

Raising Up Godly Children Part 4

“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)

Child discipline and training also go deeper as we focused on the life of Abraham and Isaac. In the previous message we tackled the following:

1. **Immediate obedience** demands immediate response.
2. **Full obedience** necessitates full submission.
3. **Systematic obedience** requires diligence and hard work.
4. **Persistent obedience** requires perseverance and determination.
5. **Consistent obedience** requires constant practice.

Let us continue in this message:

6. **Subjective obedience:** Obedience demands clear instruction to obtain sequential and uninterrupted performance. As Abraham offered Isaac and Isaac was willing to offer his life to God, we need to train our children with the same principle: *“1 I beseech you therefore,*

brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 KJV)

a. **Let us teach our children to offer all the parts of their bodies to God:** First, we need to teach our children that God created us for Himself. As they grow they must understand that from head to toe, even their thoughts, feelings, and emotions belong to God and not to be used for worldly or sinful things. *“13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Romans 6:13 KJV)*

b. **Let us teach our children to give to God what God requires:** We need to teach our children to allot a day of Sabbath to God, their time, effort, tithes, their first fruits, and offerings. As young as they are, and whenever we give them some amount of money to teach them to save, we teach them also to tithe that money to the Lord. As they grow with this principle of giving in their lives, God will bless them and provide for all their needs.

c. **Let us teach our children about stewardship:** God owns everything we have and so our children should be taught how to wisely manage God’s provisions. Some children are not careful to preserve their clothes, shoes, or foods because they see in abundance. And when they lose or spoil any of their belongings, they don’t care because their father or mother will replace them anyway. We, parents, are responsible to provide clothes, shoes, and food for our children but we must be more responsible to teach them to care for their things so that they become good stewards. We should teach by example and clear instruction. * We can effectively teach them when we do not replace the things they carelessly spoil. A child who breaks his things should not be rewarded with another one at once. * Particularly, a limit is to be set on how much money we spend on our children. For example, parents should train their children to brush their teeth after every meal, so they will not have dental problems. Parents should explain to their children that their budget is to provide food for them to eat to grow, to buy soap, toothpaste and brushes to keep their teeth and body clean and healthy to avoid illnesses, toothache, and extra expenditure for doctors and dentists.

We must also teach our children how to save money and resources. Children should not be given full authority or access to the money of their parents. If they grow in such a way, even when they are old, they will not know how to use resources properly or spend money wisely, and soon they will exhaust all the family resources. We need to teach the principle of stewardship to our children by our example and make them understand that we live the Word of God. Consequently, we can also give more to the Lord, if we know how to save and conserve resources. We will enjoy God’s provision if we know how to consume wisely. We will know how to be content if we practice good stewardship for everything that God has given us. In the same manner, our children will know how to be content if we teach them stewardship.

d. **Let us teach our children that what they sow, they will reap:** In nurturing children, the father and mother of every family need to be firm in showing them that there is no compromise in dealing with sins and shortcomings. Our children should realize that they reap every consequence of what they do. *“7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:7-8 KJV)* We should work with the Lord in applying the sowing and reaping

principle in life. If our children do well and follow the instructions of the Word of God that we give them, they should be rewarded. Every obedient and good action of our children should be recognized and appreciated. But, every disobedient and rebellious action needs to be punished and dealt with properly and on the spot. Sometimes the Lord Himself finds out the sin of our children and exposes them to us to be dealt with properly. In such a case, we need to stand with the Lord and agree to carry out for God whatever kind of discipline He instructs us to implement in our children's lives. As well as, there would be occasions that the Lord Himself deals with the shortcomings of our children, thus in such situations, we should not interfere or relieve the child from the hand of God. Our children, who are born in our Christian homes, are also God's children and the Lord disciplines us all, as a father discipline to correct his children. God loves us and disciplines us directly or indirectly. God entrusts us children and He delegates to us the role to implement His discipline in our children for them to become Godly children. **"15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed."** (Malachi 2:15 KJV)

To implement discipline and to teach true obedience to our children, we need to closely follow them up. Some cultures say that once the child is 18 years old, he or she can already decide and do whatever he or she likes. But in the Bible principles, the parents and spiritual leaders are always over the children and continue to direct them in the ways of the Lord even when they are old. Timothy was already a pastor, yet Apostle Paul did not stop giving him instructions. Noah's sons were with him in the ark even they are already married.

Isaac was already forty years old when Abraham put forward the principle of Godly marriage for his son. Earlier to that, when Abraham was willing to discipline his son and was willing to give him and offer him to God as a burnt offering, God outlined the future marriage and the family of Isaac.

Abraham when he was tested by the Lord, at that time his age was approximately 115–120 years old or above. He had his only son Isaac, and here God asked him to offer him to God as a burnt offering. Abraham obeyed God and he imparted obedience to God in the life of his son Isaac.

In preparing for Godly marriage parents should train their children to obey God so that their future will be secured and they will be living within Godly families. In preparation for Godly marriage from the chosen passage of **Genesis 22:1-18**, we can conclude the following important lessons:-

- **Parents' obedience is essential:** Abraham obeyed God's command immediately and willingly to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham was willing to travel a journey of three days and to climb a mountain to reach the place that God asked him to reach. Even in that old age, he was diligent and not lazy. He was not controlled by his heart feelings or emotions to withhold Isaac from being offered to God. That had left a good template for Isaac to follow and to live his life in total obedience to God.

- **Parents should lead their children into the right faith:** Abraham led his son Isaac to the right place of worship and taught him the sincere faith. Abraham brought Isaac to the region of Moriah, the same place where our Lord Jesus was crucified. **The worship on that mountain was complete. Two people, they came to do the whole will and the command of God. God the**

Father was there, the angel of the Lord. God the Son was there, symbolized by the ram, the Lamb of God. God the Holy Spirit was there, symbolized by the fire. God's Word was there, symbolized by the knife. God's church, the ministry set up, and discipline were there, symbolized by the altar that Abraham built and bound his son Isaac on it.

- **Children should be trained that in trials and time of testing that God should be honored and that God will provide, but they need to obey Him first:** ***"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."*** (Genesis 22:7-8 KJV) Abraham's answer to his son Isaac's question was clear and Isaac accepted gladly what his father spoke to him. Jesus laid his life in obedience to God the Father, and Isaac was willing to lay his life in obedience to his father Abraham, as his father Abraham was obeying God the Father.

- **Parents should help their children to grasp and reach the good plan that God had for them:** Many think that a good future will meet their children if they will give them good food and spend on them and put them in good schools and make them finish good colleges. These are important things but all are non-essential. To train them and enable them to do and obey God's will is essential and that what is needed. Isaac needed his father to lead him and make him climb the mount of Moriah and would need him to bind him on the altar. Children cannot do such things without the help of their parents or their spiritual parents. **Children should be trained, that in trials and the time of testing, God will provide but after they had obeyed.** ***"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."*** (Genesis 22:13 KJV)

- **Obedient parents would be able to see the good plan of God to their children:** God promised Abraham on that setup, ***"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 22:17-18 KJV) This plan of God of multiplying the descendants of Abraham would come true through Isaac when Isaac would have a Godly family. For Isaac to have a Godly family, he should have a suitable partner to help him to achieve that. We had read at the end of **Genesis 22** about Nahor's sons: ***"19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba. 20 And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor; 21 Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram, 22 And Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel. 23 And Bethuel begat Rebekah: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother. 24 And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, she bare also Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah."*** (Genesis 22:19-24 KJV)

It was told Abraham about Rebekah as a descendant from Nahor the brother of Abraham. God prepared Rebekah to be a wife to Isaac. Therefore when Abraham and Isaac obeyed God and did His will, the Lord revealed this information to Abraham and unfolded to him the good plan that he has for his son, Isaac. Abraham offered Isaac when Isaac was a youth. Isaac

married Rebekah at the age of forty years old. So you can conclude here that as you willingly obey the Lord then the Lord will reveal to you the good plan that He has for your children even ahead of time. The Lord has always a good plan for your children, and this plan will unfold and come true only when you fully obey Him and do His will in raising your children in full obedience to the Lord.

* All of us desire for the future of our children to be secure and that they would be fully blessed by the Lord. But, the only way to see that truly happen in their lives is when we train them following God's Word. * In everyday life and while the children are growing and maturing, parents and adults in the family should show the children the right attitude and define the wrong attitude as wrong that deserves punishment. From the early stage itself, children should be raised in the training and instruction of the Lord, and they should realize the power of the Word of God in our Christian homes. * Our children should know that we are committed to doing what we read and learn in the Bible, as we worship and pray to God daily. Children must realize that all their family members are real people created by God to live in the truth of God's Word. * We as a family must worship God together, pray and work, and always spend time together doing the right thing, and teaching the children to do what is right rather than giving them facilities and equipment that bring them to destruction.

Let us apply discipline in our homes to combat sin that surely destroys the future of our children. Truly it is a struggle to keep rules and boundaries in our families. But we need to persevere with the Lord to discipline our children until they overcome this sinful world. ***"4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."* (Hebrews 12:4 KJV)** Let us not be intimidated by the opinion of people and with what today's world is speaking about not disciplining the children. Rather, let us obey God and abide by His instructions for the benefit of our children and their families soon to come.

We as parents are called in our homes to conserve holiness, Godliness, and contented family life. As we desire to train our children in the fear of the Lord, surely the Lord God teaches us more about how to wisely handle our children, and the Holy Spirit will show us more personal and precise ways on how to implement Godly discipline in our children. ***"24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."* (1 Thessalonians 5:24 KJV)**

My Dear and Beloved: Come now to God committing yourself to do the principles that you learned in this message about disciplining children and how to raise them in the fear of God; trusting God that He will provide all your needs and the needs of your family as you continue to obey Him and do His 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 your Word that taught me how to teach, to train and to raise my children in the fear of yours. Lord thank you for the family that you gave to me, and thank you for all the resources and the trials that you allowed in our life that we may turn to you and learn to fear you and fully trusting on you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent and renounce your delay obedience and partial obedience. Repent of your non willingness to discipline your children and your lack of faith

and trust on God that as you are willing to discipline them, He will be the one to bless them and prosper their future. Repent and renounce your worldliness and doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Repent and renounce your lack of family worship, praying and reading the Bible with them. Repent of being yoked with non believers and spending much time with your friends, and on the Media, News and games. Repent of your wrong understanding about preparation for Godly marriage. Repent of your bad, stewardship and your lack of saving, and setting bad example to others. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins

_____.

Lord I commit myself to do the principles that I learned in this message about disciplining children and how to raise them in the fear yours; trusting you that you will provide all my needs and the needs of my family as we continue to obey you and do your will. Lord I commit myself to discipline my children, teach them, train them and apply what I received in this message. Lord, I commit myself to have daily family worship, to read the Bible and to pray with them. Lord I am willing to do the following that you asked me to do _____.

Lord I trust you the future of my children that you will make it good and you will prosper them as I do my part in their lives. Lord I trust you that you will enable me to overcome this struggle in my life _____.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and had committed their lives to teach their children, discipline them, and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord answer their prayers, protect them, help them to pass the trials that they are facing in their lives, and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word and help your people, the families under our care to raise their children in the fear of yours. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages to happen and more Godly families to be formed. 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 new 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. Genesis 22:1-24. Romans 12:1. Romans 6:13. Galatians 6:7-8. Malachi 2:15. Genesis 22:19-24. Hebrews 12:4. 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

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