

My Best For My Children

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Faith in the Saviour is the greatest contribution any parent can make to his children.

Greater than fame and better than money, even more important than education, is giving to each child the gift of faith. That gift will be enlarged and strengthened as he goes onward; and all of life will be sweeter, stronger, and better for it.

How can I do my very best for my children?

The best method is to teach them by precept and practice. By seeing the Lord Jesus in you they will come to love Him, to trust Him, and to obey Him.

Your conduct will be the most obvious factor to them. Actions always speak louder than words. In his love and admiration for his parents, the little child learns early whether he is loved or not. As he grows older, his big eyes observe what is done; and he correlates his observations with the instruction given to him.

Intuitively the child understands practical Christianity in action. His response will first be imitation of what he sees and hears; but imitation can soon become a living reality. He will believe what we believe. He will walk and talk as we do. It will be easy for him to believe in the Saviour for having seen Him in father and mother.

Christian character will be as apparent to our children, younger and older, as to others; perhaps more so. Before they learn to read the ABC's they read character. Intuitively they understand adults much better than we give them credit for. Integrity, honesty, honor, unselfishness, courage in the face of great difficulties—such character traits are deeply-impressed upon young, plastic minds. The children will see Christ in our character, and will share the confidence that others have in us. They will be proud of mother and dad, and of the Saviour.

Our conversation can show forth the Lord Jesus. Little folk have big ears as well as big eyes. They comprehend the intent as well as the content of our talk. They will make mental note of our appreciation and helpfulness for others; and contrariwise of unkind and unfair criticism. Our kindness and consideration for others in what we say and what we do can teach them of Him who went about doing good to all.

Consistency is a jewel; and nowhere does it sparkle more brightly than in the Christian home. At family altar we can teach children about Christ as we read the Bible; but even more impressive to them will be their seeing Christ in us. They will note what we say and do in Sunday school and church; and will compare that with our attitude and actions in the home. Consistency in our words and our works will be evidenced by the standards that we maintain in the Lord's house and on His day, and in the carefulness with which we do His work as laity or clergy. Your faith in the Saviour will be conveyed to the children by your faithfulness to them and to the Lord, by your fatherly care and concern. To me it has always been challenging and encouraging to remember that in days dark and foreboding, Noah's sons followed their godly father even into the ark. That action must have seemed somewhat foolish to them, as it certainly was to the worldlings round about; but they had learned to trust God because they trusted their father.

The future of your children depends so largely upon their faith in Christ. Christian conduct, character, conversation, and consistency will pay big dividends in the life of every child.

A family altar with its open Bible and bended knees for the whole family, the happy home, the attendance of all the family at Sunday school and church—all these

make for a wholesome outlook on life by the children, and the establishment of standards that will go with them throughout life. Correction that is constructive, co-operation that is cheerful, harmony that is helpful—such are memories the children will carry with them when they leave our homes and go into their places of service and usefulness.

From her heart, out of more than fifty years of experience of leading little orphan boys and girls to the Saviour, the late Amy Carmichael of South India wrote this earnest prayer:

"Father, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying,
We are praying for our children.

"Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril,
From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand pluck them.

"From the worldling's hollow gladness,
From the sting of faithless sadness,
Holy Father, save our children.

"Through life's troubled waters steer them,
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,
Father, Father, be Thou near them,
Read the language of our longing.
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,
Holy Father, for our children.

"And wherever they may bide,
Lead them Home at eventide."

—From National Sunday School Association.

GOD'S MATHEMATICS

Someone once ran quickly through the Scriptures gathering evidence to show that God uses an entirely different type of mathematics.

Ten spies said it could not be done, two said it could, and it was!

Elijah stood alone against the 400 priests of Baal.
David was armed with a few small stones and a sling.
Gideon's army was hopelessly outnumbered, and finally the victory was won by a devoted and trustworthy three hundred.

It was Jeremiah against the entire government.
Jesus fed 5,000 with a boy's lunch.

The Christian church began with eleven faithful men pitted against the whole Roman Empire.

Every Christian church represented an almost infinitesimal minority.

There has never been a time in all the long centuries when God held up His plans until He could boast of a majority. Practically every victory the Christian cause has ever won has been the fruitage of the loyalty of a minority.

Then there is the matter of the tithe — a principle that runs through the Old Testament as well as the New Testament, like the red thread which runs through all the cordage of the British Navy. Again and again those individuals who have accepted it as their financial rule of life have discovered that they lived better on nine-tenths than they ever did on ten-tenths.

The rendering of the tithe is not a clever scheme for raising money for godly causes. It is, instead, a great adventure of faith. Let any man dedicate one-tenth of his income to the service of God as an act of faith, and God will not let him down. Literally millions of Christians will testify to the truth of the principle. Roy L. Smith, in Telescope-Messenger.