

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



1 Corinthians 10:13. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Today we begin with a word of encouragement. I have said this before but it is worthy of repetition. Listening to the instruction given by the servant of God every day, reveals our mistakes and our failings. But listen to this.

A Word of Encouragement to Those Who Have Erred.--Those who have been training their children in an improper way need not despair; let them become converted to God and seek for the true spirit of obedience, and they will be enabled to make decided reforms. In conforming your own customs to the saving principles of God's holy law, you will have an influence upon your children. *{Child Guidance 173.2}*

But some of you are pained because your children have chosen a path that you have done all that you can to prevent them from taking. *Child Guidance, page 173.3* says:

Some Children Will Refuse to Heed Parental Counsel.--Parents may do everything in their power to give their children every privilege and instruction, in order that they may give their hearts to God; yet the children may refuse to walk in the light and, by their evil course, cast unfavorable reflections upon their parents who love them, and whose hearts yearn after their salvation. *{Child Guidance 173.3}*

So why does this happen? Why do our children drift, in spite of every effort to guide aright? *Child Guidance, page 173.4* says:

It is Satan who tempts children to follow in a course of sin and disobedience. . . . If they refuse to walk in the light, if they refuse to submit their will and way to God, and persist in following a course of sin in their impenitence, the light and privileges they have had will rise up in judgment against them, because they did not walk in the light, and knew not whither they went. Satan is leading them, and they become a subject of remark in the world. People will say, "Why, look at those children! Their parents are very religious, but you see they are worse than my children, and I do not profess to be a Christian." In this way children who receive good instruction and yet do not heed it cast a reproach upon their parents, dishonoring them, and putting them to shame before an ungodly world. They also bring a reproach upon the religion of Jesus Christ through their wicked course of action. *{Child Guidance, page 173.4}*



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There may be some today who are in this position. Do not be discouraged. There is a word of counsel found in Testimonies Vol 5, page 347, paragraph 2 which is given in a general sense to those who are laboring for souls but see that their labor seems not to bring forth the desired fruit. I do believe that counsel applies also to the parent who has done all that they can in prayerful reliance upon God.

You must labor for the erring with a heart subdued, softened by the Spirit of God, and let the Lord work through you, the agent. Roll your burden on Jesus. You feel that the Lord must take up the case where Satan is striving for the mastery over some soul; but you are to do what you can in humility and meekness, and put the tangled work, the complicated matters, into the hands of God. Follow the directions in His word, and leave the outcome of the matter to His wisdom. Having done all you can to save your brother, (*or in this case your son or your daughter*) cease worrying, and go calmly about other pressing duties. It is no longer your matter, but God's. *{5T 347.2}*

One final thought in this regard:

Strength for Every Trial.--Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and He never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, as failing to give strength in grace, but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in his hour of combat. The believer must claim the promise and meet the foe in the name of the Lord, and he will not know anything like failure.--*MS 6, 1889. {OHC 323.2} {2MCP 473.2}*