

May 10, 2019

## The one thing every child needs at home...

The one thing every child needs at home is seeing Jesus become real to them.

How can we help give our children the reality of God? It starts with the understanding that parents cannot delegate to others the spiritual development of their children. First we must personify loving God in our daily living. The Truth is the spiritual reality a child needs begins in the heart of the parents. We cannot give away we do not have. The best way (maybe the only way) to raise a child that loves God is for the parents to love God. One young man was an atheist but ultimately became a pastor. He said there were many things about Christianity that he could dispute. But I could not dispute the faithful testimony lived out before me by my dad!



Another thing we can do is practice our faith openly in our lives. God has called us to share our faith openly with our world. Many may believe their faith is just a personal thing. They may believe that we should not worry our kids with our beliefs. Some believe they will catch on eventually. That would be great if it really worked. But we must practice our faith openly. Note the emphasis in this key verse: We are to "impress upon our children". We are to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your souls and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up..." (Deuteronomy 6:5-7, 12) What will our kids put into practice? This verse tells us! Whatever they have learned, heard or seen in us. When it comes to spiritual reality, it is more caught than taught.

Let me point out one more. We must aim for their hearts! "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts." (v6) God is not impressed with how much truth we know. God is impressed with how much truth we live! It must impact our hearts = our "inmost parts". The spiritual reality our children need is more of a relationship than a religion. It can be much easier to give our kids religion than a relationship. Following rules is not it. Some say well "I gave my kids a religious upbringing! I brought them to church all the way through confirmation or their first communion, whatever their personal persuasion." But it is much more about them seeing the reality of Christ in a personal way. I believe that for many, if our children don't get it at home, they may not get it at all! Now that is truly dedicating our children to the Lord.

**Happy Mothers Day!** I am praying that all our mom's have a wonderful time celebrating with Family this weekend. We are praying for all our ladies. May God comfort and encourage you no matter your station in life. I invite you to worship with your mom this Sunday IF possible. That may just be the best mothers day gift you can give!

Pastor Garry

"We are a **faith fellowship** of believers on our journey **together** with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts."