

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:7- And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When we consider all that we go through, each day, **Philippians 4: 6,7** brings the kind of assurance that can be found nowhere else. When we accept the promise therein expressed, it is our duty to guide our households in the path of peace and contentment. And the children, especially the children need our help in finding that peace and contentment. Listen to what *4b Spiritual Gifts 139.3* says:

1. Parents, help your children.
2. Arouse from the lethargy which has been upon you.
3. Watch continually to cut off the current, and roll back the weight of evil Satan is pressing in upon your children.
4. **The children cannot do this of themselves.**
5. Parents can do much. By earnest prayer and living faith, great victories will be gained.
6. Some parents have not realized the responsibilities resting upon them, and have neglected the religious education of their children.
7. In the morning the Christian's first thoughts should be upon God.
8. Worldly labor and self-interest should be secondary.
9. Before leaving the house for labor, all the family should be collected together, and taught that they must respect and reverence the hour of prayer.
10. The father, or mother in the father's absence, should with humility and a heart full of tenderness, with a sense of the temptations and dangers before themselves and their children, plead fervently before God that he would keep the children through the day.
11. By faith bind your children upon the altar, entreating for them the care of the Lord.
12. Ministering angels will guard children who are thus dedicated to God.
13. It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening, by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a hedge about their children.
14. They should patiently instruct them-kindly and untiringly teach them how to live in order to please God. *{4b Spiritual Gifts 139.3}*

Notice that last sentence. Those two words: Patiently, untiringly. Listen to *4b Spiritual Gifts 140.1*

1. Impatience in the parent excites impatience in the children.
2. Passion manifested by the parents, creates passion in the children, and stirs up the evils of their nature.
3. Some parents correct their children severely with a spirit of impatience, and often in passion.
4. Such corrections produce no good result.
5. In seeking to correct one evil, they create two.
6. Continual censuring and whipping hardens children, and weans them from their parents.



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7. Parents should first learn to control themselves; then they can more successfully control their children.
8. Every time they lose self-control, and speak and act impatiently, they sin against God.
9. They should first reason with their children, clearly point out their wrongs, show them their sin, and impress upon them that they have not only sinned against them, but against God.
10. **With your heart subdued and full of pity and sorrow for your erring children, pray with them, before correcting them.**
11. Then your correction will not cause your children to hate you.
12. They will love you.
13. They will see that you do not punish them because they have put you to inconvenience, or because you wish to vent your displeasure upon them; but from a sense of duty for their good, that they may not be left to grow up in sin and wickedness. *{4b Spiritual Gifts 140.1}*

Finally, listen to this:

Children may wish to do right; they may purpose in their hearts to be obedient and kind to their parents or guardians; but they need help and encouragement from them. They may have good resolutions, but unless their principles are strengthened by religion, and their lives influenced by the renewing grace of God, they will fail to come up to the mark. *{4b Spiritual Gifts 141.5}*

Will you begin this important change today? Will you spend time upon your knees? Will you be the example God calls you to be?