

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.



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God Wants To Bless Our Children

By Becky Combee

Years ago, Wayne and I were invited to have dinner with a fine young family and their children. The food was delicious, but our evening was far greater than good food. After supper, the father invited us to spend some time with them in prayer. I supposed it would be us, four adults. Yet, as I was praying, I heard the voices of children. I opened my eyes and discovered the children lying face-down in the carpet praying in the spirit. What a moment! I loved it!

It is the parent's responsibility to train their children. Training is a process. It is similar to learning the multiplication tables. We spent a lot of time helping Joel and Suzanne learn the multiplication tables. We practiced multiplying until they could instantly respond with the answer. Yes, even I learned the answers.

A child's education is very important. Every child must be educated so that he can successfully navigate through life. A job, a career, a family, a home, these all benefit from a good education. However, these factors are not as important as a godly education. **We must help our children to grow up in God.** Bible study and prayer are the foundation of this education.

We always had family devotions with our children. Every night after dinner, we would teach them a principle of God's Word and pray. After some years, they became restless, so we turned the devotional time over to them. We could not forsake God's Word, but it was obvious we needed

I'm Praying For Your Children

By Suzanne D. Williams

*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deu 6:6-7 NKJV)*

When I was in tenth grade, my brother and I were in an auto accident. I remember sitting at the light, just down from our house and the light turning green. My next memory is of lying in the truck, bleary-headed, a girl I thought I knew looking in on me.

My mom's side of the story I've heard many times. God had impressed on her to pray for us, but she'd been too busy and put it off. When she heard both of her children were gravely hurt, she called a friend, not knowing who she'd called but dialing a number committed to memory.

The woman on the other end reached out to her instantly. "Becky, I've been praying for your children."

That moves me beyond words anytime I think about it. Somebody listened to God and stopped what she was doing to talk to God on our behalf, and it saved our lives.

*For I know him, that **he will command his children** and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment. (Ge 18:19)*

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a new plan. They did very well, and it was wonderful to hear them teach us the same principles that we had taught them.

One evening, the Holy Spirit graced our Bible study with a very strong anointing. The four of us set in God's presence for a long time until I noted that our children crawled out of the room on their hands and knees. At that moment, our patient endurance was worth a million dollars. Although the children were not always willing to listen, the presence of God's Spirit made every fidgety second worth it all.

I learned a tip from one of my friends on how to teach your children to pray. She set the timer on the stove for a certain number of minutes, and everyone prayed until the timer went off. She told me that, at first, her children prayed in front of the stove, watching the timer. The day came, however, when the timer buzzed, and no one noticed. It was a victorious moment. God was working to do "exceeding abundantly above" in the life of this family.

God wants to bless our children. The psalmist writes, "The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children."¹ He also declares, "The generation of the upright shall be blessed."²

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Sad to say, but I see it all the time in Christian homes, parents who are too busy with their job, their hobby, their selves, to set a godly example for their children. Here's the thing, if you fail to give them a foundation, then your son or daughter will turn to someone else for the help they need, and a year from now, or two or ten, you'll discover their dependence is on society and not on the power of God.

That fit you pitched over the phone, that car you flipped off taking them to school, the bill you refused to pay because the government owes you, the day you sobbed into your pillow, rather than get down on your knees and turn to God, they are watching. Toddler, teenager, twenty-year-old. **The way to Christ is paved with your footsteps**, so walk upright and be the man or woman of God, they need to observe.

It's not limited to parents either. Grandparents, neighbors, teachers, passersby, all set an

The prophet Isaiah says, "I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."³ He also says that God's Word can be in our mouth and in the mouth of our seed and our seed's seed.⁴ These are tremendous promises! We must embrace them with all our heart and work diligently to cooperate with God as He teaches our children.

Our children must see the principles of God's Word lived out in our lives. The apostle Paul wrote to his children in the faith, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."⁵ This is our heart's desire, but from time to time, we miss the mark. On our knees, we admit our failure and ask for God's forgiveness. We judge ourselves by the Word of our great and mighty God. Although the world may say, "Don't do as I do, just do as I say," we seek to set an example for our children. We may not be a perfect example, but we are always quick to repent and make changes. We want our heart to be pure before God.

In the end, **the strongest compliment we can receive from our children is their mom and dad loved God.** The Scriptures say, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God!" When God is first place in our lives, our children will notice and be blessed! Isn't that our heart's desire? Certainly, it is!

¹Ps 115:14 ²Ps 112:2 ³Is 44:3 ⁴Is 59:21 ⁵1Co 11:1

example. You can pray for those who cross your paths, her kids or his kids or the four you saw at the grocery store.

I make sure my daughter knows she can come to me anytime, and importantly, that she trusts me to know *how* to pray and *what* to pray. Greater than that, I want her to know she can pray for others and make a difference. Because it's more than simply helping your friend, Megan, get a good grade, **it's raising kids into adults that also turn to God in prayer.** It's creating strong Christians, others can rely on in their distress.

That maybe one day, if they hear of another person's troubles, they'll stop and lift them up to God in prayer. Maybe even hear from heaven in their privacy of their homes and save the life of a girl and boy, who hadn't thought further than the trip to school. All because their momma prayed, their daddy prayed, and they were shown, by example, that **God is the answer.**

You can't get any more important than that.