

Raising Up Godly Children Part 3

“22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22 KJV)

Implementing discipline is teaching and leading children on the road of obedience. For parents, to earn money and to buy material things for children to learn is far easier to do than to teach them to listen and obey. But, what the Lord requires is for the parents to teach and train their children into righteousness. To implement discipline in the family is indispensable for the following reasons:

A. Discipline is ordained by God: We are God’s children and God disciplines and corrects us because He loves us. We as parents are also called to discipline and correct our children to bring them to the true knowledge of God’s love. *“5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” (Hebrews 12:5-8 KJV)* As we discipline our children we combat sin in their lives. We show authority as true parents and we care for them because they are our true children. Let us not be intimidated by the thought that our children will be angry with us when we discipline them. Instead, let us hold on to God’s Word, *“For what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Hebrews 12:7 KJV)* If we do not discipline our children, they will not seem like our true children.

B. Discipline imparts love from God: Our children will understand and feel our true love for them as we carry on God’s commands in our homes. *“24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” (Proverbs 13:24 KJV)* When we do our part for God to discipline our children, the LORD Himself will speak and convince them to follow our instructions because we love God and we love our children.

C. Discipline produces respect and reverence: In every occasion that we discipline our children to correct them and to teach them to refrain from doing sin, clear Biblical explanation about their sin and clear instruction on how to avoid that sin should be imparted to them, so that they will respect us and they will not hold a grudge in their hearts against us. *“9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” (Hebrews 12:9-10 KJV)* When our children realize that we love them and we desire the best for them, and we discipline them because we fear God, they will respect us and cherish our teachings and instructions.

D. Discipline needs to be painful to impart righteousness and peace: *“11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” (Hebrews 12:11 KJV)* Discipline is not only painful for our children but also us as parents. For the rod is recommended to be used to discipline our children as the Bible says, *“15 Foolishness is bound*

in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15 KJV) * A rod or stick at their backs or buttocks, and not our bare hands or feet, nor a cloth hanger must be used to discipline children to drive out foolishness from their hearts and minds. * Disobedience and reluctance to do what is right and good is foolishness, and delayed obedience is the same as disobedience and this foolishness can be driven only by the rod of correction. *“3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool’s back.” (Proverbs 26:3 KJV)* * The rod will drive away the foolishness that comes and goes in the children’s minds and hearts. When a child is trained to abstain from foolishness and become obedient to his or her parents in whatever circumstances, peace and righteousness will rule in the home. * Children who grow up in homes without discipline are agitated because of the effect of sins in their lives, but once they receive discipline for whatever foolish behavior they do, immediately the family will be in peace after the session of chastisement.

E. Discipline teaches obedience: *“12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.” (Hebrews 12:12-13 KJV)* * Let us not be afraid to discipline our children. Later they will do well and they will be healed from the suffering of chastisement, and they soon appreciate all our efforts to train them in the way of righteousness and Godliness. * Discipline is the only best thing we can do for our children, for discipline imparts obedience and holiness in life. The writer of Hebrews wrote about Jesus the following: *“8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8 KJV)* Jesus’ suffering imparts obedience. In the same way, our discipline for our children will bring suffering into their physical bodies but that suffering will impart obedience and holiness in their lives.

Child discipline and training also go deeper as we focus on the life of Abraham and Isaac.

“1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a

ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” (Genesis 22:1-18 KJV)

Abraham, when he was called by God he had some shortcomings but finally, his faith was perfected by the Lord, and Abraham imparted that faith to his son Isaac. From the above-chosen Scriptures let us meditate on certain points in the life of Abraham and Isaac who walked with God, and how they acted and reacted to obey and please God:

1. Immediate obedience: Obedience demands immediate response. Abraham when he was called by God, he at once replied, **“Here I am” (Genesis 22:1 KJV)** and early the next morning he did what God asked him to do. **We need to obey God immediately and teach our children immediate obedience to God and us their parents.** When we instruct them to do certain things they should be quick to respond properly and to do it on time. While delayed obedience is disobedience on their part, tolerance is disobedience on our part.

2. Full obedience: Obedience necessitates full submission. Abraham wholeheartedly obeyed God and he was willing to offer Isaac. Abraham did not bargain with God or try doing something else to escape doing what God asked of him. **In like manner, we need to obey God fully and we need to teach our children full obedience to our instructions.** Sometimes when we instruct our children to do certain things they bargain with us or they try diverting our instructions to others. This is disobedience, and we need to be aware that children are learning while growing. If they can manipulate our instructions now, they will grow up without learning how to fully submit to any authority over them.

3. Systematic obedience: Obedience requires diligence and hard work. Abraham got up early and Isaac got up early with him to do what God wanted them to do; to travel three days and to climb a mountain. Abraham placed the wood on Isaac and they both climbed the mountain. **We need to teach our children to be thorough and well organized in doing work, even hard work.** God said, **“19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19 KJV)** * Thus our children need to wake up on time and do their routine to brush their teeth, wash their faces or take a bath, and get ready for family worship, reading the Bible, and attending their studies and school on time. * Our children should get involved early in taking up and fulfilling responsibilities in the household chores and later on in the work outside the home. * They should know how to fix their toys, books, and arrange their beds, their earliest milestone. And then they should be assigned to wash dishes, sweep the ground, water the garden, throw the garbage, carry the groceries from the car to the kitchen, etc. Children who learn to do work diligently also learn how to joyfully obey.

4. Persistent obedience: Obedience requires perseverance and determination. There was a healthy and Godly discussion between Abraham and Isaac as they were climbing the mountain.

Isaac asked, **“Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7 KJV)** Isaac was fully oriented and his mind was fixed on what they were about to do for God. * **Such kind of attitude and discussion should go on in the life of our families and children.** We need to teach our children the things that God ordained for us to do so that God would be pleased with our families. Our children should give thanks to God as God fulfills His promises and provides for our daily needs. We need also to explain to them what trials we pass through to perfect our faith in God. * Our children’s thoughts should not be directed and involved in politics, sports news, television movies, dramas, and games that corrupt the generation and disabled faith in God. Instead, as early as possible we need to share with our children our faith and our trials and ask them to pray and fast with us as we call to God who can solve our problems. We must teach our children that obedience brings God’s provision, favor, and miracles. We must install in them the faith that always obeys and that which saves.

5. Consistent obedience: Obedience requires constant practice. Abraham had been constantly obeying God. When God called him to leave his country, he did. When God told him to send away Hagar and Ishmael, he did. In addition, when God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac, he managed to place Isaac on the wood and bound him on the altar. Sleeping on the woods and the thought that he is to be offered was not a comfortable thing for Isaac, but Isaac obeyed his father as his father obeyed God. **There are many things that God would ask us to do, which may not be comfortable for us and our families but we need to obey.**

As Abraham bound Isaac on the altar and made him abide, we need to do the same for our children to make them abide by all their routines and assignments. Children should not control parents but parents should control their children. Isaac was not a small boy when he was bound, but he was a youth or a young adult. In addition, he had been trained by his father to obey and abide since childhood. **In the same manner, we discipline ourselves and our children to obey, though initially, it is uncomfortable for all of us but after constant practice, we see the fruit of obedience.** When children learn to abide by simple rules like sleeping early, waking up early, not leaving food in their plates, brushing their teeth after every meal, keeping their clothes clean, reading their Bibles daily, and diligently doing their daily lessons, as they mature they become achievers and continue to show respect and obedience to parents and spiritual leaders. **“6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)** Good habits will need three weeks to develop in the life of our children, therefore let us then teach them to abide and practice correct principles of life while they are young, and they will continue to do them when they are old.

My Dear and Beloved: Come to God pondering on the message that you received that describes children’s discipline from various aspects and as the following:

- Discipline is ordained by God.
- Discipline imparts love from God.
- Discipline produces respect and reverence.
- Discipline needs to be painful to impart righteousness and peace.
- Discipline teaches obedience. And obedience should be:

1. Immediate which demands immediate response.
2. Full that necessitates full submission.
3. Systematic which requires diligence and hard work.
4. Persistent which requires perseverance and determination.

5. Consistent which requires constant practice.

Commit yourself now to God for all the teaching that you had received from Him in this message, to apply and to practice in your life and in the life of your family and children, so that you and your family will be a good example and a good testimony to others to know and to follow God and obey His Word and will.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for all the new things that I learned in this message, and thank you for all the Scriptures that was expounded to me. Lord thank you for my family and all the blessings that you had bestowed on us, and thank you for all the constructive trials that you allowed in our life that teaches us to go through the narrow way and abide in your will and to raise up our children in a Godly way.*

Repent and renounce now all your sins. Renounce your carelessness and non willingness to take active measures to discipline your children. Repent of your delay obedience and your non submission to God's will. Repent of your tolerant and condoning the sins of your children. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Repent of your bad example to others and to your family and children. Repent of spending much time with your friends, and on the Media, News and games. Repent of your lack of reading the Bible and life of prayers. Renounce your bad stewardship, and your non willingness to suffer for Christ and serve Him wholeheartedly. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins
_____.

Lord I commit myself to apply all what I received in this message in the life of my children, to discipline them and to raise them in the fears of yours. Lord, I commit myself to read your Word and pray with them and to teach them your commands and train them to serve you. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, meekness, faith, perseverance and self-control, that people may see Christ in me. Lord I commit myself to do the following that you asked of me to do
_____. *Lord uphold me with your grace, until you are done with my family and children.*

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and had committed their lives to apply the principles that we received in this message. Lord uphold them with your grace and give them perseverance to finish in full all the task that you had asked from them to do, Lord give them wisdom and teach them how to handle and discipline their children one by one, and reward them for their hard labor and service unto you. Lord solve their problems and continue to provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as your church and guide us to continue to teach your people and all the families in the church and our disciples those principles of your Word of how to implement discipline in the life of the children. Lord help us to continue to train parents and teach them how to discipline their children and raise them in the fear of God. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the

church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Raising Up Godly Children Part 3. 1 Samuel 15:22. Hebrews 12:5-13. Proverbs 13:24. Proverbs 22:15. Proverbs 26:3. Hebrews 12:12-13. Hebrews 5:8. Genesis 22:1-18. Genesis 3:19. Proverbs 22:6.

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