issues and medication that they are on and they are the center, not their children. They are talking about how things are bad and getting worse, and they have nothing positive to say.

They may be Christians but they aren't walking and talking God's Word. They are walking and talking defeat. I really really really really wish that these parents could see what harm that they are doing to their children. Often I will tell them, and even

when I tell them they can't see what they are doing. Often, though, the Lord just leads me to be still because they don't want to see. They are pouring out defeat instead of the knowledge of victory. They are pouring out self pity instead of rising up to overcome. They are not giving their children faith.

Then there are those precious parents who when they open their mouth the Word of God pours out because that is what they have put in there. When they speak, they build your faith. And their children? They do the same because that is the example that they have before them. Giving your children faith will be the difference between their being able to rise up and overcome whatever situations that they face. It will be the difference between whether they can walk on the water, or drown under the waves. It can make the difference between their becoming successful individuals victorious in their lives, or losers.

I want to talk a little about fear here. The opposite of faith is fear. Fear is something that is paralyzing people young and old.

Different people call it different things. Sometimes we call it anxiety, sometimes we call it stress or worry. Whatever we call it we have to know that it is deadly. Nothing can kill like stress. Whatever you call it, know that it is deadly to you and it is deadly to your children. We have so many kids come to the school who are paralyzed with this. It is affecting their lives to the point that it is crippling them. It is keeping them from being able to lead a normal life.

If we are caught up in this way of life, this crippling way of thinking and being, then our kids will be too. But there is good news. We can be set free from this. God can deliver us. He can set us free from anxiety and fear. His Spirit and His Word can set us free. If you are going to pass on faith to your children, then you have to be free from fear. Here are some verses and information that will help you to be free from fear. It is some information that you can pass on to your kids as well.

The Bible uses the phrase "fear not" 366 times in the Bible. That is one for every day of the year and one extra. Here are

just a very few of those verses. In 2 Timothy 1:7 we read, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Isaiah 54:14 says, "In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee." Psalms 34:4, "I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears." Psalms 27:1, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 46:1-2, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." We don't have to be afraid. Say it again. We don't have to be afraid. Shout it out loud. We don't have to be afraid.

Fear is the opposite of faith. I want to add here a chapter from my book titled *Go and Possess Your Land*. The chapter is titled "The Valley of Fear". *There is a lot to fear in today's world. As time goes on there will be more to fear. So how does*

the church, God's people, fit. How do we deal with all of this? We need to wake up and get real with God. We need to get the world out so that instead of a hazy gray look, we begin to shine like a light to this world. We need to get our focus back and our priorities in line. We need to get off the fence and back to the full counsel of the Word of God.

The bridegroom is coming. If we do not do these things, we will not be able to stand through these days to come. How can we stand? By faith. By trusting God. By building on the rock so that when the storms come, our house will stand strong. By being filled with God's Holy Ghost and walking in the Spirit. By walking in obedience. By having a relationship with God that will stand strong in spite of the trials. By staying in the palm of His hand. By keeping sin and compromise out of our lives so that we know where we stand with God. By staying under the blood. By staying real with God. By getting filled up, baptized with the Holy Ghost and letting the gifts of the Spirit operate. By knowing the Word of God and standing on its promises. By keeping to a heavenly

vision. When we do these things, fear will have no place in our lives.

No matter what the circumstances are around us, we will be secure in God's love. God does not want us to live in fear. I don't care if these are the last days. I don't care if it seems like the whole world is either falling apart or growing crazy, all the "fear nots" in God's Word stand just as sure as they did thousands of years ago when they were first written. We don't have to be afraid. Why then are we?

I'm not just talking about the world, but I'm talking about the church, too. We travel and hold revivals in different churches. In church after church I hear God's people talking about how they are on medication because of stress, or depression. This is because we as a people have given into worry and fear. Something is definitely wrong. Is this day and time so bad that the promises of God's Word no longer work? How can we go back to a time when we aren't bound by fear? If God's Word hasn't changed and we know God hasn't changed, then what is happened?

One of the things that causes fear is sin. Isaiah 33:14 tells us, "The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites..." The first step that we need to do is to repent. If when you read the first part of this chapter and God has dealt with your heart that there are some things that you need to fix in your life to be ready for His coming, then you need to fall down on your knees and repent before God. Let God deal with you.

Don't shake it off. You aren't guaranteed even tomorrow. Especially in today's wild world. That is the first place to start in shaking off fear. Draw back to God. He will draw near to you. You have His Word for that. Hebrews 10:22-23 tells us, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for He is faithful that promised.)"

James 4:8 tells us, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." We have to

make a choice. We have to draw nigh to God and away from the things that bind us. When we do, He will draw nigh to us. Guaranteed. Fall in love with Jesus all over again. Get to know Him. Renew your relationship with Him. He is the best friend that you could ever have.

When you fall in love with Him and feel His love for you, you will know that you have nothing to fear. I John 4:18-19 tells us, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us." II Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind."

Isaiah 41:10 tells us, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Luke 12:32 tells us in Jesus' own words, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

When we are safe in the arms of Jesus, what do we have to fear? Sure bad things

will still happen. We have already talked about how the rain falls on the just and the unjust. This world is full of bad. Some of it is bound to fall on your head too. But we don't have to fear it. God gives us the strength not only to go through it but to also shine like a light in the middle of it. Then by the time that He is done, then the whole thing will be turned out for our good, no matter how bad it might have seemed at the time. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." We certainly do not have to be afraid.

Fear is one of the number one tools that the enemy uses to stop the children of God from being able to possess their land. He uses it to keep us from being able to claim and walk in the promises given us by the Word of God. He uses it to stop us from walking in obedience, doing the things that God speaks to our hearts to do.

One of the phrases that the enemy uses to put this fear in our minds is this one. "What if?" You know. It goes like this.

What if the economy doesn't get any better? What about our finances?" "What if we get cancer or some other disease? After all it runs in our family." "What if we can't do the thing that God is asking us to do? What if we fail?" "What if the world gets so bad that we can't hold on in our Christian walk?" "What if my husband or wife stops serving God?" "What if I can't be strong enough for my family?" "What if...What if...What if...

Do you have any of these "what ifs" in your life? They will eat away at you like a cancer. They will knock holes in your faith and destroy you. The things that you fear will come on you. Fear opens a door and you invite these things in. How do you keep this door closed? Realize that the devil can put thoughts in your mind. Walk in the Spirit so that you can discern his voice.

Let the Holy Ghost rise up in you and rebuke these thoughts. Refuse to entertain them. Don't dwell on wrong things. Find a scripture that does away with that particular fear and helps you to overcome it. If it is a thought that your family won't be saved, find a scripture

promising that they will be. If the devil is bringing a fear of financial disaster against you, remind him of Joshua 1:8 that promises prosperity. When the devil says you can't do anything for God, you'll only fail. Remind Him of the scripture that says that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. We can go on and on. Read the Word of God. Know it in your heart so that when the voices of fear start you can come back with words of faith. You don't have to be afraid. Don't let fear stop you from possessing your land.

Then when you learn to stop fear, you can teach faith to your children, and they will know how to live free from the terrible bondage of fear.

Chapter 4

The Power of Prayer

Hand in hand with faith goes the power of prayer. Those who know the power of prayer can move mountains. Do your kids see your faith by how God answers your prayers? Do they see you pray? Do you pray with them? Is prayer something that you teach by your example?

I want to share with you an example of the power of prayer and the precedence that it sets in your children's lives. My great-grandmother was a prayer warrior. Every day she would pray for her family. She would pray for her children, for her children's children, and for their children's children. She would pray every day for 3 generations of children. I was one of those from the third generation. I never knew my great-grandmother. But I knew the power of her prayers. All of my sister's are serving the Lord and most of their children and they have lots of children and grandchildren. That is a huge legacy.

What kind of a prayer legacy are you leaving your children? My grandmother

also passed on a legacy of prayer. She passed away when she was over 95 years old. She was a prayer warrior all the way up until the time that she died. She prayed for over 200 people on her prayer list every day without fail. Many of them were pastors and preachers that she had prayed for through many years. Many of them she had started praying for before they were even saved, they were saved and preached for many years and she prayed for them all those years.

I can say truly that being around my grandmother changed my life. One of the greatest memories of her that I have is her sitting in her chair by the window, calling out the names of those she prayed for faithfully. She talked to her Father and her Father heard. There have been many times that those memories inspired me to grow in my own prayer life. I know that watching her pray encouraged my faith to grow in the power of prayer.

I want to share with you some scriptures about prayer. Philipians 4:6 tell us, "Be careful (worry-full of care) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have *them*." Luke 11:9, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Colossians 4:2, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Jeremiah 29:12-13, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

I hear people all the time tell me, "All I can do is pray for you." As time goes on we should never underestimate that power of prayer. The greatest thing possible that you could do for me is pray for me. We can change the lives of those we love through prayer. I hear people say, "I wish I could pray more but I don't have time because of everything that is

going on." They don't realize that the reason why they have so much going on, so many things happening to eat up their time, is because they aren't taking the time to pray. I am here to tell you that if you pray then you will reap the benefits of prayer and so will those people that you pray for you. I can also tell you without a doubt that if you don't pray then you will reap those consequences as well. So will your children.

So we see the importance of prayer. How do you pass that realization on to your children? How do you leave them a legacy of prayer? Let them see your faith when you talk about problems and situations. Then let them see you pray about it. Have a real prayer time with your kids. I don't mean those little night time prayers that they just mouth, but teach them to pray from their heart. The best way is by praying together as a family.

I shared with you earlier about how my grandparents had a Bible study and prayer time every night. I also shared with you about how that changed my life. Maybe

you could do something like this. Also, if something happens to someone and you need to pray, gather them around to join together and pray for that person. Then when the Lord answers prayers, share with them how the Lord answered. That will build their faith. Encourage them to keep a prayer journal where they write down the prayers that they are praying, and then they write how the Lord answered their prayers.

I want to share something important here. Never underestimate the power of children's prayers. Psalms 8:2, says, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. " To paraphrase this you could say that out of the mouth of babies, their praise and their prayers, the enemy is stopped. Jesus went into Jerusalem not long before His crucifixion, the people gathered there and praised him. We read about this in Matthew 21:15-16, "And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David;

they were sore displeased, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

God perfects praise and prayer out of the mouths of the little ones. I have seen God answer the prayers of little ones who pray with a perfect heart and a child like faith. Teach them to pray and let God do the rest and you could have a miniature prayer warrior who prays big prayers that change your whole family.

I want to share with you a testimony of a friend of mine. He was very sick and he knew that he was dying. Doctors weren't able to help him. His three year old came to him and laid hands on him and prayed for him with her little childlike faith, and her big love that she had for her God and for her Daddy. He was healed. Never underestimate that power of children's prayers. Teach them this as well.

Anytime that you can build up their faith, take that opportunity to do so. Pass along to them stories of people in the Bible

whose prayers God answered. Also, be sure to share with them the real-life stories, testimonies of those people who you know and how God answered their prayers.

I want to add something here to the end of this chapter. Don't ever underestimate the power of your prayers for your children. Especially you mothers. There is power in a mother's prayer. There is a Gospel song that has this line. "You can't outrun mother's prayers." That is so true. I have seen when others gave up praying for someone, but their mother didn't. Many times I have seen a mother's prayers bring someone in to God and that mother had prayed for years and years without ceasing. God heard their prayers after years of praying and answered them. What a celebration on that day. Parents, you have a powerful prayer when you pray for your children.

Chapter 5

Hearing God's Voice and Obeying Him

I can honestly say without any doubt that if I hadn't learned how to hear and obey God's voice, I would be dead. There have been so many times that my life has been spared because God led me to do, or not to do something. I can remember a time when God actually used my car floor mats to save my life. I had washed my car and had left the mats out on the grass to dry. I was getting ready to go somewhere and the Lord spoke to me to get my floor mats in. I shook my head and thought, "Why would the Lord tell me to get my floor mats in?"

I went ahead and got in my car. But that feeling wouldn't leave me. I got out and was standing with my car mats in my hands when there was a loud bang. It was so loud that it shook the ground. I lived on a narrow street, and just beside my house the street narrowed where only one person could go around the curve at a time. This guy had come down the hill flying and had missed the curve and hit a tree in my neighbor's yard head on. He

hit it so hard that the motor of the car went back and pinned him in. If I hadn't stopped to get in my floor mats, he would have hit me head on, and I definitely would have been killed or worse. It is so important that we learn to hear God's voice.

There have been bunches of times that being able to hear and obey God's voice saved my life or kept me out of a disaster. There have also been many times when hearing God's voice and obeying Him led me into great blessings. It is so important to be able to hear and obey God's voice. John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Isaiah 30:21 says, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

God can keep you, protect you, shield you, and lead you into great blessings, if you will hear His voice and obey Him. If you don't do that, then you will be out there wandering around in the trash heaps of life collecting garbage and you will think that

you have great treasures. It is so important to be able to hear God's voice and obey Him.

Joshua 1:8 tells us the keys to success. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." We can't be just hearers, but we have to be doers of the Word. James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is one thing to read the Word of God. It is totally different to really study it and to take it in your heart. Then it is an entirely different thing to be reading it and obeying it letting it change your life.

If you want to teach your children how to yield to God and how to be obedient to Him, then you have to have that as one of your traits. I am putting here a chapter from my book *Go and Possess Your Land*.

Disobedience is one of the biggest reasons God's people never inherit their blessings in God. There are many promised in God's Word that are conditional to obedience. When you read these keep in mind that is so important to be obedient and to pass this on to your children. Here are some of them:

- 1. Long life in I Kings 3:14*
- 2. Success in Joshua 1:8*
- 3. Entering heaven in Matthew 7:21*
- 4. Being treasure by God in Exodus 19:5*
- 5. Having things go well in Deuteronomy 5:29*
- 6. Abiding in God's love in John 15:10*
- 7. Making your abode with Him in John 14:23*

These are some pretty serious promises and they all are conditional to obedience. We must obey God to unlock many of the promises in His Word.

I want to take time to be honest here. A lot of writers of Christian books are afraid to do that. I guess that they think if they are, then people won't read their books. They think that if they let their hair down

and people see their weakness, they won't respect what they say. They fail to get real with people because of this. I think though that if you are real, you can help people. People see that God can help them in their weakness if you admit your own. God has delivered me from a bad rebellious spirit. I was a rebel from the 60's, early 70's. That didn't help my already hardheaded, stubborn streak that I inherited-a streak to put your head down and plow on through like a bull no matter what any one said or did.

I was really hurt a lot as a young Christian and that didn't help. I was afraid to trust anyone to have authority over me. When we can't trust enough to submit to others, then it is even harder to submit to God. I began doing my own thing with all my might in my zeal to serve God. God sent a leader that I finally respected enough to submit to. He is the director of the ministry that I have been with for over 20 years. From there, I stopped my bullying around. I began to really submit to God. Even now sometimes, the devil who knows how to push all our right buttons to get us going wrong, will still try to bring

this back against me. God has delivered me from it and has kept me through the years. He has fired me in the kiln to purify that out of me. I can say that I am an authority on the subject of obedience and how rebellion will cost you. I can also testify to the power of God and the Holy Ghost as to how God can deliver you from a spirit of rebellion and keep you.

The main key that led to my deliverance came when I finally understood God's love for me. When His love became personal. I was able then to let my walls down so that He could reach through. I was able to find a real and personal relationship with Him. Nothing can break down walls like the love of God.

However, the devil knows that too. He works overtime to bring hurt so that you keep those walls up. He'll send the most wonderful people to turn on you because they got out into the flesh and he grabbed that and used it. He'll do all he can to bind. He will keep you imprisoned behind walls of hurt. You can't submit to God or anyone else when you're there.

If you read this and I am talking to your heart here, let God reach through. Trust His love. Who else has loved you enough to die for you like Jesus? His nail-scarred hand is reached out to you. He is saying, "I did this for you" His love is personal and real. If you had been the only one, He would have died just for you. Reach out. Put your hand in His hand. Let His love break down those walls. Let Him send someone you respect to be in leadership over you.

Self-centeredness and a spoiled nature can also keep us from submitting. Sometimes we grow up getting our own way. Then we begin to expect to get things our way as adults. Getting our way becomes a way of life. But it isn't reality. Then God says, "Give it all up to Me. Submit to Me. Make your will my will." It's really hard to do that then. God has to deliver us from that spoiled nature. Parent's, whatever you do never raise a child to expect their way. Discipline them consistently. If a spoiled nature starts to develop, break that spirit. The Word of God itself says that you will mourn if you don't.

Another reason why God's people fail to submit is that they don't want to lose control. It is hard to admit that you are flesh, that you can't do it on your own. It is hard to let go and face your weaknesses and failures. It is hard to get down on your knees before God and admit that you need Him. It is hard to admit you need help. It is hard to admit that you need God. But if you don't, it will be harder to be broken later on. One way or another we will be broken before God.

Another reason people find it hard to submit to God is because they are ignorant of what He expects. They don't know His Word. They don't take time to know God and develop their relationship with Him. They blindly blunder along making all the wrong decisions, doing all the wrong things. They think that they are doing what the Bible tells them to, but they haven't taken time to study it out with God's leading to be able to know.

When we fail to obey, we can mess up our lives really bad in just a short while. If we fail to teach our kids how to obey then the

same can happen to them. Let's talk about some examples. We knew a girl that was a Christian girl from a Christian family. She knew about obedience. She decided to get with the wrong crowd. She climbed into a car with someone that had been drinking. It cost her life. I've known hundreds of testimonies of people who have been protected and shielded because they obeyed God, and I know hundreds of testimonies of people whose lives were cut short by rebellion and disobedience.

I have had bunches of times in my life when disobedience would have cost me my life. Or someone else would have been hurt. Or I would have taken a wrong turn and I would have wound up at a dead end road in my life. Or I would have faced financial ruin if I hadn't done what God told me to do when He told me to do it. Or I would have hurt someone not meaning to. Or I would have made decisions that would have hindered me from what I was trying to do for the Lord. Over and over He has directed me. Those times when I didn't listen? I paid. God guides us because He knows what is best. He isn't bound by time. He sees today at

the same time He sees tomorrow. That is how He led John to write the book of Revelations. He has wisdom to know what is best for you. His ways are beyond our own understanding. He can lead you. But you have to submit to follow. You have to obey.

Are there situations that you face today and you need to do just the right things? Seek God and obey Him. Are there decisions you need to make that are major choices that will affect your life? Seek God and obey. Does your ministry need to head in a new direction? Seek God and obey. Is your church needing revival but you aren't sure how to guide them in that direction? Seek God and obey. Is someone you love needing sound advice and guidance? Seek God and obey. Do you want to find more victory and a closer relationship with God? Is there a Promised Land God has shown you? Seek God and obey.

Let's go back in time just a minute to before Moses died. God spoke to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 30. Please read this chapter. It is a wonderful

picture of what obedience and disobedience can bring a child of God. We don't like to see God as a God of vengeance and wrath. But He is just. He has promises for those that obey Him, and curses for those that don't.

Verses 5-20 tells us, "And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. And the Lord thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all His commandments which I command thee this day. And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the Lord will again rejoice over thee for good, as He rejoiced over thy fathers: If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy

God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the Word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall

not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore chose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

In that scripture we see a picture of how God is regarding obedience. He renewed His covenant with the children of Israel. What wonderful promises are found in this scripture. You can tell God's love for these people even in spite of their failures. There would be some requirements. That is life. That is how God operates. Keep the commandments and He will keep His promises. That is only right and just.

Sometimes we act like God is a push over. We think that His mercy and grace is so great that His love will be there no matter

what we do. Is that reality? Is that the kind of God that you really want to serve? One that is so wishy washy that anything goes? God is a righteous and just God. Obey His commandments and you will find that wonderful love that is so deep, there is no end to it. Continually, purposefully, disobey and you will face that wrath that is as terrible as His love is great.

In Joshua chapter 1 we read Joshua's sermon to the children of Israel as they stand on the edge of their Promised Land. We read in verses 2-5 a reminder of the promises that God gave them. In verses 7-9 we read how they can inherit those promises. "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, and thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I

commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." We read that they are to be courageous. Don't doubt. Don't fear. Be strengthened in heart. And then obey. Do the law that was given. Obey God's written Word. Know God is with you. Obey His voice. Go where He leads. Go and possess your land.

So you can see from reading this that it is really important for you to learn to obey God. And you can see how it is very important for your kids to be able to hear and obey God's voice. Do you know what the key is to helping them be able to do that? It is to help them to yield and submit to you. If they don't respect you and they don't listen to you and obey you, then there is no way that they will obey God.

I was a little heathen growing up. I had such a spirit of rebellion. If somebody told me something not to do, I would do it anyways and not even know why. My Mom had her hands full raising me. But

she won. Her discipline was always consistent. She didn't just give up and give in to me, but no was no and it was no every time I tried to get by with whatever she was telling me no about. I wasn't allowed just to get my own way. I was not spoiled. I learned how to yield and listen and obey her and through that I learned how to yield and listen and obey God. If I hadn't, it is hard to say how my life would be different? It would be a lot different than the one that I have now.

Something else that is important in helping your children to be able to hear and obey God's voice is that they see you hearing His voice and obeying Him. Do they see you being blessed when you obey God? Do they see you when God has led you out of dangerous situations? Do they see the fruits of being obedient to God's Word in your life? Like I said earlier, this thing of teaching by saying do as I say, not as I do doesn't work. They will learn from your example. Are they learning how to listen, yield and obey through your example?

The Bible gives a lot of parenting advise. Proverbs 22:6 is a classic. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is important especially in the area of obedience. Train your children. That takes time and that takes your self-discipline. You can't do that as a once in a while thing, but as we said before discipline has to be consistent for it to work. If you tell them what to do, but then let them do whatever they want to, then they will just be confused as to what is right and wrong.

I want to give you a little warning here. The first kids that graduated from our Christian school is now in their 50's. We have actually taught 3 generations of some families. I have watched a lot of kids grow up. Those people who didn't take time to discipline their children reaped a lot of grief. Some of them buried their children because of their children's disobedience. Many of them had a lot of regrets but by the time they realized the mistakes that they had made in their parenting, it was too late to correct what had been done. Take this chapter to

heart. Take it seriously so that you don't have those kinds of regrets.

Chapter 6

The Knowledge of Wrong and Right and the Knowledge of God's Grace

This topic goes together closely with the topic we covered in the last chapter about obedience. We have to instill in our children the knowledge of what is wrong and what is right. I can remember when the church started getting all mixed up on what was wrong and what was right. It became unpopular to stand up for what was right. If you did that you were somehow being self-righteous, and who were we to know what was right. I guess that we just more or less threw the Bible as a standard to live by right out the window. Or anyways we just started interpreting it to be what we wanted it to be. Instead of rightly dividing the truth of God's Word we just more or less kept what we wanted to keep, and threw the rest out.

I am so thankful for Godly grandparents. I can remember a conversation that we had with my grandmother over how things that used to be wrong were OK to do now as times changed. We had this conversation

not long after things started getting so confused in the church. Boy, she was not at all convinced that wrong or right would change. I can still remember the look in her eyes when she said, "I don't care what they say, there is a right and there is a wrong and that has not changed all the way down through time. God's Word establishes what is right and wrong."

That has been a lot of years ago, and I have thought about that moment many times. My grandmother passed away at the age of somewhere around 96 years old. She had served God most of her life. She had stood on the truth of the Word of God. It had held her through World War 1, World War 2, through the depression, and through whatever personal crisis she had experienced in between all that. She knew God's Word and she knew what wrong was and what right was according to it, and no one was going to convince her otherwise.

When I looked at my grandparents lives, I could see the convictions that they lived by. I could see that there was a clear wrong and a clear right to follow. I could

see it in the choices that they made. There was no confusion there at all. As I grew older, I went back to the truths that they held to, back to the standards that they lived by. Why? Because what they lived by was the Word of God.

Through their stand for what was right, I learned about God's righteousness. I learned that He wasn't a push over God that lets us choose what we want to do. I learned that He was a righteous God who knows what is best, and I learned the rules that He left for us to follow. And I learned that if we failed to follow these, we would drown. Psalms 119:137 says, "Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments." Deuteronomy 32:4 says, "*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.*" We talked in the last chapter about how God is a righteous God and a righteous judge. If we don't obey His Word we will be destroyed. That is just how it is. We need to be sure that our children understand this about God.

Isaiah 1:18-20 shows us God's righteousness and His mercy. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*." If we obey His Word we will be blessed, if we don't we will be devoured. And when our sins are scarlet, God will wash them white as snow when we repent of our wrong and reason together with Him and seek His forgiveness. But if we take that attitude that God loves us so we can do whatever we want to, then we will never be forgiven and we will die in our sin separated from God for eternity.

We have to repent. We have to be sorry for our sin and we have to ask God to forgive us so that we can be forgiven. If we continue to do our thing and go on our merry way doing whatever we chose, then we will never be forgiven and we will die in our sin without repenting and seeking forgiveness, and we will be eternally lost.

We read about how important it is to have the knowledge of what is wrong and right and about how it is important to have the knowledge that we need to repent when we do wrong. We read this throughout God's Word. Here are some verses. We read in 2 Chronicles 7:14, " If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

We read in 2 Peter 3:9, " The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." James 4:8 says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners; and purify your hearts ye double minded." Luke 13:3 says, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

We read in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all

unrighteousness." How do we know what our sins are? How do we know what is wrong and right? I can remember when the church started teaching the idea that "what is wrong for you might not be wrong for me, and what is right for me might not be right for you". We were given the feeling that there was no definite right or wrong, and that the whole thing of right and wrong was just however we wanted to see it. But that is a lie that the devil started and the reason why he started it was to destroy the church.

So how do we know what is wrong or right. The Spirit of God convicts us of our sin. John 16:8 tells us, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." Also, we know through God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." We read in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for

correction, for instruction in righteousness." It isn't just a matter of private interpretation, but like my Grandmother said, "There is a right and there is a wrong." And we can all know the difference.

So how can you as a parent present this important truth to your children. You need to be like my grandmother. She didn't change her convictions on a whim. When we went to her house, there was certain behavior that was OK and there were certain actions and attitudes that weren't allowed and we knew that. So we didn't cross that line. We knew what was right and we did what was right out of respect for her. She was definitely not a push over. We couldn't get our way by whining and arguing and refusing to do. That wasn't acceptable. She demanded our respect just by a look, and when she gave us that look we knew better than to argue. Because we respected her, it was easy to respect God.

Do your children know that there is a wrong and a right by what they see you do in your own life? Do you live the truth of

God's Word? Are you like the man in James 1:23-25, "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Are you blessed in your deeds because you keep God's Word as a standard that you live before your children? Do they know what wrong is and what right is by how you live? Or are you sending them mixed signals so that they just shake their heads at your choices and how you live? It is the saddest thing that I see when I see kids just shake their heads at what their parents are doing as if it is a joke how they live. I have seen some parents, and I wondered which were the parents and which the kids were by how they acted. When they see your life, do they know that there is a righteous God who has established rules for us to follow, rules to guide us in our lives, or do they just

think that He is a pushover with no guidelines to follow?

If you allow your kids to get by with anything, that is how they will see God. They will give him the same attitudes that they give you. If you set up a standard, but you don't keep to it, then that gives them mixed impressions of what wrong and right is. No standards are better than telling them what they need to do and letting them get by with whatever most of the time. You have to be consistent in your discipline for it to work.

Do you set up righteousness as a standard in your house? Are your kids allowed to have attitudes and actions that are consistently against God's Word? Are they allowed to watch and hear things that are consistently against God's Word? What they put into their spirit will bear fruit. If they are constantly watching and hearing things that are against God and His Word, things that pull them into actions and attitudes that can destroy them, then these things will eventually destroy them. You let your kids fill their heads with junk and you wonder why all of

the sudden they get a bad attitude and you can't do anything with them. They are pouring into their hearts and minds things that cause them to have those attitudes.

You let them stay on those phones talking to all kinds of people that pull them away from God and away from the things that are good. Then you are amazed at their attitudes and how they have changed and you wonder what happened. Maybe you are too busy to even pay attention to their attitudes and their actions until they get so bad that you no longer have any kind of control in your own home and you wonder how that happened. One day you wake up and your child has done some things that you can't believe and you don't know what to do about the situation. Before things get to that point, isn't it time to make a stand and let them know the stand that you have made?

Chapter 7

Freedom

There are so many bondages that kids can get wrapped up in that destroys them. There are so many things that can bind them up and destroy them and keep them from finding true freedom. Some of the most evident are drugs and alcohol. These are so destructive. I have kids at the school who have gone on to college and I have sent records there for them. Then I have kids who wound up in prison and I have sent records to them. The saddest ones are the ones that I know I will never be called upon to send their records anywhere. Those are the ones who are dead. Most of those kids who wound up in prison or dead, it is because of drugs and alcohol. The drug problem is really bad in our area. I was talking to a friend of mine who is an investigator in Roanoke. He told me that our drug problem in this area is worse than the one in Roanoke and the problem there is really bad. Meth is a killer and it is really bad in our area. I have heard that when you take it one time, you are hooked.

I have read a lot of statistics about drug and alcohol abuse and how they have grown since covid. Why? I think that it is because people realize that there is nothing that they can do to protect themselves from this sickness. They realize that covid has brought about so many bad changes in our world, and that there is nothing that they can do to protect themselves against these things. They are helpless. And without God, they are hopeless. But in God, we are not hopeless, helpless victims. We are overcomers, victorious in Him.

We are overcomers in Christ. We are victorious in God. We are not helpless. Because of this we can take back our freedom that we are losing in our country. We can stand up against the devil who is trying to bind us up as individuals, the one who is trying to steal our personal freedom. We are winners in Christ. We don't have to sink back in defeat and turn to drugs and alcohol just to get by. We are free in Christ and when He has made us free we are free indeed. John 8:36 tells us, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Alcohol and drugs aren't the only things that can take our freedom away leaving us all bound up inside, a shipwreck waiting to happen. One of the things that is stealing people's lives away right now is fear. We have talked earlier about that. Fear robs our lives away. It steals our peace of mind. It steals our relationship with God and it can steal away our relationships with those around us that we love. It makes us want to curl up under the covers pulling them over our head so that we can't see or hear anything and stay there. It binds up our minds, our hearts, our bodies. We are tied up and tangled up in pain. We are not free.

There are other things besides drugs and alcohol and fear that can tie us up and bind us up and keep us from being free. Some people are actually hooked on drama. If they aren't on facebook, they don't know how to act. They don't know how to have real meaningful relationships with the people around them. They only know how to relate to all their pretend friends on facebook. There is so much of this kind of stuff on the internet that can

just bind us up, and steal our time where we can't do anything meaningful because we don't have time. It keeps our heart all tied up with emotions that aren't even real because drama isn't real. It is just a mess that people hatch up to control us. And the one pulling their strings is the devil who is using them to destroy you. You need to realize that you are bound up and you need to ask God to deliver you. You need to ask Him to show you how to be set free.

Another thing that can bind you up is relationships. I am meaning by saying this boyfriend and girlfriend relationships. I have seen so many Christians be destroyed by letting the wrong person become a focus. I have seen this hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of times. The devil would send a person and use them to wreck marriages, to wreck families, to wreck relationships with God, to steal souls. If you are hooked on sex, or if you have an emptiness inside you that you aren't letting God fill and the devil uses it to push the wrong people in your life, then you are not free. God can deliver you and set you free.

There are so many addictions that we can have that can steal away our freedom. What do your kids see when they look at your life? I watch kids look at their parents. I watch the things that bind up the parents cause such pain in their kids, and it is like the parents don't even see it. I hear heart breaking stories of what some kids have gone through. I just want to shake some parents and try to shake some sense in them. I watch their kids look at them and I see that the kids have become the parents because there is such a mess in the lives of their parents they can't be parents at all. What do your kids see when they look at you and what can you do about it if you realize that you are not free?

Here is something to think about. As I mentioned before, I have watched a lot of kids grow up and have kids and I have watched their kids grow up. One of the saddest things that I have seen is when someone allows some type of addiction to bind them up. They have children, and they pass this addiction on to their children. It may be drugs, or it may be an

addiction to the wrong men, or addiction to drama, or whatever it may be. But the same thing that destroys their lives turns around and destroys their children's lives, and their children's children's lives.

These bondages, these things that bind us up and destroy us can be broken through Christ. I don't know if you know my testimony or not. I was on drugs and an alcoholic, but God delivered me over 40 years ago. I know that when people go to AA meetings they teach them not to ever say that they aren't an alcoholic, because they teach them to look at it this way. They say that even if you haven't been an alcoholic for 20 years, you have to say you are a recovering alcoholic. Well I am not a recovering alcoholic, I am a delivered alcoholic and have been delivered for over 40 years. When Christ sets you free you are free indeed. Whatever your bondage is you can be set free through Christ. He can deliver you. Then your children won't have to suffer through your bondages, and they can know what freedom means and how to be set free themselves because of the freedom that they see in your life.

John 8:36 tells us, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." When Jesus comes in our heart and mind there will be a change. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. " The Spirit of God comes inside of us and gives us liberty.

Romans 6:17-18, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." We don't have to be slaves to sin, but God can set us free and we can become servants of righteousness. Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Galatians 2:20 tells us how we can stay free, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." We don't have to trust in ourselves,

but in the power of Christ who lives in us making that change, and keeping us free. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Psalms 119:45 tells us another key to be able to stay set free. It says, "And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." God's Word is His precepts. Precepts mean directions given and rules for conduct.

The Word of God is powerful. When you take in a steady diet of God's Word, it will work in you. Isaiah 55:11 tells us how powerful God's Word is. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It will accomplish great things in you when you read His Word, take it to heart, and you do what it says. It will be a life changing force that will keep you free.

Galatians 5:1 warns us that when God sets us free, we don't need to go back to the things that bound us all up. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ

hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Stay free not only for your sake but for your children's sake.

How can your kids find the true freedom that is in Christ, in God's Spirit and in the Word of God? By you living freedom before them.

Chapter 8

Compassion

I looked up the definition for compassion. Compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy and great sorrow for others' misfortune accompanied by a desire to alleviate their suffering. That is a big mouthful, but to put it simply it means hurting for others and wanting to help. My mom had a gift for that. If anybody was going through anything in our neighborhood, she was there to help. Whether they asked for it or not, no matter. Even if it involved some sort of sacrifice, or hard work, she was still there to lend a helping hand.

We grew up being the same way. I can really say that this impacted my life in a huge way. Because of it, all of my sisters grew up helping others and we still do. We grew up feeling for others. My sisters have raised their children to be the same way. Most of my sisters and I and most of their children have gotten into some sort of service occupation where they are working in a field that provides services for people, like teaching.

I see parents who are putting this trait in their children all the time, when they bring their kids by the school to volunteer to help. Or when they mention how they are taking them to the nursing homes to volunteer. Or they are visiting shut-ins in their areas, or helping older people who can't tend to their yards, or shovel snow in the winter.

There is something that helping people adds to our character. Helping people gives you a self esteem that is so valuable in today's world when it seems young people's character has been torn apart in that area. When they are reaching out to help others, they are gaining so much more than they are giving. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Teach them to give, and they will never do without.

i want to add here something about tithing. It is important for kids to learn the principles of tithing-giving your 10%

to the church. When you give that 10%, then the Lord blesses the 90% that you keep for yourself. I want to add something here. If you haven't been paying tithes to the church and you read this and realize that you need to do this, then be aware of something. The devil will really try to stop you from doing this. When new tithers have started paying tithes, I have watched him come in and tear apart their finances. If that happens, then just bind him up in the name of Jesus, and stand your ground. It will come out and God will bless your tithes.

Pay your tithes and you will reap a blessing. How do I know this? Because I have put this to practice in my own life. It is amazing how God will bless you when you pay your tithes. Start your children out to learn this principal. Encourage them to pay their tithes. That way they will learn first hand how this principal of God's Word works.

To illustrate all this, i want to add a note here about my mom's garden. She had a good sized garden and she canned and put up a lot of stuff every year, but that wasn't

the remarkable thing about her garden. She had the biggest vegetables I had ever seen. I remember one time she had beets that were bigger around than my pot that I was going to cook it in. I had to cut it up to get it in my pot, and it was a good sized pot. One beet filled up my pot. She always had more than she needed. I know that it was because she gave so much. She would give bags of food away to all the neighbors. My mom's garden was famous all around because of her giving, and because it was such a grand garden and that was because she gave.

I want to add something important here. The greatest way that we can give to others is to be filled up with God's Word and with His Spirit and obey God. God can use you to do amazing things. Things you would never dream possible that you could do. I do a lot of things for the Lord but I can truly say that I can't do anything except that He is in me and He does it through me. He can use you. He can lead you to make a difference in the lives of everyone who is around you who is down and out and needs hope. Through God you can be there at the right time and at

the right place and do the right thing that is needed to help pull someone out of the ditch that they have fallen in. We don't know what to do. We don't know what to say. But when God speaks in us and through us, we can change lives around.

In today's world, we need to be obedient to Him. There are so many people out there that are losing hope and losing a purpose to live. When we have the Lord inside of us, when we have His Spirit inside of us, and when we have His Word inside of us, we have something that we can give them that is like a light that lights up the darkest night. We need to give of ourselves to God yielding and being willing to obey Him so that He can use us. When this is the way that we live before our children, they will become the same. They will become lights to light up the night as well.

The devil is a master at getting people to stop reaching out obeying God. The things that he tries is making us to feel that we are not able to do anything for God. When you start to step out and obey God, he will be there to point out every

mistake you have ever made for the last 20 years. He will cause you to be nervous and have fear about stepping out. He will tell you that you have nothing to give (then is when you need to remember that you have God's Spirit and His Word in your heart). It isn't about what you can or cannot do, but it is about what God can do in and through your obedience.

I can remember when the Lord told me to help start the school. I told Him that I couldn't do that. I knew that I couldn't do it. I wasn't lying. I never will forget what He told me in reply. He said, "I created the heavens and the earth. How dare you tell me that you can't do what I have appointed and ordained you to do." Wow. I went ahead and obeyed Him. Aren't you glad that I did. Like I said. It isn't about what we can or can't do, it is about us obeying what He says do, and it is about what He does with what we do.

I have studied this thing out a lot. God is using kids in a mighty powerful way. The first time that I noticed this, I heard a preacher talking about how there were so many children committing suicide because

of bullying. He talked about how the abortion rate is so high (just a note here—they now have mail order abortion kits). He made the statement, "Why are they killing the children?" I started studying on this. This was before I began to understand about this revival and the mighty power of God's Spirit that is starting to pour out in these last days. This outpouring of His Spirit is something that God promise in His Word thousands of years ago.

God started showing me that He is starting to use children and young people in a powerful way. That is what the devil was trying to stop by taking their lives. Since then I have seen some powerful things. One was a church service where children were moving in the Holy Ghost and obeying God. They were praying for others, and those people were being healed. They prayed for others and they were set free from things that were binding them up.

I think that God can use children because they just do what He tells them to do without thinking it away, without thinking

that they can't. They just in the innocence of their hearts obey Him. They love with a childlike love and that motivates them. Luke 18:17 tells us that Jesus made this statement about children, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." We are all to have this heart of a child.

When Bishop Goad's daughter was small, she was really used by the Lord. She would give words of prophesy out to the church. She would say things that people knew had to come from the Lord because there was no way that this little girl would know those things that she was saying. People would go over the pews to get to the altar when she spoke. God can use children. I see a lot of kids and I notice that there is something special about them. They have such a tender heart for God's things. They love people and want to help them. They have a wisdom that is beyond their years.

I know that God is going to use children in a special way. You may have a child like that. Protect the gift that is in that child.

Be aware of it, and allow that child to use their gifts. Be protective of it and don't allow other children to put that gift down, or make light of it because they are jealous. Encourage them to obey God. Don't ever discourage them from doing what God puts in their heart even if at the time you don't understand it.

Encourage your children to have compassion for others and to be of service to the Lord. I want to close by sharing this with you. Colossians 3:23-24 tells us something important regarding the work that we do for the Lord. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"

Do the things that you do for the Lord, not to receive recognition from people. Colossians 3:17 says, " And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." We need to do what we do for the Lord and we need to teach our children to do the same.

Chapter 9

Hard Work

There is something that I came by honestly (and all my family has this) and that is the ability to work hard. When I say I came by it honestly, I can look back to my grandparents, and my parents, and my sisters and their kids, and we all have this trait. We know how to jump in and get the job done. I can remember when we were teenagers, we had to work at home. No options. I can remember us out working in the garden (and it was a huge garden for a family of 6). Our friends would be riding by yelling at us picking on us because we were having to work while they were out running the roads. I am so thankful that I wasn't one of those kids. I am glad that my mom made us work. She not only made us work, but she also made us do it right. I can still remember her saying to this day, "Anything worth doing is worth doing right." She said it as she was making me do it over. A halfhearted job from a halfhearted person wasn't acceptable. I am so thankful that she taught us how to work.

That isn't something that kids have today. They know how to lay around and waste time. They know how to keep that phone hot with texting, etc. They know how to dish out all kinds of drama. But they don't know how to work. Many of these kids have parents that are working 2 jobs just to make ends meet, and they don't even do their own dishes and clean up their own messes and their own rooms. They do nothing to help around the house and they act like someone has murdered them when someone asks them to do something to help.

They sit around like they are entitled to that. And when someone outside of the family asks them to help out, in fear they don't do it because they are so afraid that they can't help because they don't know how to do anything except sit around. Why? Because that has been all they have done for years. They don't know how to act in certain situations because they aren't made to face certain situations. They are just left to do their own thing and that is destroying them.

Yes, I am very thankful that my mom took the time to teach us how to do things and made us do them. We grew up learning how to do things that we do now for our own families. We weren't handicapped because we didn't learn. I know someone whose parents just let him do whatever he wanted to do, and they didn't make him do anything. They didn't teach him how to do anything. They didn't teach him how to act in certain situations. They didn't make him do anything that he didn't want to. I have heard him cry as a grown man because they didn't do those things. He has said over and over and over I wished my parents would have taught me better. Are you teaching your children?

Are you teaching them how to be an honest worker with a good work ethic? If they go on later to work a job, are you giving them the tools that they need to be able to get a good job and keep it? Are they respectful? Do they know how to work with others? Can they think on their own? Do they know how to solve problems and think things through? Do they know how to get the job done and how to see what needs to be done? Do

they know how to listen and follow directions? Do they know how to work safely and how to pay attention to what is going on around them? Do they know how to be responsible? They have to be responsible to work a job. Do they know how to communicate with others-how to talk and how to be a listener? Can they work well with others? Can they deal with peer pressure? Do they know how to get things done in a timely manner-budgeting their time? Do they have perseverance-the ability to stick it out even when things get tough? All these are job skills. You can teach your children these things to prepare them for the work world. There are several job skill sights out there that give you ideas for how to teach your kids job skills.

Chapter 10

Give Them Your Time

One of the greatest things that my mom gave us was her time. We were the center of her world, and we knew it. We didn't have to guess whether or not we were loved because she always took time for us. We were important to her. We were her focus. I see parents who are working 3 jobs to be able to give their kids everything they want, but the one thing they need so desperately they don't have time to give them. They aren't able to give them their time.

Think about the memories that you have of when you were a child. Which do you remember the most? Do you remember the things that you got the most? Or do you remember more those golden little moments when your family was together and you shared a special time? Or those times when you were with a parent and they were teaching you how to do something, and it was just a special time with them? Which matters most, the things you give them, or the time? Sometimes it is a lot easier to focus on

just handing them the things that they want. That is easier than spending time with them. But when you neglect to spend time with them, then they grow up missing something in their life. They grow up not knowing that they are loved. Things do not take the place of love. You show your kids your love by spending time with them and loving them. If you don't take time to love them, then they really don't know how to love others. Then they grow up just giving their kids things, and their kids don't know that they are loved. This can go on for generations. We have no idea of how what we do to our kids is passed on for generations.

It is so important to give your kids love and to teach them to love others. This love is what gives them a strong identity. They can become themselves instead of becoming a shadow of what they think all the kids around them want them to be. They can have a strong identity in God and in His love. Also, if you don't see love from the people who are around you, then it is hard to believe in God's love and it is hard to receive it. It is also hard to love others with a godly love. People that can't

give and receive real love have fake friends and they have a life full of drama. Are your relationships with others fake or real? Are they relationships that your children can see how to relate to others?

Here is a picture of Godly love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7,13,"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." The greatest of these is love. Give your children love. That can't be done if you don't spend time with them. One of the greatest gifts you can give your children is your time. But the greatest gift you can give them is your love.

Closing
Seeing the Need To Change and
Knowing That in God
You Can Do What Needs To Be Done

I pray that you have read this and that it has stirred up in you a knowledge of the things that you need to give your children. I just want to close by saying one thing. It may be that you have read this and you have been pricked in your heart that you need these things and you just shake yourself off and rise up and start doing them.

It may be more common though that people will read this, and they will feel condemned because they haven't been doing those things that they need to have been doing. If that is you, then hear me out just a minute. I didn't write this to beat you up because you haven't been a good parent. I'm not even saying that you haven't been a good parent because you haven't been doing these things. I am just bringing to light some things that maybe you haven't thought about before. Don't feel beat down because you haven't been doing them.

God doesn't show you things that you need to do so that you can beat yourself up. What good does that do? He shows you things so that you can start doing them. It is the devil that causes you to beat yourself up. So we have a new day and a new way. How do we do what we need to do? Ask God to help you to be able to change. How can He do this? He can do it because He is inside of you and He can help you to do the things that you need to do from right inside of you, if you want to and if you yield to Him.

It starts with you seeing the need, and I believe that you are seeing it. Then it takes being sorry that you haven't been doing those things, and I believe that you are. But then it takes going on from there to you praying that God rise up in you and help you to do what you need to do to fix it. Galatians 2:20 tells us how we can do the things that are hard to do. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. " We have Christ

in us and he can help us from the inside out.

Philippians 4:3 says "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." He can show you how to do what you need to do. He can open your eyes to little things that you can do to make these things real to your kids. Just be open to Him and let Him teach you how to teach them. Your kids are worth it. You may be a wonderful gardener sowing all kinds of seeds that grow all kinds of wonderful flowers and vegetables. That brings all kinds of satisfaction. I want to tell you though that there is no greater satisfaction than planting things in the lives of your children and watching them grow knowing that their lives are being changed forever.

I want to remind you of something. Your children are very precious. And they are precious to the Lord. This is a story from Jesus' life found in Matthew 19:13-15. "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for

of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence." The Lord knows your children from the inside out and He knows you from the inside out. He can help you to be the best parent. How do you know that He will do that? Because He loves them. And He loves you. AMEN.