

Opening: In this life, our children are a reward and blessing from the Lord. Raising them is God's way of showing us more of who He is and developing his nature in each of us. Parenting can also be one of the hardest and most taxing things we do as well. The good news is that we are not called to raise our kids in isolation without help from God and others. Let us understand today how God gives us life in our parenting of our children.

Key scripture: Hebrews 12:5-7 And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you. / For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastises every son He receives." / Endure suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Colossians 3:12-13 12Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

1. God gives us **patience**
 - a. **1st Corinthians 13:4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
 - b. **Kids by their nature are learning on the fly. Every moment is another opportunity to guide them into the path God has for them.**
 - i. Our kids will make mistakes; our kids will even fail. What we must remember and receive from Jesus is the ability to trust that a moment does not have to be permanent.
 - ii. We don't want to push our children away when they do not follow the good advice we give.
 - c. Do not lose heart and then forsake your patience. Patience is tethered to hope and faith. When parenting trust the process. Even when our kids run away, they are never out of God's reach.
 - i. Don't allow circumstances with your kids to push you away from showing them the good character of Christ in you.
2. God gives us **perspective**
 - a. **Genesis 49:1-2** 1Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come. 2Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; And listen to Israel your father.
 - b. Vision is required to have a plan for raising our kids. Ask God to tell you things about your kids and the will He has for them, and He will show you the future.
 - c. God's perspective is His vantage point, and it helps us to know what God is doing with our children so we can partner with Him.
 - i. Danielle and I enjoy telling our kids what God has told us about each of them, and I believe it helps them know how important they are to God. We partner with God when we prophesy over our children and the glorious future he has for them.
3. God gives us His **promise** in parenting
 - a. **Acts 2:38-39** 38Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 **This promise belongs to you and your children** and to all who are far off— to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself."
 - i. God sees each individual, but he also sees family units. I believe God has individual promises for each person and corporate promises for each family. We see in the old testament that God chose families specifically for tasks. Think of the "sons of levi", "The sons of Issachar" both were called to serve and guide God's people.
 - ii. Parents your children are under your covering and the promise of God over your life is over theirs.
 - iii. Remember how important it is for you to serve God as an example to your children. Don't make your children serve God alone, lead them into the promises of God.
4. God shows us their **purpose**
 - a. We are co-parenting our children with the Lord. We have been entrusted as their overseers to guide them as long we live.
 - b. Once the Lord shows you the purpose, he has created your children for, ask God to show you how you can guide them to realize that within themselves.
 - i. We need God's help to show us how to make the light bulb turn on for our kids so they can run with God's vision for our life.
 - ii. Pray for your kids, and ask God to guide your hands to guide them to do the following.

1. Discover/discern their purpose, show them what are the God possibilities for their life.

2. Develop/disciple their purpose, teach them to grow and become proficient in Gods calling.
 3. Deploy/ demonstrate their purpose, give them opportunities to walk in their purpose.
- c. Parents you have to guide and guard your children from vision drift with their life. Kids need your guidance because they are often pulled in multiple directions and emotions. Ask God to help you channel that energy and passion for constructive and destructive purposes.
5. God gives us **power** to lead
 - a. **Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."
 - b. God's structure in the household is that Parents are the final authority over their children. The school, government, friends, girlfriends, boyfriends, jobs, coaches and any other authority will never supplant your God given authority to lead your children.
 - i. Parents don't let this responsibility and authority go to your head and don't let it be squandered.
 - c. Remember God's promise to Abraham in **Genesis 18:18-19** 18Abraham will surely become a great and **powerful nation**, and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed. 19For I have chosen him, so that **he will command his children** and his household after him **to keep the way of the LORD** by doing what is right and just, in order that the LORD may bring upon **Abraham what He has promised."**
 - i. God chose Abraham because He knew He would train his children to follow God's command. Parents God is trusting you to help your kids follow God. With Gods trust comes Power!
6. God gives us **permission** to discipline
 - a. **Proverbs 22:15** ESV Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.
 - i. The Bible tells us that discipline and correction are for directing our kids.
 - ii. Folly is foolishness and living without good sense. Kids don't know any better. The bible is not encouraging us to harm our children's soul, but it is encouraging us to discipline bad behavior out of them.
 - iii. You have God's permission to do this, and it is your responsibility. God will hold you to account for not disciplining your children. It's hard but we must do it.
 - b. **Proverbs 13:24** ESV Whoever spares the rod **hates his son**, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.
 - i. Love is discipline according to the Bible. Please don't let your kids get away with being a nuisance, a brat, disrespectful, lazy, or rebellious. When they grow up it will not do them any favors in the real world.
 - c. **Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction **that comes from the Lord**.
 - i. There is a discipline and instruction that comes from and through man that is not of God and there is discipline and instruction that is God breathed and guided.
 - ii. **Life Lesson:** Parents if you have struggled to discipline your children as God to give you the life of Jesus to seek forgiveness, humility and grace to make a change.
7. God's grace gives us **poise** to learn on the job.
 - a. The first time we hold our kids in our hands we realize we have no idea what we are doing.
 - b. If you like me, I didn't really know what to do but what God gave me when I held my sons in my hands was a love and compassion for them that was supernatural.
 - c. The Life Jesus gives each of us to raise our kids is the ability to walk in graciousness and balance and to grow on the job.
 - d. When the chaotic moments come and you are in doubt about what to do, **love the hell out of your kids**.
 - i. God will give you the ability to be stable if you seek Him and will guide your hands to train your children up.
 - ii. None of us are experts, we all have made our mistakes, but God has still called you to the job of raising your kids.
 - iii. It's okay to say, "well that didn't work, how can I do this better next time". If you listen carefully after you have faltered in Parenting, you will hear the Holy Spirit encouraging you to get back in the game.
8. God is our example of a **perfect parent**
 - a. God the Father loved His own son and He affirmed Him, he sent him, he protected him, he trained him, he provided for him, he gave him adversaries to overcome, he caused him to be victorious, and He glorified him and made Him King over all creation. Learn from God and pour the life of Jesus into your kids.
 - b. **Conclusion:** God doesn't need you to be a perfect , he needs you to be available, teachable and humble.