

Series: Pathway Throught the Psalms

**WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM
THEIR CHILDREN
PSALMS 78 & DEUTERONOMY 6**

Text: Psalms 78:4; Deuteronomy 4:9

Psalm 78:4

⁴ We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Deuteronomy 6:7

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Introduction:

In this passage Asaph challenged Israel to preserve their heritage through teaching and training in the home.

As verse four declares:

Psalm 78:4

⁴ We will not hide them from their children, shewing to

the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

This passage gives us some much needed insights into this matter of raising our child.

1. PARENTS MUST LIVE RIGHT (vs. 1-3)

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Successful parenting always begins with a parent's relationship with God. No parent can succeed in helping a child grow up into the image of the Lord unless they know the Lord.

Parents must be walking in a right relationship before the Lord or they will never have the influence in their children's lives that is needed. In other words, you will

never be able to lead your children somewhere you have never been. These first few verses speak to this issue and show parents where they need to be if they are going to be the effective parents God desires them to be.

A. He Speaks About Reverence (vs. 2)

Deuteronomy 6:2

² *That thou mightest **fear the LORD** thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*

We are to walk with awareness of His glory, His holiness and of His majesty. A parent's primary responsibility is to walk in the fear of the Lord.

B. He Speaks About Reactions

When we fear the Lord as we should, we will obey His Word. There is no better witness to our children than the sure knowledge that mom and dad take the Bible seriously; and that God's Word is the rule of the home. This brings to mind to great truths:

- God's standards are to be our standards!

We are to build our lives around the dictates and mandates of the Word of God. When God speaks, we

are to respond by doing what He tells us to do, and by refraining from what He forbids us to do.

- Your children will often model what they see in your life!

They will carry away from your home many of your actions and reactions. It is your responsibility to teach them that God's Word is to be obeyed.

C. He Speaks About Rewards

God promised Israel that when they followed His Word, He would bless them and reward their lives. The same holds true today! God has promised to bless those who walk in His will and follow His Word.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

- Do your children know that God will bless tithing? Mal. 3:8-10.

- Do your children know that God will bless honesty? Phil. 4:8; 1 Thess. 4:11-12.
- Do your children see that faithfulness is blessed by God? Matt. 25:21.
- Do your children see serving God as optional or mandatory?

They will learn exactly what they observe in your life. They need to know that God blesses faithful people. If they see us enjoying the great blessings of the Lord, they will want the same things for their own lives.

By the way, you can't do that if all you do is complain about the church, the preacher and way things are done at the Lord's house. You can't teach them to honor the Lord if you don't honor Him. You can't teach them to be faithful if you aren't faithful. You can't teach them to love the Lord if all you do is encourage them to love the world.

Not only must Parents Live Right but:

2. PARENTS MUST LOVE RIGHT (vs. 4-5)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

This may not seem to have a lot to do with parenting, but it strikes at the very heart of the matter. Before we can ever be successful Christian parents, we must have our own relationship with the Lord nailed down. And, just as it is important that our children see us living right, they must also see us loving right. That is, they must see that we love the Lord God supremely

A. Our Love Must Be Focused on the Lord (vs. 4)

There are to be no other gods in our lives. Too often, children see parents putting everything in the world ahead of God. It may be a job, a hobby, a friend, etc. Whatever comes ahead of God in your life is an idol and it sends a false message to our children.

We are telling them, by our actions, that this thing we love comes ahead of our love for God. Children need to know that no one or nothing comes before our relationship with God. He must be our focus. If we

teach them that God is just for Sundays, we are going to raise a generation of infidels.

Why do you think many children have rejected the faith of their parents? Sometimes, the reason lies in the fact that what mom and dad claimed to have lacked any reality. By the way, if it weren't for the intervention of God in my life, I would not be here today. Growing up, I saw not one reason to make God and His church a priority in my life!

Not only must Our Love Be Focused on the Lord but also:

B. Our Love Is To Be Fixed on the Lord (vs. 5)

Deuteronomy 6:5

⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

This love for God is to motivate us in every area of life. Our love for Him should consume us totally.

Matthew 22:35-40

³⁵ Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, ³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is

like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

When it does, it will fill us and work in us and reveal itself through us.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. ⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. ⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

When we love Him like we should, we will be in our place at church time. We will support the work of the church with our giving, our living and our time. We will teach our children to be faithful to the things of God,

not to personal opinion. We will teach them to respect the church, the people of God and the men of God. We will teach them to love the Word of God, the worship of God and the will of God! Our children need to see this in the lives of mom and dad.

Not only must parent Live Right and Love Right but also:

3. PARENTS MUST LEARN RIGHT (vs. 6-9)

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Moses reveals the importance of the Word of God in successful parenting. We are to take the Word of God and make it the primary motivator in all we do as parents. Moses mentions three things that we to do with God's Word.

A. We Are To Study It (vs. 6)

Deuteronomy 6:6

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

The Word is to be taken in, and it is to be allowed to change our lives. If I expect my life to impact my children, then I must be transformed by the Word myself. Nothing can happen through me until it first happens in me.

It is essential that parents have a personal time of prayer and Bible study. You need to be growing so that you can help your children to grow. It is essential that you come to Sunday School and preaching. You mom and dad still need to grow up in Jesus Christ!

The importance and influence of the Word of God should never be underestimated! If we expect to raise Godly children, there must first be godly parents!

Not only are we to study it but also:

B. We Are To Share It (vs. 7-9)

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And

thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

This verse says that we are to “diligently” teach the Word to our children. The word “diligently” means “to whet or to sharpen.” It carries the idea “of stabbing, or of one object penetrating another.”

Back in our text in Psalms 78 note:

Psalm 78:4-11

⁴ We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

⁵ For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: ⁶ That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: ⁷ That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: ⁸ And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. ⁹ The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. ¹⁰ They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; ¹¹ And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

our training is to penetrate deeply into our children. We are to help them, on the basis of God's word to be keen, sharp and discerning when it comes to living life. We are not to teach them through dogmatic exclamations such as "Because I said so!"

We are to develop in them a set of convictions based on the Word of God that will guide them through life. It isn't about a bunch of rules, or a list of do's and don'ts.

It is about teaching them by example and by explanation the things God would have them learn.

1 Thessalonians has some timely advice for parents. There are 3 ways we are to influence our children:

1 Thessalonians 2:11

¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

Parents should:

1. Exhort

This speaks of an effort to get your children on your team. To develop within them the same sort of convictions that you yourself possess. You do this by consistent loving and living. If you live one way and try to push them in another, you will fail! The problem

with most children is that they turn out just like their parents!

2. Comfort

As parents, we are to seek to bring out the best in our children by encouraging them in the things they do correctly and in the things they do well.

3. Charge

This word means “***to call a witness or to protest.***” As parents, there are times when we cannot condone everything and we must witness against the behavior of our children.

How are we to accomplish this? There are several Scriptures that shed light on this topic:

Psalm 139:13

¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

- **Realize That Each Child Is Uniquely Formed By God –**

While a child will certainly acquire certain traits from being in your home; that child is still an individual before the Lord. No child is the product of evolution, but each has been formed by God for a particular

function. This needs to be understood by parents as they seek to raise their children. It may be that the Lord has plans that are vastly different from your own.

Proverbs 22:6

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

▪ **Realize That Each Child Has An Individual Bent –**

This verse says that we are to “train up” our children. These words speak of “a midwife who would dip her finger in crushed dates to awaken in the newborn infant a desire for milk.”

What this means is that the training we give our children should whet their appetites for the things of God. We should so lead them that they develop a hunger for God and are internally motivated rather than externally compelled.

This phrase can also refer to “the placing of a rope in a wild horse’s mouth.” Certainly, there must be rules and boundaries, but there should also be an internal desire to know and follow the Lord. This is awakened by parental example. Parents must learn the proper balance between example and boundaries.

Psalm 51:5

⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- **Realize That Each Child Is Born With A Sinful Nature –**

They seem so sweet when they get here. But, do not be fooled by that sweet little baby. Inside every one of them is a defiled, sinful nature and it begins expressing itself almost immediately, Psa. 58:3; Rom. 3:10-23; 5:12.

Psalm 58:3

³ *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*

Romans 3:10-23

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way,*

they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the

poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways:

¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There

is no fear of God before their eyes. ¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Parents are not only challenged to teach children to do the right thing, we are challenged to punish them when they do the wrong thing. If a parent does not punish their children, then the children will punish them! The Bible gives at least six good reasons why children should be disciplined:

- Chastisement Reduces Foolishness – Pro. 22:15, “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

- Chastisement Rescues From Judgment – Pro. 23:13-14, “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”
- Chastisement Helps Them Receive Wisdom – Pro. 29:15, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”
- Chastisement Helps Relieve Your Anxiety – Pro. 29:17, “Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”
- Chastisement Helps Them To Reflect God’s Character – Heb. 12:10-11
- Chastisement Reminds Them You Love Them – Pro. 13:24, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

Close:

May I remind you that it is far easier to build a child than to repair an adult! May the Lord help us to do everything in our power to be the best parents we can be to His praise and glory.

Now, how would you feel if your child grew up to be a Christian just like you? Would you be pleased with that? Or, are there areas that need the Lord's attention? If we have made mistakes, and who hasn't, there is help, forgiveness and renewal in the Lord. Some parents actually need to apologize to their children for living contradictory lives before them.

Any change must begin with the Lord. Mom and Dad, is everything right in your relationship with the Lord? Is everything all right in your relationship with your children? If there are needs, please bring them to Jesus right now.