

Foundations of *Biblical Homes*

*Building our Christian lives and homes by flourishing in
my use of the Words of God in daily living.*

Kathy Perkins
Mothers of Young Children
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A Mother's High Calling and Missional Role of Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Children

Psalm 78:5-7 For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

Joel 1:3 Tell your sons about it, and let your sons tell their sons, and their sons the next generation.

Oh, you are “Just a Mom”

NO such thing. God chose to create the first woman to be a mom. He chose her womb to bring forth all humanity to rule creation.

Genesis 1:27-28 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 3:20 Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

And ultimately, He chose a womb of a mother to birth His own Son.

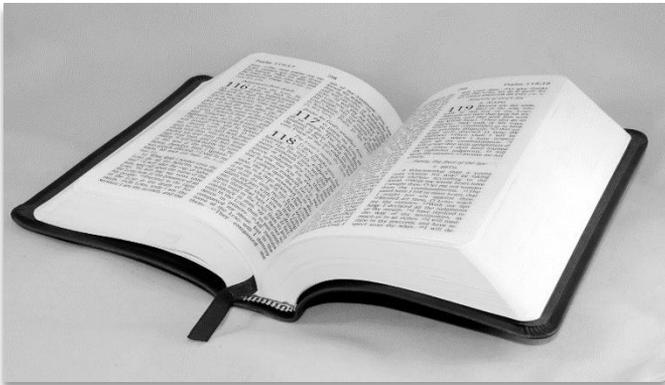
Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Our chief end: Glorify God and Enjoy Him forever. How do we do that? God created man as His image bearers and the home as the training ground, as an example of relationships and picture of our relationship with Him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Matthew 21:16 *And said to Him, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF'?"*

God created the mouth of our infants and babies to praise Him!



1) Father's and Mother's Responsibility:

Lay a foundation—1 Corinthians 3:10-11 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go.*

In the forefront of the minds of Christian parents must ever be the thought that the children are to be brought up in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

~David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

2) Mother's Influence:

Secular: Today science has mapped the brain and studied the influence of a mother on her children from 0-5 years. Their brain has plasticity and is growing 4 times faster than an adult's. This peaks by age 12. It is the most important time to influence a child. The way parents act and interact with their children shapes their moral character and affects their cognitive growth. When mothers are actively involved at this age the children are shown to have a better attitude, show greater mental abilities, and are usually better balanced spiritually. According to a Barna research study, "Mothers Are the Main Spiritual Coaches for Teens," practicing Christians in their teen years consistently identify mothers as the ones who provide spiritual guidance and instruction and instill the values and disciplines of their faith in the household. God created the minds of children to be like a blank book and we fill the pages. Each day they are recording in their minds something: actions, attitudes, behaviors, love, loneliness, kindness, happiness, sadness, sorrow, and each time it is with a selfish sin nature. During these early years, we are given a golden concentrated time to have an enduring effect on their soul. Children will grow to believe something, good or evil. It is not a question of will they worship, but what will they worship? They are hardwired to be a spiritual being. They are open to learning, ask questions, imitating you and others. Communist countries take the children from their parents and start the indoctrination early. "Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man" (Aristotle, *The Philosophy of Aristotle*). Moms you have a great high calling. We are on a mission to make disciples of the LORD. This starts in infancy.

3) Biblical Mother's to consider

- Jochebed
- Hannah
- Lois and Eunice

4) Mother's Unique and Glorious Role: God given Mission Field

Husband's suitable helpmeet rightly fitted to carry out all he is commanded to do.

Ephesians 6:4 But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

How do we see our children? Blessing or burden?

Psalms 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalms 127:4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.

Satan knows that if each child born is raised in a Christian home and comes to know Christ then there are more leading the way to salvation. If every mom here had 4 children who follow Christ and they each had 4 children consecutively for 10 generations, there would be 1,048,578 descendants who follow Christ. What a great responsibility and privilege. We often get bogged down in the small stuff, especially as a new mom. We are overwhelmed with the daily grind and can get discouraged. But there is a bigger picture. Jesus had 12 close disciples to train; we have the little ones God entrusts to us. Our mission is to prepare them for eternity and how to live counterculturally and Godly in this life.

5) Having Spiritually Minded Children

- a) Prayerfully—Ephesians 1:18-19 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what the hope of His calling is, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.*

Philippians 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Pray for your children that God would give you a real vision for their soul, that you would not grow weary in your labor of love, that you would have discernment and joy in being a mom for the kingdom work He calls you too, that you would be energized to persevere in your tasks, and not allow yourself to misuse the time given to you, that you would love them with God's love, that they would come to a saving knowledge early. Teach them to pray from Scripture, by hearing you pray and praying themselves.

b) Intentionally—Deuteronomy 11:18-22 *You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth.*

Intentionally memorize scripture, teach them His commands, intentionally teach them who God is. He made them and they are His; He cannot lie. Intentionally guard against things that will take their eyes off the Lord: media, TV, music, relationships. Intentionally guide them to the Scripture as the authority and all we need for life and godliness. Teach them God is enough, that Jesus is the truth, the way, the life, and no man comes to the Father but through Jesus. We cannot delegate our responsibility to do this to the church or the Christian school. We cannot expect they will understand all we teach them nor assume that what we teach them is beyond them. As we fill their hearts and minds there will come a time they will understand progressively more as they grow in true knowledge in the Lord and with the intention of leading them to Christ. Intentionally lavish love upon them showing your heart's desire for their good in teaching, guiding, directing them.

- c) Actively—Psalms 34:11 *Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

Psalms 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

We must be active daily instructing them. Actively memorize Scripture, the catechisms, actively talk about emotions, feelings, actions, attitudes. Actively fill their hearts and minds early with obedience, right motives, thankfulness, thinking themselves happy, kindness, love. Actively instruct them on authority of God for you and them, actively trusting in God at all times, actively love God and His house through regular attendance and participation. Actively serve others and show honor to those who it is due. If we are actively criticizing any of these areas, they will have a very critical attitude. Actively avoid the appearance of evil. Actively flee Satan and know he is a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may destroy. Be careful little ears what you hear, see, do. All of life is a daily Bible lesson.

d) Consistently—1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 *You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

God teaches us His word with repetition, and with patient loving care and discipline He directs us to Himself. We as His emissaries in the home are to be consistently pointing our little disciples to walk uprightly, blamelessly, worthy of the Lord. We are to be encouraging, exhorting, and imploring them to live a Christ centered life in daily application. Consistently read the Bible, Christian biographies, learn songs, hymns, and spiritual songs. Consistently attend church. Consistently listen to the things they say, watch what they do, how they behave, the motives of their heart. The foundation can be shaken when winds and rain assail it unless it is shored up with strong pillars, pillars of God's Word, His people, His authority, His character.

e) *By Example—2 Timothy 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Dear momma, you cannot give out what you do not have yourself. Do you know the Lord? Is He real in your heart? Are you seeking Him to fill you with a vision to see your children serving Him with all their heart, mind and soul? Do you see yourself as the missionary to lead them to the Savior? Are you seeking your own happiness or the glory of the Lord? Let them hear your heart cry for them, let them hear you pray, see you read your Bible, hear you sing songs that glorify God, see you work at memorizing His word. Let them see you repent of your mistakes and seek forgiveness. Let them see you serve and love others. Don't forget to praise them for pleasing God, for right attitudes, for loving and caring and sharing, for respecting their elders, for honoring you. Have the law of kindness on your lips. It is easy to focus on all the bad they do, and not exhort and encourage the good.

A Parting warning

Judges 2:10 reads, *All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and **there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.***

Why did they not know the Lord? In Judges 1 we read that the Israelites did go into the land and fight, but they did not completely obey the Lord. It was a partial obedience. Judges 2:1-3 *Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' **But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done?** Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.'"*

The next generation became ignorant of what God had done and isolated from all the works God had done and began worshipping idols. Lord, help us to diligently teach our children to love you with their whole heart, mind and soul.

Practical helps for teaching little ones:

- Read your Bible aloud when you are nursing your infant.
- Sing Bible songs to them often: children's as well as hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.
- Quote your memory verses out loud.
- Listen to past sermons.
- Play Godly music.
- Fill your home with the Word, written and spoken.
- As soon as they start saying words teach them Bible words and short verses daily.
- Read to them Bible stories, biographies.
- Talk about your feelings of joy and sadness and let them see how you handle these things. When you fail, talk about how you should have done it, and if needed, correct or apologize for wrong behavior. Let them see you seek God's forgiveness.
- Talk about needs and God's provisions.
- Elevate your husband and others before them.
- Pray for your husband, church leadership, country leadership.
- Do not criticize your church or pastors in front of them.
- Have ways they can serve others.
- Openly praise God for each thing.
- When you have a wrong reaction, apologize and love on them so they know they are not the cause.
- Have prayer time with them. Pray for specific things and when they are answered give God the praise. Pray at all times when there is a need. Let them hear your prayers.
- Teach them to respect your quiet time. Have them be a part of some of it so they are brought into your Bible time.
- Recite God's character and names.
- Teach the catechism.

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle is the Hand that Rules the World

William Ross Wallace 1865

Blessings on the hand of women!
Angels guard its strength and grace,
In the palace, cottage, hovel,
Oh, no matter where the place;
Would that never storms assailed it,
Rainbows ever gently curled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Infancy's the tender fountain,
Power may with beauty flow,
Mother's first to guide the streamlets,
From them souls unresting grow—
Grow on for the good or evil,
Sunshine streamed or evil hurled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Woman, how divine your mission
Here upon our natal sod!
Keep, oh, keep the young heart open
Always to the breath of God!
All true trophies of the ages
Are from mother-love impearled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Blessings on the hand of women!
Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled
With the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkens,
Rainbows evermore are hurled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Book Resources:

- *Missional Motherhood* by Gloria Furman
- *Beyond Bath Time* by Erin Davis
- *Mothers of the Wise and Good* by Jabez Burns
- Booklet: “Resources for Making Disciples of Our Children”
- *Biblical Parenthood* by Free Grace Broadcaster

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