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**Passing Your Faith to Your Children,  
The Next Generation  
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As we begin to raise children, we find that there are all kinds of books and tapes teaching us about the raising of children, but the best source what we have is the Bible, the Word of God.

**Judges 2:7** *"And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel." KJV*

**Joshua 24:31** *"And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel." KJV*

Joshua shares with the people before he passes away, how the Lord has given to them the things that He has promised, the cities and the land. How the Lord had helped them to defeat the 31 kings that were in the land because of their faithfulness to serving God. However, after the passing of Joshua, the children of Israel quit serving God.

**Judges 2:10-12** *"10And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. 11And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: 12And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger." KJV*

The book of Judges is an account of the 16 judges which served the children of Israel in a period of over 400 years. This became a tragic time because of their serving other gods. Many times they would serve God when the leader or judge was a God fearing man, but would revert back when another judge became leader.

The Bible records the mistakes of men and women and is written for our benefit, that we might learn from those mistakes. God had provided the children of Israel with everything that they needed, it was already planted and productive, they did not have to do anything to get it. The Lord had provided everything for them, yet they refused to acknowledge the Lord because of the generation that didn't follow after God.

"And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord"

The challenge for believers today is, how do we pass our faith to the next generation, our children and grandchildren? What can we do to insure that they will continue in the ways of the Lord?

The greatest challenge seems to be that there is no respect for authority. Parents cannot make excuses or overlook faults for their children.

Many households don't have two parents. There is a lack of discipline and guidance from the parents. No discipline is the cruelest type of discipline that can be done for our children.

Parents don't have time for their children, because of their lifestyle.

Time has to be involved in raising children; it is a full time job.

We cannot depend on the schools or the church to raise the children. They, however, can reinforce what is being taught at home

Another word for discipline is "train up." Train up is not a one time thing, but has to be consistently done every day. Discipline is not something that is done while we are angry.

***Pro 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." KJV***

Example given of children being raised with discipline vs. those not being disciplined and how it affected their lives later on and the lives of their children.

Examples given of children (Moses and Helen Keller) who were trained or disciplined at an early age and the effects that was there in later life.

Children raised up in church does not mean that their lives will be OK, there are some who turn out to be worthless. Eli and Samuel in the Old Testament had sons who turned out bad.

It will take time for us to see if our children have been imprinted or guided in the right direction. The fruit produced by their lives will be the evidence of proper training through the years.

Caution must be taken regarding the technology of today of what our children are watching and responding to. Children must be given boundaries to grow up in, get out of the ditch and get back on the road.

Genesis 18 tells us that God was able to use Abraham as the father of nations, because he would raise his children up right and command them in the ways of the Lord.

The plan of God is generational Christianity, passing our faith to the next generation. We are called of God to train up our children, we are stewards of the children and our job is to get rebellion out of them so that God can use them at a later date. They must learn to submit to authority or it will be challenging for them to be used on any level of their lives.

Rebellion in children can be challenging, but we cannot let them continue this way. There are times when it is allowed for a short time, but must be dealt with.

Annie Sullivan was hired to take care of Helen Keller, who by the age of 5 had become

completely uncontrollable. Annie had to be separated with Helen in order to teach her obedience, but the end result was, Helen was able to travel and share with others what Annie had been able to do for her.

**Ps. 128:3** *"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table."* KJV

Children are like plants; they must be trained and trimmed. The plants need care.

**Ps. 127:4** *"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth."* KJV

Children are like mighty hunters, they are given direction in order to hit a mark. The hunter is in control.

Parents have a responsibility for their children. There are certain things that children need in order to do well; they must have unconditional love, unconditional acceptance and unconditional approval along with encouragement. They cannot be criticized all the time, regardless of the situations,

**Pro 22:6** *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* KJV

Looking at the end result will make it easier when looking at the challenges that lie ahead for us.

**Pro 3:12** *"For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."* KJV

Hebrews 12 tells us how God loves us and disciplines His children because of that love.

If we love our children and want a proper outcome, we will take the time to train them. In training we are looking for a certain behavior. Consistency is an important principal or factor in training. Training a child is for their preservation not their destruction. Training is not just telling, but showing by example.

**Deut 5:29** *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"* KJV

Pro 29 and Pro 23 tells us how enjoyable our children can become because of their upbringing.

Attitude or purpose of discipline in child training is that it will go well with us and our children.

**Eph 6:4** *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* KJV

Nurture means to educate in the ways of the Lord and admonition means the warmth or recognizing the goodness of God. Family devotions is a way that this can be accomplished. Bless them and surround them with the anointing of God at the start of their day.

**Col 3:21** *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."* KJV

**Col 3:21 "Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged." NLV**

We must encourage our children because of the end result that we can see in them. Speaking faith filled words into them. Mistakes can be used as learning experiences, but don't major on the mistakes all the time. Major on the right things that are done.

**Col 3:21 "Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]" AMP**

Parenting is something that we are all learning how to do. We are going to make some mistakes; therefore, we must allow our children to make some mistakes.

God doesn't write us off when we make mistakes. When we ask for forgiveness He restores us and blots our mistakes out of His mind because of what Jesus did for us, the blood of Jesus covers us and that is all God sees.

It is important to speak life into our children.