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Tower of Strength

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”

—Proverbs 18:10

What Can You Do For Your Kids?

I have often summarized God’s commandments for raising children with “The Eight P’s of Parenting”:

- Provide for them (1 Tim. 5:8).
- Pass on the faith to them (Exo. 13:14, Deut. 6:6–7, Eph. 6:4).
- Prove to be a good example to them (2 Tim. 1:5).
- Punish them when they deserve it (1 Sam. 2:12–14, 1 Kings 1:5–6, Prov. 13:24, 19:18, 23:13–14, Heb. 12:7–11).
- Play with them often (Matt. 19:1–4, Col. 3:21).
- Protect them from the worst influences in our world (1 Cor. 15:33, Acts 20:31).
- Prepare them to face the rest (Prov. 6:20–23).
- Pray for them (Judg. 13:8, Job 1:2–5).

That’s a weighty list! But let me take a moment to suggest a number of easy, basic, everyday ways to make this a reality. You can start today!

Buy them a Bible (a real, old fashioned, leather-bound Bible) and have the store personalize the cover ... Tell them you love them ... Give them age-appropriate chores to do and expect those chores to be done in a timely, quality fashion ... Use an allowance to teach them how to manage money ... Check their grades on-line every few weeks ... Teach them how to change the oil ... Spend positive time together doing what *they* want to do: take a trip where *they* want to go, buy a Lego set and build it to *their* specifications not yours, play a board game and let *them* win ... Eat dinner together as a family around a common table ... Leave them with a babysitter and go on a date with your spouse ... Have a family movie night ... Apologize when you make a mistake ... Worship God as a family ... Ask where they are going, with whom, how long they will be gone, and what they plan to do while they are there ... Keep all computers in a common area of the house such as the kitchen ... Explain why they are getting a spanking before delivering it ... Compliment them on a job well done ... Demand that siblings treat one another with respect ... Limit time in front of lighted screens ... Discuss current events ... Let them suffer the consequences of their own silly actions and learn the hard way, as long as they will remain safe ... Keep a well-stocked bookshelf in the home ... Say no ... Take a family trip and make lasting memories ... Teach them how to cook a full meal ... Tell them from an early age that it is your hope and expectation they marry a Christian spouse ... Never contradict one another in public ... Get a promotion or work a little overtime so that you can provide extra support for your family ... Let the punishment fit the crime, but never make Bible reading a punishment ... Every year select a family to help for the holidays and let them get involved in the process of purchasing and donating ... Ask them what they learned in Bible class ... Teach and model people skills—shaking hands, making eye contact, holding a door, saying please and thank you ... Never let a teachable moment sneak by without comment ... Pick your battles ... and always remember this rule: if you want to know how a young man will treat his wife, simply observe how his father treats his mother!

Quotations on Time Management

“Until we can manage time, we can manage nothing else.”

—*Peter F. Drucker*

“It has been my observation that many people get ahead during the time that other people waste.”

—*Henry Ford*

“To do two things at once, is to do neither.”

—*Publius Syrus*

“In truth, people can generally make time for what they want to do; it is not really the time that is lacking, but the will.”

—*John Lubbock*

“Depend upon it sir! When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.”

—*Samuel Johnson*

“How silly it is to dread the thought of throwing away one’s whole life, and yet, have no regard to throwing it away a little bit at a time.”

—*John Howe*

“A year from now you will wish you started today.”

—*Karen Lamb*

“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

“If you haven’t got the time to do it right, when will you find the time to do it over?”

—*Jeffery J. Mayer*

“Those who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness.”

—*John Wanamaker*

“Don’t be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. One man gets only a week’s value out of a year, while another man gets a full year’s value out of a week.”

—*Charles Richards*