



Seven Things
Every Child
Must Know

Peter Doseck

SEVEN THINGS EVERY CHILD MUST KNOW

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by Peter Doseck

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SEVEN THINGS EVERY CHILD MUST KNOW

I dedicate this book to all the
godly children in my church
who I have watched over the years
as they have been raised
by dedicated parents.

CHAPTER ONE
THE DIVINE CALL

If you are a parent, then you have a divine call and a set purpose for your life. You are not here to ride the wave or cruise through the rest of your days because you've got too much work to do.

What is your purpose? What is the divine call on your life? To be a dad. Or a mom.

You are called to be the best parent you can possibly be. As a Christian, you are here to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and to send them forth as disciples of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

Children and grandchildren are our heritage. They are a blessing of the Lord, and they are considered a measure of God's favor. Take a look:

"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord; who walks in His ways. For you shall eat the labor of your hands: happy shall you be, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house: your children like olive plants round about your table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that

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fears the Lord. The Lord shall bless you out of Zion: and you shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yea, you shall see your children's children, and peace upon Israel." (Psalm 128:1-6)

God has called you to place a high value on that which He has given you, even more than you place on the things you have gained for yourself. Your children are a gift from God; therefore, you must regard your call as a parent as the most important thing on earth.

Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). This is the ultimate challenge in every life. Where do you invest, not just your money, but your time? Wherever it is, this will be where your heart resides.

People naturally invest in what they value. Think of your first car, men. You wore your arms out washing that thing, shining every inch of the exterior, and wiping every dust speck from the interior. Two years later, you didn't bother to pay two dollars to drive it through the car wash.

Why? Because it lost its value in your eyes. Others things took its place in your heart, and you let yourself become sidetracked.

If children truly are the greatest treasure, as a parent you are required by God to put your greatest effort in them. You must nurture

them, teach them, and give them the time and attention they deserve.

I consider children to be a precious gift, which is why it irritates me when I hear of kids who never get to spend time with their fathers, but their fathers spend time everywhere else. And when I see women who are too busy to devote time to their children because they are occupied with everything else, I wonder why.

Children are the heritage of the Lord, and they are to be considered the greatest reward that any man or woman could ever attain. Nothing should be counted as more valuable, and no task more worthy than that of parenting.

After all, only God can give life; only He can open the womb and reverse barrenness. It was for the sole purpose of sharing His inheritance with men and women that God's creative nature and His plan and purpose for families was revealed. Let's not devalue that which God considers the highest and best.

Under Attack

Of course you must also realize that since children are the greatest treasure to God, the devil will give them his most intense focus. Thus, we have the attack on the home. In Exodus 1:8-16 and Matthew 2:1-18 you can read two stories that reveal just how important the enemy thinks children are.

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In Exodus, the time of deliverance was near. Satan did not know how God would deliver the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. He did not know who might be used to bring them out, but he did know what God had said to Abraham about a coming release after 400 years of slavery, and he knew that God always used men to bring His plans to pass on earth.

So, he put it in Pharaoh's heart to fear the Hebrew slaves. He convinced Pharaoh that it would be dangerous to allow them to continue to multiply, eventually becoming mightier than he was.

Pharaoh gave in to the fear, and he began to do a very strange thing. He ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all of the male babies as soon as they were born. He didn't kill the old men, the working men, the teenage boys, or even the child-bearing women. He killed the baby boys, in effect robbing the next generation of its ability to increase.

Pharaoh may not have fully realized what he was doing, but the devil did. He was moved by Satan to try to kill the deliverer.

Now watch. This same spirit came upon a king named Herod in Matthew. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, certain wise men who had discerned His arrival from the stars began to look for the Savior.

Herod heard about their search, put two and

two together, and he began his own quest to find the baby. Though he pretended to have a religious interest in the investigation, his purpose was not noble. He wanted to kill the child because he, too, feared the rise of one stronger than he.

The wise men were warned by God, and they ran from Herod. This infuriated the king, and his obsession turned ugly. Under the influence of a spirit of fear he decreed that every child under the age of two should be killed.

He did it to save his power, but he did not realize he was acting as the human hand of the devil, and he was serving the one who truly feared the rise of a strong man.

God was always one step ahead of the devil. He protected Moses in Exodus, bringing him to Pharaoh's own daughter, and He protected Jesus in Matthew by giving his earthly father a dream and sending them to Egypt for a season. This allowed prophecy to be fulfilled in both cases, and the deliverer and the Redeemer were saved.

Make Disciples

The enemy knows the impact a child can have on the world, but we often fail to understand it ourselves. The future of our faith in the cross and the revelation of redemption from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ will be carried

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into the next generation by our children. They are the ones who will transfer the faith we have put in them to a coming age.

Children today are the disciples of tomorrow. In fact, we are to take our faith and engraft it in them as Christ took His faith and engrafted it into His disciples.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said: "Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." He told the church at Ephesus the same thing when he said: "Be therefore followers of God, as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). A follower is an imitator; one who acts the same as another.

Look closely at the underlying principle. Paul assumed that the Ephesians knew their children were following them, imitating them, and becoming their disciples in life. This is an impactful revelation.

Your children are imitating you and following your example. The question is, what kind of example are you giving them? Are you teaching them the Word of God and instructing them in the faith? When they leave your home will they be disciples of Jesus Christ? If not, I have to ask, why not?

Paul showed you how to disciple your children when he said: "Those things, which you have both *learned*, and *received*, and *heard*, and *seen* in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

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You must teach, so that your children can *learn*. You must give, so that they can *receive*. You must speak, so that they can *hear*. You must do, so that they can *see*. When they learn, receive, hear, and see, then they will do as you do. You can't leave anything out.

The truth is, if you are not making a disciple, you are making a rebel. This is a dangerous way to live, to simply give your child so much rope that he can hang himself. Teach faith, give faith encouragement, speak faith words, and do acts of faith so that your children will follow you as you follow Christ.

CHAPTER TWO

BEND THE BOW

Psalm 127:3-5 says: "Lo, children are the heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

When you give your energies to teach, give, speak, and do godly things to develop your children, they will become accurate weapons against unbelief in the world and a mighty arsenal against the darkness that is trying to creep into our society.

Truth be told, your children will be the only light of the world in their generation. It is your job to ignite them through your obedience to the Lord and your discipleship.

In order to do this you must develop their personalities and bend them the right way; the same way you would bend a bow to make an arrow fly straight. You need to make sure they know how to use their strengths and control their weaknesses.

Most people believe personality is set from

birth and there's not much you can do about it, but I beg to differ. You can shape, hone, and mold a personality with the right discipline and training.

Here's an example. In society today people like to talk about raising a strong-willed child, what our parents called a stubborn child. Book after book has been written about it, but let me tell you what the Bible teaches. When a child repeatedly refuses to listen to you, no matter what society may say, it is nothing more than rebellion.

I know people don't want to hear this, but it's true. A strong will must be corrected, not tolerated or made worse by giving into it. It cannot be ignored; it must be disciplined and set straight.

Never give up! No matter how tough the cookie is, it will crumble if you keep applying pressure to it. You don't want to pulverize the cookie, just reshape it, which is why Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Be firm and consistent, but also be gentle. If you remain steadfast and patient, you will find that God will help you when you are weak and uncertain, and He will give you wisdom if you will ask (James 1:5-7).

Of course we know with some children

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rebellion goes much deeper than with others, and it must be dealt with in a direct manner. There is an answer for outright rebellion, and we find it in Proverbs 23:13-14 which says:

“Withhold not correction from the child: for if you beat him with the rod, he shall not die. You shall beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell.”

I believe a child abuser should be thrown in jail and never again see the light of day, but I also believe we must adhere to the Word of God. So, there is a balance.

A spanking should not draw blood, form bruises, or damage a child’s body. What it should do is sting just enough to get the point across and prove to the child that there is a thing called sowing and reaping. If you sow rebellion, you will reap a warm bottom; not a broken bottom, but a warm one nonetheless.

God provided the perfect place for a spanking, and it comes with its own padding and protection. Use wisdom, discipline your child in love, and know when enough is enough.

Train Them

You must also help your children develop their own personal faith. They cannot live off of your faith forever. Eventually, they will have to stand toe to toe with the devil on their own, so the sooner you begin to teach and train

them, the better off they will be.

You need to work hard to mold your child's character and moral integrity. Make sure they know how to make good decisions in bad places. Train them to watch carefully, pray fervently, and call for help if they need it.

Don't let them be pulled into the devil's domain by failing to teach them to stand up for themselves. If peer pressure rises up, your children should have enough confidence in God, themselves, and you to know that it is okay to say "No" and call home for a rescue.

Proverbs 22:6 says: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Part of training a child in the way he should go is to help him discover what God has placed in him. You need to help your child find his purpose in life, and you should encourage him to discover and use his gifts and calling in the body of Christ.

Show your child how God used certain gifts and callings in the Bible, and help him identify who he is in Christ. Is he a giver, a server, a ruler, an exhorter, a teacher, or one who operates in the prophetic (Romans 12:4-8)?

Once you make your discovery together, help your child use his gift whenever the

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opportunity arises.

Parenting is a life-long job, and one that is not to be taken lightly. There is a sense of urgency when it comes to parenting because children grow up way too fast, but we cannot let that urgency steal all the joy in life.

While you are busy training your children, be sure you take the time to enjoy life together along the way, because Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Keep laughter alive in your family, and you will reap great rewards.

CHAPTER THREE

BE A MENTOR

“My children are raised, and I am all done” you may say with a smile on your face, but I have news for you. It isn’t over yet; not even close. Your job as a parent will not end until you leave the earth. Only then will you be excused from duty. Until that time, you have much to do.

Your children should be bound to you for life as a mentor. Are they to leave the nest? Absolutely. Are they to leave father and mother and cling to their spouse? You bet! But, they should always feel a connection to you as a parent and a grandparent for the purpose of giving wise counsel.

Until they have their own grey hair, they must live by yours. They will increase in their own understanding, create their own authoritative structure, and live by their own standards, but they should also rest in the confidence that they have open access to your wise reservoirs.

You don’t necessarily bail them out when storms arise, but you do give them an oar of wisdom and a bucket to help them do what needs to be done in each situation.

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We've all heard someone say: "I want you to learn from my mistakes, not from your own." And of course we've all been as ignorant as the generation before us and refused to give heed. We jumped headlong into a problem instead of listening to the wise counsel of those who came before us.

Why do our children have to run out of gas before they realize "E" means empty? Wouldn't it be better to cultivate a relationship where our advice would be heard and heeded?

It would be far better for them to feel free to live off of your grey hair than to have to wait for their own to take root. Work on your relationship with your adult children so that you may offer them the wisdom that comes from experience.

God is in the generation business. He called Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was not just the God of a man, but the God of a family structure.

If you study the Old Testament you will notice that every time Israel was in trouble it was because one generation failed to pass their faith on to the next. A king would live right, and Israel would prosper, but along would come his son to take the throne, and everything would fall apart because the father never taught the son to walk in God's ways.

Don't let your lineage fail. Don't let them

walk away from the faith. Follow them all the days of their lives and continue to teach them the way of the Lord.

Grandchildren!

Parenting may feel like a never-ending job, but then the grandchildren are born. Hallelujah! Finally, some pleasure in life! Grandchildren are great fun, but they are also a serious responsibility.

When the grandkids come, don't think there will be smooth sailing ahead because even then you will be needed in the parenting role; in some cases more so than you were for your own children. You have lessons to teach, prayers to pray, and hours of important interaction to contribute.

Grandparents can be wonderful role models, excellent teachers, and wise counselors for their grandkids. Grandchildren will only be babies for a little while, but your impact can last a lifetime if you will cultivate a relationship with each grandchild that gives you an open door to express your opinion when needed, to offer advice when wanted, and to be a listening ear when mom and dad "just don't understand".

You never want to undermine the parenting of your children, but you do want to be there to give counsel and instruction when the opportunity arises. Keep your door open, and make your grandkids a part of your daily life

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as much as you can. They need you, and your children need you. They may not know it yet, but they need you!

In 2 Timothy 1:5 we read about Timothy's mother and grandmother, who are credited with having instructed Timothy in the faith. The verse says: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in you also."

This faith was not unintended. It did not get there by osmosis, and it did not come by occasional observation. They put it there deliberately. We see the fruit of their labor described in 2 Timothy 3:14-15 which says:

"But continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them; and that from a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Timothy's faith was attributed to his mother and his grandmother. I want you to notice the generational connection. It wasn't just his mom, but his grandma was also responsible for helping him reach his desired outcome.

Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him from childhood to have faith in God and His Word. This is so important for every child. You cannot send your grandchildren into the

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world without the absolute declarations of God's will and Word instilled in their hearts. You must make sure they have an understanding of basic Christian doctrine to lean on and live by.

I teach my grandchildren the way of faith at every opportunity. I see the gifts God has placed in them, and I do my best to train, encourage, and bend them in the way they should go.

They still must choose to follow God, but I will do everything in my power to equip them to make a good choice. They are not their own; they have been bought with a price, and if I have anything to do with it, they will fulfill their divine call in life, and they will be all God desires for them to be in this world and in eternity.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE WORD COMES FIRST

I believe there are seven things every child must know before he or she leaves home. These seven things are essential foundations for life, and they will give your children the best possible start in the adult world.

All seven lead to a personal experience with Christ with fruits that follow. This is so important because your children will be unable to progress beyond their understanding of a relationship with Jesus Christ by grace through faith.

All that you teach them about life, all of the important information and revelation you are waiting to pour into them should lead back to this one starting point.

Your children should know that if they say they are a Christian, then they ought to live like one. Don't let them be a hypocrite and say one thing while they do another.

Salvation without fruits is simply a deception that has not been unveiled to those who are living under it or around it. You need to teach your children to live the truth, speak the truth, and act on the truth. There is no greater advice in life.

In short, the seven things your children must know before they launch out into the world are:

1. To depend wholly on the authority of the Word of God
2. To understand the rewards for obedience and disobedience
3. To live a life of sacrifice
4. To stay committed
5. To find and maintain good relationships
6. To respect and honor themselves and others
7. To maintain financial responsibility

If you will teach all seven, your children will leave home equipped to serve Jesus as willing, obedient, and successful disciples, and one day they will rise up and called you blessed for it.

The Word is Absolute

First, you must teach your children to be absolutely dependent upon the authority of the Word of God. They cannot move forward successfully into the next six things until they are grounded in this one, because life begins and ends in the Word.

If the Word says that something is right, then you teach your kids that it's right. If the Word says it's wrong, then you teach your kids to stay away from it because it's wrong. No

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matter what the world tells them, you make sure that they depend on the absolute authority of the Bible.

The Word must be the unquestioned truth in your house because it is God's will and His voice. This principle will not be instilled in your children by accidental observation. It must be infused by deliberate instruction.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Word of God is His voice, His breath of life. That's what the word inspiration means: "divinely breathed in." It's not just that God stirred men up to write something nice, but that He breathed into them the very words He desires to speak to you and your children.

God's Word is His connection, His instruction, His doctrine, His leading, His purpose, and His design for your lives. The Word is the basis of all faith.

Romans 10:17 says: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Without the Word, your children will have no faith, and without faith, they cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6).

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My wife Phyllis remembers her childhood experience with the Bible very well. Her dad was an evangelist, and he was also very stern and strict with his children. Often he would call Phyllis and her siblings to his side for a time of Bible reading.

Her father did not show a sense of humor to his kids, and it was not on his mind to make Bible time a fun experience. He'd pull his big King James Bible off the shelf, and then he would make them sit very still while he read.

It did not matter to him what he read; what mattered was that the kids listened. He might be reading a whole chapter of "begats", but he demanded that they sit up straight and listen.

My wife will honestly tell you that she hated her dad's Bible reading time as a kid, but today she is grateful that he instilled in her a respect for the Word of God. Though she did not understand everything he read sometimes, she did recognize that her mom and dad trusted the Word, respected the Word, and depended on it daily.

Today, we make Bible time with our grandkids fun for them. We tell them stories from the Word, complete with voices and sound effects, and they love it. You can do the same. You can teach your children the importance of the Word, if you will simply take the time to make it real to them.

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You must begin to teach your children the Bible as early as possible. Don't wait until they come home from school with some goofy idea. If you haven't laid a foundation of faith in the absolute truth of the Word, when you say, "Honey, that's not what the Bible says", they won't hear you because they will have an experience that will supersede your lecturing about what is right and wrong.

Begin today, even if they are babies. Explain it in bite-sized chunks that they can digest, and you will begin to establish moral soundness in them. Your children need a moral compass to make it in this corrupt world.

Moral standards do not come just because you say something. You have to instruct them, show them what the Word says, and teach them that the Word is to be their final authority. When you instruct them in sound doctrine, you will put in them a consciousness of right and wrong, and of justice toward others. You must instruct them in right responses to diverse situations.

Teach sound doctrine from the time they enter your home until the time they depart. And after they leave, call them up and remind them regularly!

CHAPTER FIVE

WILLING AND OBEDIENT

You must also teach your children about the rewards for obedience and for disobedience. Isaiah 1:18-20 says:

“Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.”

There is no question about the effects of obedience and disobedience. One brings blessing and long life, and the other brings the curse and death.

Your child will be a disciple of something. He will be a disciple of obedience and faith based on your instruction, or he will be a disciple of disobedience and faithlessness based on your lack of instruction.

There’s an Old Testament story that shows how this works. A priest named Eli had two sons who were both a part of the priesthood. They were raised to manhood under Eli’s authority, and it was their job to receive the tithes and

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offerings in the house of God.

Trouble was, they were vile men, and Eli knew it. In spite of what he knew he allowed them to continue in the temple service, and he did not stop them from sinning.

He tried to be their friend instead of their mentor. He preferred to be their buddy rather than their instructor. He tried to be what they wanted him to be so that they could be happy in life, instead of correcting them and directing them on the course of God.

Things got so bad, when the offerings were given these two evil characters would take the best for themselves, and they would give the worst to God. After doing such a contemptible thing, they would sleep with the women who brought the offerings.

Because Eli refused to execute judgment in his house, God brought judgment upon them all. In 1 Samuel 3:11-14, God said:

“Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that hears it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

“For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have

sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.”

In one day, not long after this prophetic warning was given, judgment came to pass in dramatic fashion. Israel's army was engaged in battle against the Philistines. They were losing, and some of the elders decided it was time to bring the Ark of the Covenant into camp to help them prevail.

Eli's two sons went with the ark into the battle. The Philistines heard a great shout as the Ark came into camp, but instead of turning in fear as the Israelites had presumed they would, the Philistines turned toward them, rose up, and slaughtered 30,000 men in one day, including Eli's two sons. They captured the Ark, and the rest of the army of Israel fled in fear.

A survivor ran back to tell Eli, and when Eli heard what had happened he fell off his chair backward, and he broke his neck and died. Someone ran to tell his daughter-in-law that her husband, his father, and his brother had all died. She immediately went into labor, dying in childbirth. Before she passed away she named her poor son Ichabod, because the name meant, “the glory is gone.”

Sin is no joke. Eli allowed his sons to sin against God and man, and because he refused to discipline them or make them pay for their

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transgressions, destruction came upon not only his family, but upon the entire nation of Israel as a result.

The glory of God in your household can be taken away if you don't raise the next generation right. Correction, discipline, and punishment for sin will cause your child to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only, protecting the glory of God in your family, and creating an understanding in him that obedience and disobedience both have consequences.

A disciplined child will be prepared for the storms of life. He will adhere to God despite the intensity of the storms around him. He will be an example in word and deed, and he will be an arrow that finds its mark.

I used to call my daughter to my bedside when she was young, and I would say, "Listen to me. You love righteousness more than sin, and remember whose child you are because you represent me to the world. Don't make me ashamed."

Though it was tough to say to a little girl, I had to say it, and it worked. I am so proud of my daughter. She has grown to be a godly woman, an example in our family and in our church, and she is raising godly children who will fly right as a result of her discipline and instruction.

Proverbs 22:15 says: "Foolishness is bound

in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Do you want your child to be a fool? Do you want him to believe there is no God? If he believes this way, he will think he can do what he wants, when he wants, and how he wants. This is dangerous, but the rod of correction will drive it from him.

If you teach your child obedience in your household, then he will know if he sins in life there will be a penalty to face. Children who never face punishment or correction have no understanding of the consequences of sin. They cannot grasp the idea that if they do something, they will receive a reward for it, whether for good or for evil. You must instruct and correct them in order for them to get the picture.

If you let your child go because of a soft heart, or because you can't bear the crying, then you will fail to make him a weapon of righteousness. When you send him forth, the world will view him as a Christian, and they will be deceived by the very one that you sent out cloaked as a disciple.

Do not let this happen. Train, correct, discipline, and disciple your child. The world will be better for it.

CHAPTER SIX

TO GIVE IS BETTER

Before they leave home, your children must be taught about the riches of sacrifice. Paul recounted the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35 when he said:

“I have shown you all things, how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Teach your children that life is not just about getting what they want. If you raise them to be takers, they will be useless in life, so you must show them how to be givers and not takers.

To raise up true disciples for Jesus, you must train your children to make sacrifices for others.

In Mark 8:35-36 Jesus said: “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

In other words, if you really want to find life, you will have to take up your cross and live sacrificially like Jesus Christ did.

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You must raise children who are taught, and who by example see the riches of sacrifice in your life. Do you give to the poor? Do you tithe and give offerings? Are you hospitable, opening your home to those who need a comforting hand?

If you do, your children will grow up sharing, and they will be willing to sacrifice their own interests that Christ may be glorified.

Would it be worth the loss of the comfort in your life if somebody came to Christ through you? Certainly, it would. Let your children see you do good works, and let them participate in the process.

A family outing to serve food at a homeless shelter can work wonders to open your child's eyes to the abundance you have at home. Serving someone who has less than they have will do more to instill thankfulness in them than a thousand lectures by you.

Offer your children opportunities to give. Don't give for them, but ask them what they would like to give to someone else. You may be surprised at the result.

Sacrifice is also about laying down today's desires for tomorrow's treasures. This is where you teach the principle of sowing and reaping.

The kingdom of God functions by giving and receiving, and by sowing and reaping. We sow

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today, and we reap at some future date; maybe not tomorrow, and maybe not for years. This is not an easy thing to teach children, to sow for a harvest they may not see right away, but if they can learn the principle now, they will be far better off when they encounter delays as adults.

Our society has convinced us we must have everything now. Not tomorrow, or even ten minutes from now, but right now! Don't let this attitude infect your children. Teach them to sow and wait for the reaping with joy.

There are even times to teach them to give without expecting to receive. We do this when we give to the poor, or when we give our time in intercessory prayer for others.

To understand that God gives abundance when we freely give is an important thing for your children to know, but to teach them to give just because they love God is even better.

CHAPTER SEVEN

FINISH WHAT YOU START

You must also teach your children the importance of commitment. James 1:5-8 says:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

There is only one thing which counteracts double-mindedness, and that is commitment. Don't let your children start something, get double-minded, and then go off and do something else. Teach them to stay the course.

Anybody can be a team player as long as they are winning, but everybody wants to quit the team when they are losing. That's a lack of commitment. Don't let your children fall into this trap. Make them finish what they start even if it looks like they will lose in the end. It's not about winning or losing, but about developing character for a lifetime.

Teach them to keep their word when they

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make a promise. This life skill is necessary in school, sports, relationships, marriage, financial matters, work, and of course in faith. As they grow, they will need more and more commitment in more and more areas of life.

When you instill commitment, you teach them to be steadfast no matter what they put their hands to. In other words, don't raise quitters.

Ephesians 6:10 says: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." And Ephesians 6:13 says: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Your children will never be able to "be strong in the Lord" or "having done all, to stand" unless they have been taught how to stay committed.

Teach your children to be dedicated to do right because they are devoted to God. Teach them to live the Word because they are faithful to Him. Teach them to stand fast because they are committed to live the life of a true believer, no matter what comes against them.

You've got to help them break the bad habit of giving up when the going gets tough. If you do, when they are grown and face turmoil and tribulation, they will be able to stand strong.

Teach your children how to handle pressure

and persecution by heeding this word: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4).

Help your child to understand that they should stay faithful to God, not just for their own benefit, but for the benefit of others. They should remain committed so that they never break your heart, or the heart of their spouse or child; so that they do not blemish your faith, nor the faith of the generation to come; so that they never discourage anyone from living for God, but encourage others to stay committed with them.

Commitment will help your children protect their minds, their confession, and their acts of faith; which leads me to your part of the equation. Do not let your child commit to something unless you are willing to commit to it also. Don't punish them for quitting one time, and then the next time you decide to let them quit because it is more convenient for you.

If you can't stay the course, taking your child to piano lessons once a week, and enduring their practice sessions for 30 minutes a day, don't sign them up. You must live as a good example, helping your children succeed rather than hindering their efforts by letting them take the easy way out on the days when

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you are tired.

Your children must be taught, but they must also be mentored, meaning you have to set an example in word and in deed. If you make promises, and then break them when it is inconvenient, so will your children. If you manipulate people or lie to them when you fail to show up somewhere when you said you would be there, so will your children.

Keep your word even when it hurts, and you will teach your children the rewards and responsibilities of commitment.

In teaching them commitment, you also need to teach them how to resist temptation. How can you stay devoted to your spouse if you can't say no to temptation? You can't. People who commit adultery are double-minded. They cannot stay faithful, and so they give in to every wind of temptation that blows by.

When you break a covenant it is because you view yourself as the only important person in life. Commitment to self is sin. It is a manifestation of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). This is why you must instill the value of commitment to others in your children.

CHAPTER EIGHT

FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT

I believe every child should be taught how to find and maintain good relationships. Friends are important, but you have to teach your children the difference between good ones and bad ones. Too many children are attracted to personalities, and they never become connected to character.

The Bible says in 1 Timothy 5:22, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."

You need to teach your children to judge everything, and yet to be merciful to everybody. Teach them how to recognize what is behind the person they want to connect with. They need to know them by their inward fruit, not by their outward traits.

You need to teach you children how to recognize good character so that when they spend time with friends, and eventually with a boyfriend or girlfriend, they will not be influenced in a bad way.

1 Corinthians 15:33 says: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." If you allow your children to run around with

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friends who dispute their faith or who live corrupt lifestyles, you will be raising them for a future overthrow. Eventually, the voice of the friends will outweigh your voice, and your child will go astray.

It's all about the seed principle. If you get enough seeds under anything, it will crack. Don't let your child be seeded by people who do not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Monitor their relationships, and don't forget to examine the adults behind the child friends.

Helping your children learn to cultivate good friendships is vitally important, but be careful that you don't raise a loner because you went overboard to protect them. There is a balance in all things.

If you believe a child is a good friend, but the parents are not a good influence, then invite the friend to your house instead of allowing your child to go over there. Make your house the one everybody wants to come to. This will keep things on your turf, and your child will be very popular.

Proverbs 27:17 says: "Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Good, godly friends can help your child stay focused on what is right. Good friends can challenge your children to do right when wrong is knocking on the door.

I remember a time when my daughter, led

of the Holy Ghost, intervened in a bad situation and kept her friend from falling into sin. It took guts, because the friend could have rejected her, but Nicole stood firm, went to her friend's rescue, and saved her from many troubles.

Teach your children how to pray for their friends, and how to be the one who influences others instead of the one who follows. Show your children how to stand up for what is right; not with manipulation or a demanding spirit, but with a spirit of holiness that is unafraid to say, "No."

Teach your children to be a good friend. This is not a natural trait in most kids. Sharing their best things can be difficult for some children, and opening their space to someone new can be intimidating. But if you will teach your children how to be friendly and share, it will help them tremendously in every area of life.

Teach them to treat their friends the way they want to be treated. Show them how to be a good listener, and one who is not afraid to give advice. Train them to give to their friends, even when they do not get anything in return.

Good friends can be a safe-haven when sin is all around a young person. Help your child show himself friendly so that good friends are never far away, and he will benefit for life.

CHAPTER NINE

RESPECT AND HONOR

You need to teach your children respect and honor for themselves and for others. I believe a lack of respect is the number one reason that moral decay runs rampant in the world today, and even in the church.

Some may wonder why I would say you need to teach your children to respect themselves. We often think of this as egotism, but what I am talking about is a healthy self-respect, one that will allow your children to say "No" when sin comes knocking at the door.

Children who lack self-esteem will give in to peer pressure, even though they don't want to sin. You need to raise your children to believe they are valuable to you and to God. When they believe this about themselves, they will be more likely to maintain a healthy self-respect among their peers.

The next step in teaching respect is to teach your children to honor you. Ephesians 6:1-3 says: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth."

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If you want your children to live long and have a good life, don't let them dishonor you, in public or in private. You don't have to act like a drill sergeant, but you should require a respectful attitude from your children.

You are the parent, not the best friend. Do not compromise your standing by allowing your children to treat you like a friend. Friendship can come later when they are adults, but while they are still living under your roof they should have a healthy respect for you as the parent.

Treat your children like children. Make rules, and make them abide by the rules. Set curfew, and make them keep it. Create boundaries, and though they may complain about it daily, in the end they will appreciate you for protecting them from their childish desires.

When your children reach adulthood, honor and respect for you should increase, not decrease. There should be an established bond that you will not give up for anything or anyone.

There are certain days during the year when I refuse to share my daughter and grandchildren with the world. On specific holidays, such as Father's Day, Grandparents' Day, and my birthday, I expect my family to spend time with me to express the fact that my life has value in theirs.

It is very important to teach your children to remember where their life came from, who raised them, fed them, sacrificed for them,

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prayed for them, and instilled godly wisdom in them. You need to teach them to give honor where honor is due.

You also need to teach your children to respect and honor others enough to care about their eternity as well as their daily outcome. Children do not fully understand the concept of eternity when they are young, but you need to remind them of it anyway. Talk about where people will spend eternity, and why it is so important to protect them and treat them well.

Children should never regard people as disposable, as easy come, easy go. Teach them to value the gifts and talents of others, and train them to speak well of people.

Do not allow your children to manipulate or demand things from other children, or from adults. Sometimes people think it is cute when a child leads an adult by the hand and demands something of them, but this is a form of disrespect. Don't let a seed of manipulation develop, or someday it will become a fully grown plant that will come back to bite you when they are older.

And be sure you don't ever let your kids think they are better than someone else. Teach them to thank the waitress and the janitor, because someday that may be their job.

Teach them that every human being has worth because Jesus died for all of us equally.

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God is not a respecter of persons, so make sure your children follow His example.

CHAPTER TEN

MONEY WISE

Finally, you need to teach your children about financial responsibility. The first and foremost concept they need to grasp is found in Proverbs 3:9-10 which says: "Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine."

To honor God with their substance, your children need to be taught to tithe. You do this by word and by deed. Let your children see you set aside the first 10% of your income, and teach them to do the same.

Show them the importance of giving offerings above the tithe, and of giving to the poor. Children will mimic you, so let them know what you are doing.

Children should also be taught to honor those who minister to them spiritually. 1 Corinthians 9:8-12 tells us that the man or woman who sows spiritual things in us should be free to expect to reap of our natural things.

Romans 15:27 also says: "It has pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if

the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”

Financial responsibility is a divine exchange. We can limit God by failing to tithe, by failing to give offerings, by failing to give to the poor, and by dishonoring the spiritual caretakers that God has given us in our lives. Teach your children to show honor and respect for those who give to them spiritually by sharing with them financially.

The second part of teaching financial responsibility is to teach your children to live within their means. Romans 13:8 says: “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Children should be taught to avoid being indebted beyond the covenants they can keep. It’s not wrong to borrow money, but it is wrong to borrow more than you can repay, and it is sin to sign a contract knowing you cannot make the payments.

We owe others temporarily in the course of life. Just ask the electric company. They give you electricity, and then at the end of the month they bill you for it. It’s the same with a mortgage payment or a car payment. As long as you keep the contract you signed and make your payments on time, you don’t owe them. But if you break the contract and fail to pay, then you truly do owe them.

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Every child must be taught priorities. Their spiritual well-being far exceeds their natural needs. Because of this, every child must be taught that their natural needs can never come before their spiritual responsibility to pay their tithes, give offerings, give to the poor, honor spiritual authority, and pay their debts.

A good rule of thumb for a child is that out of every dollar he receives, he should tithe 10%, save 50%, and then take care of his needs before any wants are ever considered. Teach your child to handle money wisely. No 18 year old living at home should be allowed to keep \$400.00 a week from a paycheck. Make him tithe, and make him save 50%. He has a future to prepare for, and so the toys must wait.

Financial problems result in not only poverty, but in divorce, sickness, poor living conditions, and lack of self-respect. Don't let your children make bad financial decisions, but train them to know how to manage what God has given them so that He can continue to bless them all throughout their lives.

Conclusion

Parenting is a divine call. God has entrusted us with the greatest treasures and the wealth of the world. No parent should ever hold this calling in higher esteem than a believer.

As Christians, we face a generation today

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where darkness seeks to creep in and overtake us, but we will not be silent, and we will not stand still. We will raise our children to be weapons of righteousness according to the Word of God.

Raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Plant seeds in them so that if they ever face an uncertain future, or if they ever forsake the faith, that which you have sown in them will rise up and take root once again.

Even if you discovered these principles late in life, don't stop trying to be a good parent. If they've left home already, God still expects you to keep your faith extended for your children.

It doesn't matter if they are saved or unsaved; never let them go. Draw them back. Pray for them, knowing God has given you a promise that if you will believe, you and your household will be saved (Acts 11:14) Don't ever give up! God is faithful.



Peter Doseck

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For the past 27 years Peter Doseck has faithfully and zealously declared the message of faith in Christ with demonstration to the four corners of the earth. International Miracle Crusades have resulted in over 1.6 million salvations, and countless healings and miracles. “Peter Doseck has a vision and anointing, and it is an honor to know and love this man of God,” says Oral Roberts. Peter Doseck Ministries (PDM) has also touched more than 33,000 pastors around the world with dynamic teaching and impartation of the miraculous. PDM is dedicated to changing lives through the uncompromising message of a man who believes steadfastly in the present day manifestation of the power of God.