

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

Psalm 127:3-4

Part 2

Introduction: Last time we looked at two points on how to pray for your children and grandchildren. We should pray for our children to get saved early in life. What a blessing it was that was this past Friday afternoon when my seven year old granddaughter called to told us that she got saved. You and I should pray for them every day. The first real decision that they need to make is that they get saved. Soon Miss Rosy is going to have her baby girl. As a part of our church family, we should be praying for that little girl to be saved early in life.

Secondly we saw that we should pray that our child to caught if guilty. I spoke of breaking the law but this should include every rule in life. If they cheat on a test, then we should pray that they will be caught. If they break a rule you don't necessarily agree, you should never encourage him or her to break the rule but that they will be caught. Always encourage them to do what is right every time until the right thing is the normal thing. Always encourage them to do right. Dr. Bob Jones Sr used to preach the same message at the beginning of the school year and at the school breaks and end of the school. The message was entitled "Do Right". This should be the message that we should tell our children this truth regularly and pray for our children to do this very thing. Children learn more truths from our lives than what we say.

Today I want to explore another area that we should pray about our children and grandchildren.

III. PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN THAT THEY WILL MAKE SOUND DECISIONS.

This should be a prayer that we can also pray for ourselves also. I can think of decisions that I made that affected my children. Here is a verse of scripture that we should burn into our hearts and minds. Romans 14:7

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."

Let me draw your attention to David in the Old Testament. He committed adultery and murder. Even though the Lord forgave him of these grievous sins, David and his children paid the consequences of his sins for the rest of his life. He lost five children because of his sin. One bad decision and five children died.

Most of our decisions are made without any prayer. You just think you are right but you do not think scripturally. Here is what the book of Proverbs has to say about this.

Proverbs 14:12

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Proverbs 16:25

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

If we do not pray for our children that they will not bad decisions. We made enough bad decisions. Before making decisions, we need to ask the Lord to guide us in our decisions and this should be our children and grandchildren way to make all decisions.

James 1:5

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

I want to give you five truths in regards to making decisions and help us to guide our children in the same as we pray for them.

First, we must be willing to think. God made us thinking beings, and He can and will guides our minds as we think things out in His presence.

Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Second, we must be willing to think ahead and weigh the long-term consequences of our courses of action. Often we can only see what is wise and right, and what is foolish and wrong, as we dwell on the long-term issues.

Third, we must be willing to take advice. It is a sign of conceit and immaturity to dispense with taking advice in major decisions. There are always people who know the Bible, human nature, and our own gifts and limitations better than we do, and even if we cannot finally accept their advice, nothing but good will come to us from carefully weighing what they say.

Fourth, we must be willing to be ruthlessly honest with ourselves. We must suspect ourselves: ask ourselves why we feel a particular course of action will be right and make ourselves give reasons.

Fifth, we must be willing to wait. ***"Wait on the Lord"*** is a constant refrain in the Psalms and it is a necessary word, for the Lord often keeps us waiting. When in doubt, do nothing, but continue to wait on God.

Conclusion: I want to give this illustration in regards to make the right decisions. It will help us to understand how we should pray daily for our children and grandchildren.

A missionary couple finished deputation and took their two children to the field of God's leading. The wife was unhappy. She constantly complained and cried. She voiced her fear that the children would be victims of the wild animals in they area. Day after day she drained on the victory of her missionary husband. She pleaded with him to give it up and take her home.

Finally he gave in and resigned from the mission board and moved his family back to New Jersey. He got a job and moved the family into a trailer.

Everything went well for several months until one afternoon when the children were playing under the trailer; one of them came running into the trailer screaming about snakes that had bitten both of the little boys. A call to the father brought him quickly home and a race for the hospital. It was too late. Both boys died from the poison snake bites. The thing she feared the most out in the jungle happened to them right in the safety of their home.

It has been said, "It is safer in the jungles of Africa in the will of God than at home in America out of the will of God."