

## The Psalmist's Keys to Parenting

Psalms 127:3, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

I talked to a person the other day who had locked themselves out of their house. They mentioned how they had looked and looked for the keys, but could not find them. They were very frustrated! Without the proper keys they were stuck outside, trying to get in. They eventually found a way to get into the house, but, how much time was lost in their lives by standing outside trying to get through the door. Very often in this life, we, the children of God need answers to life's difficult questions and, like the locked door in front of my friend, unless we have the proper keys we will lose an abundance of time trying to figure it all out. Parenting is like that. Every godly parent wants to do a good job raising their children, and so often we don't have the proper keys to get through the doors. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Bible has all the keys to the doors, and if we will look to God's Word, it will teach us how to "Train up a child in the way he should go:..." (Proverbs 22:6).

David was a man who had experience with children. According to scripture, he knew what it was like to have a humble, obedient child (Solomon), and also a rebellious one (Absalom). In the 127th division of Psalms, David, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, shares with us the keys to parenting. David says we should:

(1) Always remember that children are a blessing from the Lord (Ps. 127:3. "heritage of the LORD"). Children are not a burden, nor are they a hindrance, but children are a great blessing of the Lord and we should awake each day thanking God for the rich blessings that He has bestowed upon us. In Genesis 4:1, it was Eve who said, "I have gotten a man from the LORD" when she gave birth to her son Cain. I know that Cain was an evil man, but from Eve's perspective, she thanked God for the son. In Genesis 21:3, it was Abraham who named his son Isaac (which means laughter) as God commanded in Genesis 17:19, and according to Gen. 21:6, after the birth of Isaac, Sarah said, "God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me." In Genesis 33:5, when Jacob was asked by Esau about his family, he answered that these are "The children which God hath graciously given thy servant." The Psalmist, in the verse previously cited, understood this and showed his thanksgiving for the blessing by giving the Lord glory for the gift. We, as parents, should do likewise. We do so by loving our children and showing that love by walking in the Lord's commandments.

(2) Always remember that children need training (Ps. 127:4, "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth"). David, in this verse of scripture, compares a parent to a mighty archer. There is no archer who plucks a limb from a tree and puts it in his bow thinking it will shoot straight at the target he intends to strike. The archer will work diligently to straighten the arrow; he will apply fletching to the arrow so that it will fly true; and he will aim that arrow with care at a goal. Every parent should take heed to this instruction. Children NEED instruction! Children should be taught the Bible, both at home and at Church. We should teach our children by being good examples, and we should never forget to follow scripture in proper discipline. We should labor diligently to aim our children for the goal of being God fearing, Church loving, Christ honoring men and women in this world.

(3) Always remember that having children is a joy and privilege (Ps. 127:5, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:..."). Every Sunday morning when I wake up I thank God for the blessing and privilege to go to His House. How many children of God in times past longed to have that blessing and were not able (Ps. 42:1-4). Would I be showing thankfulness by not attending Church? I think not! In like manner, when we as parents wake in the morning, and all throughout the day, we

should thank God for the privilege of having children. The way we thank God for this privilege is by raising them the way God says to do so. I pray that every parent would love and appreciate their children so that it may be said, as it was with Jacob and his son Benjamin, "seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;..." Amen !

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