

Childd Upbringing

by Gbile Akanni

Gbile Akanni emphasizes that godly child upbringing is a lifelong commitment rooted in a strong personal relationship with Christ, recognizing children as God's heritage rather than possessions.

Duration: 1:18:16

Scripture: Psalm 127:3, Matthew 1:19-21, Isaiah 8:18, Malachi 2:15, Genesis 1:28, Numbers 11:12

Topics: "Marriage and Family", "Christian Parenting"

Description

In this teaching sermon, Gbile Akanni explores the biblical principles of childbearing and godly upbringing. He stresses that children are a blessing from God and belong to Him, urging parents to cultivate a strong personal relationship with Christ as the foundation for effective parenting. Gbile highlights the critical role of both parents, especially fathers, in nurturing children during their formative years. The sermon also warns against ungodly practices in seeking children and encourages believers to embrace their responsibility to raise godly seeds for God's kingdom.

Transcript

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Telephone numbers 0703 03636 59 0703 76811 98 Email address lsmediaatlivingseed.org Or visit our website at www.livingseed.org Let us sit back and listen as the servant of God brings forth the Word of Life. Praise the Lord. By the grace of God, our short time together this evening and this seminar, we shall be looking at childbearing and upbringing.

Childbearing and upbringing. Godly child upbringing. We are going to begin by asking you again to look at this manual.

If you are very diligent and observant and have gone through this, you will know that there is a whole section, a whole chapter that has been dedicated to this. Now, the reason why I'm pointing us to this is that whatever we are able to share this evening will just be an initiation. You are not hearing me? Okay, you are hearing me now.

Sorry, like I was saying, that whatever God will be leading us to share with us will be just but an initiation into this life-long commitment that God will be demanding from us. And we would like you to go back home to do your further studies by going through this book again. So that's why we'll be referring to it as much as we can.

So that God could help us to maximize the use of these materials that God is bringing across our way. So we are going to jumpstart the seminar, the discussion. I would like my wife to just read the introduction to this in page 121.

That's part 7 of this book. If you have it, she will read for us. And after that, we'll be taking our bearing from that point as the Lord will be helping us.

Mom? Praise the Lord. The introduction says, Child-bearing is one of the God-given fruits of marriage. It is the blessing of the Lord upon the marital union between a man and his wife.

God's plan is that children be born and brought up in marriage and not outside it. For this reason, even though our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit, he had to be brought up in a proper home. Joseph was a partner in his upbringing together with Mary, Jesus' mother.

We'll find this in Matthew 1, 19-21. Praise the Lord. Now we are going to start by looking at a scripture.

Psalms 127, verse 3. I would like my wife to please help us to find that scripture and read. And then Isaiah 8, 18. And we'll be introducing this with some issues from that scripture.

Psalms 127, verse 3. Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Thank you. Children are the heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Now that's very common, very popular scriptures. But again and again, the implications for us, they are still very, very serious and relevant. I would like you to note some few things about it.

The first thing to note is the fact that children are not part of our marriage. They are passengers in it. They belong to the Lord.

In fact, that scripture is very interesting. It says the fruit of the womb is his reward. The little understanding I have there is the fact that if you believe God has helped you, because the Bible says whosoever finds a wife, finds a good thing, has obtained favor from what? From the Lord.

If God indeed has blessed you, and he has brought you together in the holy matrimony, and you want to be grateful to him, and you are looking for how to appreciate God for your wedding, it seems that the only good appreciation that God seems to be demanding as his own personal commission is that your womb, your relationship, your matrimony becomes a place for him to raise children. In other words, we must understand this from the onset, that these children, they are not, we are only custodians. We cannot build our lives on them.

We must not make them the alpha and the omega of our assurance and definition for living. Now this is very critical because many times this is the pitfall of many families, many marriages. They are wonderful, they can be glorious when they are with us, but they are not the basis of your joy in life.

They are not the things to decorate your life with and use as a testimony. They are not your own. So the first place that I would like to begin with for anybody that wants to be an effective parent and I want to

bring up children properly, is that his own personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, his own assurance and place with God must be settled.

If he has not found his meaning in life and his definition for living and for marriage, those children will not give it to him. And this is what normally leads to confusion later on in life. Several times I have seen families of women, that it has a point where their children want to marry, that's when they break apart.

They have so put all their eggs inside that basket. They have neglected their own personal relationship with their wife or their husband. They have neglected to build their own marriage.

They have not walked with God. They don't have a vision of eternity in mind. Everything they have done, they have done it with the hope that these children will give them every satisfaction they are looking for in life.

I want to please quietly tell you that that's a big mistake. God has made us for himself and nothing else is a sufficient replacement for what Christ and Christ alone can give to us. So it looks very fundamental, it looks elementary, but I want to assure you that if you omit that, you will still run into this problem.

Jesus and him only is the source of all our happiness. It is him that gives us every other thing that we need, including children. Is that understood now? Is that understood? Yes, children will make us happy, but the place to look for that happiness is not first of all in the children themselves.

It is as you grow in Christ. It is as God begins to fill your life up. It is as he begins to bring meaning and purpose and his goal into our lives.

Only then that every other thing takes their place and they bless us. I don't know whether my wife wants to contribute to that. Okay, I should go on.

Now what other thing do I want to note from that point is that whereas when we read the book of Genesis and when we see God asking Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the world and fill the earth and reproduce themselves, whereas in the time of Adam before the fall, biological bearing of children was a ministry. In other words, because Adam carried the image of God, his own children naturally were just a duplicate of him. So for him to have children to multiply was a ministry to God.

But I want us to know that after the fall, bearing biological children alone is no longer a ministry. Giving birth to children, no matter how beautiful, how handsome, how good looking they are, if that is all you did, it has no reward in heaven. Having biological children, if they are not going to be for Jesus, if they are not going to be raised up, if they are not going to be converted to become carriers and to serve God's purpose, sincerely speaking, it was better that they were not born.

Now that makes us again to go ahead and note the fact that Christ's commission for us is to raise godly seeds. Malachi, can you see that? Malachi chapter 2 verse 15. We have read that again and again in Bible studies.

So what is God's expectation for us as new creation man? Is that as new creation men, our mission on earth again is still to raise godly seed for him. Now, if that godly seeds are biological children, no problem. But even if you don't have a biological child of your own, there are many children everywhere and they are God's heritage.

They don't belong to anybody in particular. You see, from that scripture we read, Psalm 127 verse 3, when the Bible says children, they are heritage of the Lord, what it means is that even though children will come from a family, they will bear the name of one Mr. Samson and one Mr. Gabriel, those children don't belong to that Mr. Gabriel primarily, they belong to God. And so whoever labors on their life, whoever leads them to God and win their soul for Christ, they are recorded as their crown for them.

So even if you don't have any biological children of your own, you are still fit for the great commission. So in a situation where there is a lust for childbearing, it is not biblical. If God desires and he has promised that in our union, he will bless us with fruitfulness, by the mercy of God, if he comes, we are grateful.

But if God, for some reason, does not bring it to you, you don't need to go out of your way and pursue it in a godless manner, or else in a quest to have children, you may go to hell. In a situation where some of us, even though we are in the church, or because we want to have children to show, we go to native doctors, we are taking charms, we are going to prayer houses, they are casting incantations and demonic things upon us that we don't know, and in our mind we think that the end justifies the means. The end does not justify the means.

Don't seek children in an ungodly way. You will still perish with it. Praise the Lord.

I don't know whether that is very clear to us. Now, what is the next thing that I want us to look at as we go ahead? By the grace of God, since the Word of God promises that we will be fruitful, our children will be like olives, I trust that God will bless our marriage in Jesus' name. So what are the preparations for childbearing and upbringing that every family needs to do and put in place? I must say this, both from personal experience, and from observation, and from scriptures.

Even though newly wedded couples expect and anticipate to have children, it's natural. As soon as you're wedded, you know that your mother-in-law and father-in-law, they were all quietly asking, when? Has it happened? Sometimes they watch. When you are throwing saliva, they will come and ask you.

Or sometimes when, as a newly married woman, you have a fever, you know they warn you not to take chloroquine. They say it may not be an ordinary fever. Is that not so? Nah, they are all expectations.

But unfortunately, may I tell you, many couples, in Christian couples, I'm talking about even Christian couples, are not always prepared for their first child. They take it for granted. They assume it.

And I've seen the devil take advantage many times. Many times, they are still celebrating their honeymoon. They are still in the utopia of marriage, and visiting when the child comes, everybody comes around.

They don't have personal commitment. They have not adjusted to receive that child. And the implications are normally very bad.

So you now see that if you take a survey, you will see it, many first born of many families, they are normally problematic. If you check it, you will discover that many times in Christian homes, many first born children in those homes, many times it's the grace of God. Because as it were, normally we say they were born in the wilderness.

So in order to be able to bring up our children very well, there must be a definite preparation and adjustment. The reason is this. In child upbringing, the best period, the best time to get the maximum out

of every child is the first 6-7 years of a child's life.

If you miss those 6-7 years, your journey will be long. Those first crawling, infant, slow years of a child's life are the best and the most fruitful period of any learning process in any man. And that's the time that, like I was saying, many couples are careless.

That's the time that the man is pursuing a greater breakthrough in ministry. That is when he is accepting transfer. That is when the mother is in Sokoto, the father has been posted to Ibadan, and as long as the salary is coming fine, they think it's alright.

In their mind, they are quickly trying to go and make money so that they can build a house and settle down, so that when the child grows up, they will now have enough to take of the child. Unfortunately, the children don't wait for you. So many times, that omission normally leaves the first child unaffected.

Most of what they get, they get it in the church. They always follow you to church. They are in the devotion.

The disciples are helping you to carry them. Everybody, brethren are carrying them. Your grandmother is carrying you.

So you are quickly trying to get more jobs, catching on more certificates, get more education. I'm telling you, many parents know that. That is why if you also take a survey, you will discover that after the first experience, you will discover that they now become serious with the second and the third child.

That ought not to be so. So the first thing is that there is a mindset that you must have. And that is the fact that the first few years of the child's life, those first six years, they are the years where you can mold the child.

That's where you break every difference. That's where a little spank with your finger will send in a message. That's where you watch for the old man.

Most of the things that make them hard, by the time they are 16 and 17, when they begin to enter their early adulthood, and you become very hard, it is that omission at that period. Even you, you will bear me witness that when they come to that period, flogging doesn't work any longer. Sometimes you yourself, when you are beating them, you will be crying.

So let's prepare to receive them. It's the first critical thing. You may need to resign your job if your job is a problem.

You may need to look for a smaller job for the time being, because raising children for God is a ministry. And I tell you, maybe when we have time later on, we'll be looking at the reward of it. What it is.

When the Bible said concerning Jochebed and the family, when they said they saw that Moses was a proper child. And I want you to know that all the children that God gives to us, they are proper children. Praise the Lord.

I don't know whether my wife wants to... I should continue. Now, so what is the implication of that? The implication is that every child needs both parents. It is... I know it is African culture to think that the person to nurse a baby is the mother.

So we have nursing mothers. But I want you to know that we have nursing fathers. The Bible recognizes nursing fathers.

Would you like to check that for us? In Numbers chapter 11 verse 12. To see that when it comes to children upbringing, we have both nursing mothers and nursing fathers. Our children... Somebody found it.

My wife will read for us. Numbers 11 verse 12. Now you see, that's Moses defining what God has asked him to do.

The care that God wanted him to give the children of Israel was not different from what a nursing father should do. Fathers, are we here now? Excuse me, when it comes to child upbringing and childbearing, what are you? Nursing father, not absentee father. The absence of a father figure, a present available father figure, in children's life affects them adversely.

And you don't know how bad it is. You discover that in our culture, once a woman delivers, the man is off. He can't even go to London and be there for two years.

Once he's sending feeding bottle money and nanny and he's sending mother care. You know those clothes, they call mother care. The truth is this.

Do you also notice in our generation that even the school that your children will go to, primary and nursery school, who constitutes the highest number of teachers in terms of genders there? Women. So your child's all the first six or seven years of his life is only interacting with women. It's not good.

The father must be available. He must partake. Whereas he may not go into the nitty-gritty.

He doesn't have to breastfeed. Of course, he doesn't have a breast for that. And all of that.

But he must be there. He must be talking to the child. He must be seen to be talking to the mother.

They must be living. We come into that. It's very critical.

Praise the Lord. What is the other thing I wanted to add to that before I still find out whether my wife wants to come in is the fact that... What was that? Except you tell me why you are laughing, I will not continue again. Okay.

It's all right. She said I should continue. Now, what is the other quiet thing that we must note is the fact that we must be careful that we don't throw our children to surrogates.

In a situation where your child is two years, you send him or her to crèche, what are you looking for in life? Now, many of you here that are teachers, you know that another name for teacher is cheater. Oh, you don't know. I know we have good teachers now.

God has helped us over the years. But you cannot delegate child upbringing. We know that there are children that are born without parents, without father, without a mother.

I want to tell you that such ones, God takes care of them. God is your father and your mother, but not you, that you are a father and mother, you are alive. God holds you responsible.

So do not be quick to throw your children to hands, not even grandparents. A situation where you deliver a child, and quickly you bundle the child and send him or her to your village, or to your grandmother, so that

you can be free to be a working class lady, is not good enough. Children, parents, many times from my experience, grandparents oftentimes, they are very happy.

But I know if you don't take time, they will make a pet out of your child. They will pet the child until the child becomes a pet. Except if God has helped them, and there are also people that God has helped, and they have raised up children very well.

But even those that are very firm, they normally have weakness for their grandchildren, so you must be careful. God is holding you responsible. And sometimes, many of us, in the name of good school, once you see a school that is called Christian school, once they just lay by a Christian school, and they say the Lord's Prayer in the assembly, tooth and nail, you carry your child and go and dump there, and you think that they will work the magic for you.

Sorry. Even we that are parents, that are taking responsibility, that Bible verse also told us that except the Lord does what? God builds a house. So that is why you see, those of us that are parents in Cavalier Row, you will discover that one of the key core values of Cavalier Row is parents-teachers relationship.

You cannot come to Cavalier Row and dump your child and go away. They will not agree. Now, that's teaching responsibilities.

And by the grace of God, God has honored it so much in the life of those children. So let me note there that you must be willing to be available. You must adjust your career.

And if you are not ready for it, if there is another master's degree program that you want to go and collect, why don't you wait until you are ready so that you don't make a shipwreck of this? Thank you. Praise the Lord. Sorry, I want to contribute on the issue of being available.

I want to say that if for some reason the father has to be absent physically, he must not be absent spiritually. And then the woman has the role of letting the father know how the child is doing so that he doesn't come in and there is a gap in his knowledge of the child. What do I mean by that? You can help the father to know the child and to contribute to the upbringing of the child by letting him know exactly what is going on with the child so that when the father is coming to talk to the child, maybe it's on a matter that you have discussed with the child and you have concluded, let the father not come and start all over as if nothing was ever done.

You let the father know how far you have gone, where you are, and when he now comes in, he is coming in as a continuation of where you have stopped with the child. And I want to say that it is very important so that both of you can have one voice. It's not a situation where the mother has done something with the child and the father now comes because he doesn't have a background knowledge of what has really happened.

He brings a contradictory statement or he does something contradictory. First, it will cause a rift between the husband and the wife and then it gives the child a gap where he can misbehave. You know, these children, they are very wise.

As tiny as they are, they know how to twist people. They can twist you on their little finger and when they know that their mother is the one that is soft, that's their landing place. But if at all times you keep each other abreast of what you are doing with each child, then it makes your role in their lives very easy to maintain.

And then a situation where everything a child does, the mother says, until your father comes back. And then, if the father doesn't come back, that's the end of that matter. It's also not good enough.

The two of us must come to a point where we have one voice over their upbringing and this can happen as our communication is open and we keep telling each other what exactly is going on with the other person. I remember not too long ago, there was a matter with my daughter and I said, why didn't you tell me when this thing happened? And the answer she gave me was very funny. She said, I told your husband and I expected your husband to tell you.

I know with most men, if you tell them something, sometimes that's the end of that thing. It's only when it comes up again that they say, oh, sorry, I forgot. I should have told you.

I want to say to our husbands, please, tell us quickly so that we don't start struggling and the child knows that you are struggling to know him because he only discussed with his father and the father has not shared with the mother. It will become a problem. So let's learn to share with each other very quickly over the children so that we can have one voice when we are now talking to them.

Praise the Lord. Thank you. That is it, and I thought she has forgiven me.

Now, but let's underscore what we are saying. You know that generally in looking at the makeup of men and women, again and again, as you keep following and keep listening and following us in the marriage seminars, especially when our father in the Lord is dealing with roles and responsibility, and if you read some of our books like the No More Two, you will discover that there are some things that are peculiar to men, negatively and positively. One of it is impatience to listen.

When you want to become a father, you must be a man that is ready to take gist from your wife or else you will not be a good father. A situation where your child, five-year-old child, went to the nurse's house and slapped another child, it's an issue. And when your wife comes and is looking for an opportunity to download so that you can follow, but you are too busy, you don't have time for such nonsense.

And the truth is that when you have men who don't have time, it becomes increasingly difficult for their wives to start sharing such details with them, so she just ignores it. This is not good for child upbringing. So communication, a husband, a leader, one of the things that a leader must be, he must be a communicator, he must be a listener.

Even if you say that's not how I am born, that's not my psychological makeup, I am sanguine and all of those things, you must change when you want to start having children. Praise the Lord. Let me quickly go into the next implication and early preparations.

Now, as soon as children start coming in, by the grace of God, one of the things that is a big responsibility for the father, especially, and for the mother, I'm saying this because even if the mother didn't do it, is that the parents must continually seek for the definition of that child's life, in terms of what is God's purpose for that child's life. Why is God bringing this child? And many times, when you have parents that are seeking, that's when they get even the names for the children. Genuine parents do not just name their children after one God of Shango and God of Olokun.

You don't name your child after the sound of a broken plate, bang, bang, bang. The reason is that the names you call those children, they follow them. If you call him Death Stone, he will just be a stone all his life.

So we must begin by seeking a definition. It is our responsibility to hold God's hand, to show us what is the purpose for this child. Do you know what I believe? You may not agree with me.

It is that meaninglessness and lack of preparation in most parents that you find that in the Bible, any time God has a great purpose on the earth that he does not want to fail, and he wants to be sure that this purpose will be accomplished, the first thing he wants to do is to secure the attention and commitment of the womb and the parents where that child is going to come from. Most cases, they are barren. Samuel, John the Baptist, Samson, and many others.

The reason is because each of those children that you see that God brings into our life, each and every one of them have great and definite purpose. They didn't just come to the earth to decorate you. Sometimes, if God is not sure whether this thing will not be wasted, he may want to hold down and close your womb so that you can cry, so that you can become serious.

Many times, even though I learned from my wife that bearing children can be very painful, isn't it? Because I've seen the cries. But I'm sure for some women, it looks so easy. Maybe that's why many times they are very careless about recognizing the definiteness, the uniqueness, the peculiarity, and the particularity of each of the children that God is bringing to you, even if they are 22.

I'm apologizing to one of my great brothers. Each and every one of them, God has a vision for their life. And you know, when our brother was speaking yesterday, you know, I saw the beauty.

Look at what one soul, one life in that family is doing for God all over the places. Look at what a David became in the hand of God in a family of seven. So it is very critical as a father, your first duty and responsibility is that you have entered the travail of bearing the burden of intercession.

It is those definitions, it is that name, it is that vision, what God showed you, what is revealed to you, and it is not once. It is continual. It is progressive that helps you and your wife to order those children alive.

And into their inheritance, into their specific and unique roles in life without them struggling against one another and competing with one another. You will soon discover that there is a matter that we call sibling rivalry. It is very real.

John the Baptist was an example of such a vision. Thank God that God revealed to Zachariah what he had in mind for John the Baptist. So John the Baptist did not become a duplicate of Zachariah.

And you know what I also thought? Because the parents were mindful of him, how did they raise John the Baptist an only child and they did not spoil him? The child of an old age could have been very easy to mishandle and misappropriate him but they were conscious of God's role for his life and I was touched when they said John the Baptist was eating honey and what else was he eating? Locusts. They didn't spoil him with cake and chocolate. They raised him for his commission.

So it's a very critical thing to know what God is saying about each and every one of our children. It is the bedrock of their training. Sometimes it helps you to know what to do with a particular child what not to use for a particular child what to emphasize with that child and what to withdraw from this other child.

I have such similar experience. Praise the Lord. What is the next thing that we quickly want to say at this point? As a parent seeking to bring up children properly and victoriously you must as much as possible seek godly discipleship.

I'll tell you why. Every time I look at the story of Samuel I weep. Do you know why? Samuel's mother having agreed with God on what God will do with that child's life good enough she sent that child for proper training into what God wanted him to be in life.

She sent him to Eli's discipleship school and good enough he became a prophet for God a renowned prophet and he did wondrously but you see the problem he didn't just end up with the anointing he inherited Eli's weaknesses. Eli was a priest but he was a bad father. His children were taking bribes he had no control over them.

If you see that in the book of 1 Samuel chapter 2 verse 12 to 17 would you like to read that? Let's quickly look at it. Okay, sorry my wife said you know she's saying that we can read that on our own. You can see the description and the summary of Eli's parenting and it's so unfortunate that when they also when the holy bible wanted to also summarize the fathering of our brother our prophet Samuel it was the same thing that those children were doing that his children were also doing like father like son.

So what is the implication for us? As parents the need to have parents experienced parents who have raised up their own children who have brought up their own children and by the mercy of God they have testimonies is a very critical need for your own life and you need also to pray if for any other reason you are following leaders you are following pastors you are following men who are speaking who are teaching but their own children are not doing very well I'm not saying that they cannot disciple you but you must keep making sure that that aspect of discipleship you may not get it from them look for it praise the Lord so discipleship even for us to be able to train our children well is a critical need and God must help us to raise God must raise for us fathers and mothers and God is doing that for us here my wife and I today by the grace of God we have benefited from that kind of discipleship the Lord has used it to help our life a lot even in child upbringing our children upbringing as the case may be so I advise you I counsel you seek correct discipleship in that area what do you have to say to that praise the Lord I want to say that what he has just said is not something we must be casual about I discover that even the children as they grow they know who is your disciple and they are also watching the children of your disciple and they have their own comments to make and when they know that where you are taking your discipleship from is correct they are also willing to submit to such discipleship so it's very important that we don't take our discipleship to just be for ourselves our children should also be brought under that discipleship I know that when our children were coming into the teens it was beginning to become a challenge and one day we sat with them and we were talking and I simply said to them I said if you think where we are is not good enough and you want to seek for something for yourself I want to give you the opportunity to do that and one of them said why he said we have come to be satisfied with where you are and where you are has become a springboard even for our own lives and won't be tied to us if we don't do better than you because what you have given to us if we jump from where we are now we will jump higher than you I looked at the particular child that spoke and I shook my head because in my heart he is the one that I thought was not interested in what we are doing so they are watching and then when it comes to the issue of being very particular with our children it's not something to be taken for granted as much as possible as early as possible as early as possible we must introduce Christ to the children and it's not something you do by chance the Bible says train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it it's a scripture that every Christian seems to know but we forget that training takes a deliberate action and our children the Bible also told us that when a child is weaned and you are teaching such a person it's line upon line precept upon precept here a little there a little and that's why when you go to the book of Deuteronomy it tells us that in teaching these children it's not a one time thing it's when you are sitting

down when you are lying down when you are walking along the road and what you are teaching the child you put it as a bracelet you put it on your front sled you put it everywhere children are very interested in audio visual aids they want to know what you are talking about and I want to encourage us as parents especially if your children are still very young and you don't know how to go about training them please at least one of you should enroll in children evangelism training wherever you find children evangelism training enroll so that you will know how to lead the children to Christ that you lead your child to Christ is very important don't leave it to Sunday school teachers don't leave it to the primary school teacher you are the first audio visual aid and you are the first teacher your child should have and when you become your child's first teacher you know that children respect teachers I remember at the time that my children were growing up one day my daughter came from school and she said something and I said no that's not the correct way to say it and she said what should she say I told her she said no that's not what my teacher said and I said look I can even teach your teacher and it was very amusing to her she laughed and laughed she said you teach my teacher so you know children have a lot of respect for teachers be your children's first teacher when you are their first teacher they respect you so we must be deliberate about it and I want to say that what the word of God says is true I keep standing on that promises anytime I see something different from what I expect from my children I go back to the Lord and I said you said train up a child in the way he should go when he's old he will not depart from it I hold your hands consigning that promise and I claim it day in day out so I want us to take that training very serious then the second thing I want to mention is the issue of naming we must not name our children arbitrary God if we seek the face of God and he gives us names for these children you will discover that as you keep praying God will keep exposing what he meant by that name and as the children grow let them know why they have that name it was surprising to me when some few weeks back we were praying with one of the children as he was having some challenges and as we prayed he prayed a prayer that shook me he was praying he said God you can't just give me this name and it will not become my life it will be a wrong thing if you say that I am this person let me be specific he said if you call me Joshua and I cannot lead my generation into something that is glorious then I am a foolish person so please Lord as my name is I must become and you know when he prayed that prayer it shook me and you won't believe it after he prayed that prayer one of the children now came to me and said so that is the meaning of his name what about my own why am I called this name and we began to talk and you know he told me for the first time he now understands why he is going through the kind of things he has been going through that he has been comparing himself with other people not knowing that his name has set him apart from the others and that this is the path he should take and that from today he is praying that the Lord will help him that his name will become what God has proposed that he should become so I just want to say that we must be careful to hear from the Lord when we are naming these children you know for us we are still growing and our children are still struggling but one thing we keep saying to them we keep encouraging them we keep talking to them and most importantly we insist that they are our friends I know you can talk very freely with your friend and it makes it easier for us to talk into their lives and like I said when in your discipleship God has given you the privilege of choosing and placing you well allow the children to be part of it because it also helps them when they know that the person you are looking onto you are hearing from is correct it helps them to follow you and they are not afraid you know many times you think the children are not watching they are watching they know where you are feeding from and after all said and done they are also coming back to feed from that source so if you are feeding from the wrong source your children will feed from the wrong source so I pray that the Lord will continue to help us that as we are living our lives we must be careful knowing that God has given us and committed into our hands source that we must carry along and if you are doing well the children will do well by the grace of God praise the Lord amen so let's quickly move on

what's the next quiet implement that we must work at now specifically work at your marriage your marriage that is your relationship between you and your wife is a very critical solvent or environment for your child to grow properly children don't have respect for scattered and tattered parents if you are the type that you are always quarreling you are nagging you are complaining you are bitter you are in nuances about your husband how he is misbehaving they know it they read it one of the things you are doing is that you are destroying your environment the children may pity you but they will not respect you they will be looking for every opportunity to find their way you may think you are doing well even if you think you are lavishing love on them you may be buying things for them to win them over you may be showing as if you care for them more than their parents but i tell you you destroy more things more goods than you are doing the children need an affirmation of the love that is constant and they try it sometimes they bump at it but what it does to them is that even if they don't know god personally he gives them a backbone children who come from sound parental love relationships they are more affirmed and they have healthy personalities when they come from homes where they are not sure when the papa will become a tiger suddenly everybody is laughing now and everything seems to be all right just when they want to settle down they are enjoying it get out of here i'm not interested and then you walk away into the room your wife said daddy i beg now please now no i told you i don't like this nonsense you know at that point something in the expectation and the heart of those children drop quietly when they go out among their mates suddenly you find them looking like like like a second class citizen you may not have money friends you may not have big names you may not be rich one thing you own your children is a heavy god a glorifying loving relationship at home it's a first critical need in their life so instead of breaking down your own home and thinking you can compensate by leveraging gift of your children that's not the way out whatever it will cost any submission you need to do even if you say you are in that marriage because of their children because of your children one of the ways to show it if you ask me is to please safeguard that environment of peace let them always have a reason to want to come home when the corrosive weathers of life hit them outside let them just come home and just sit down and watch daddy and mommy playing sports sometimes you see when they want to get annoyed and they want to go away sometimes they want to sometimes when they just look back and they see your commitment your indifference because you have something going for you you have a relationship you have a love going between you and your husband they cool down and you must not destroy that you must build it with years oh it means so much to them the children themselves they are proud of you sometimes when there are problems and you are reporting your husband to them or the husband is reporting their wife to them because they are selfish and they are finding a way to make you they may not tell you that they don't respect you but when they want to do some things in life and they just want to be themselves and you want to talk that's how you will show how much they value you so the authority of your marriage is very critical to check them if you destroy your marriage you destroy an authority and very soon like water they will escape now following that in addition to providing a growing marital relationship between your wife for them to continually see is the fact that your own personal life godliness must be the heritage you are showing and living for them the role of your conduct your own life is the first perfect testimony and audio visual like my wife said that they need so I want to beg you for your children's sake grow grow above some of the things you do even those ones you think you are doing secretly and privately one of the things that people have known over the years that children have a way of copying those things you try to hide and the ones you show them they leave that one if you watch films privately you watch pornographic films even though you don't show them they have a way of knowing it you know Jesus said for their sake I do what? I sanctify myself there are some things that may not be a problem to you any longer because you have grown you may be able to handle it there are some things when you drink you may drink alcohol and it doesn't shock you because you have mastered yourself but

for your children's sake stop it because what you are showing when it starts germinating it may not be in the same proportion with your own so one of the next critical things you need to provide for proper children upbringing is the environment of your own personal life your personal life of holiness of integrity of purity of righteousness of godliness of truth of self control those things they are like smoke if you cover them for two days you may not cover them for two years they have a way of sneaking out they have a way of smelling so that is a very critical preparation it's a very critical need in order to raise our children what is now i must mention this even though it looks apparent taking care of them physically is very critical now this has implication both for the rich and for the poor poverty is not an excuse some basic needs of your children must be met all this my parents nobody did this for me is not a very good thing god gives grace for parents to take care of their children and it's a very critical test of your christianity we're not talking about giving them all their wants basic things clothing correct food and correct food doesn't mean expensive food they eat at the right time some of us are so irresponsible sometimes we gamble you can carry money and go and put in one big project somewhere outside even if that project is ministry and then everybody is just suffering at home because of your ambition it has repercussion let the children feed well let them just have the most basic amenities school if they are going to school it doesn't have to be an expensive school most of those expensive schools these days don't have expensive characters some of them you can make it up for them in the home you can supply it by your time by your availability by making it up by supervision by diligence by encouragement make sure that they just have the textbooks the exercise books they become a priority once you start having them so any grace that you need for God to help you meet their needs please meet it now on the other side those who are rich they spoil their children they give them beyond what they need and children don't respect it they only take it for granted it takes another level of discipline and love many times expensive toys and gifts to children does not show love they actually show lack of love they actually show that your conscious is worrying you for not being available so you want to compensate by buying very expensive hand set for them genuine love is first of all yourself your time your diligence your attention your prayer after that you will see the Holy Spirit from that point showing you just the basic things no matter how rich you are you teach them to grow you teach them to handle things you didn't become all you became in one night except if I'm wrong about you you know these are days that somebody can just do one brakadabra today and tomorrow is a big man is unhonorable but life is not like that so help them giving them what they need is critical but giving them beyond what they need can be dangerous especially at their age so physically take care of them watch over them make sure that they are not deformed help them to grow heavily because the way God made them the body that God gave them the stature that God gave them is for a purpose don't allow any of them to be deformed through negligence or carelessness don't let my wife is saying I should tell you what she's telling me it's alright praise the Lord now this is critical but join to that is the fact that you need to be watchful physically we are not yet my wife has mentioned the spiritual even physically watch their environment keep an eye on them sometimes they are in your house you have a pretty 13 year old girl and you went to your village and brought your brother's junior his brother's third son to come and live with you and your brother's son many of you I pray God will not give you bad testimonies in Jesus name so they need to be sensitive to watch what is going on around them to watch their moods to see when they begin to withdraw or when they are up to something sinister it takes physical watchfulness I must not undermine that it's very critical somebody once said it doesn't matter how you defeat satan the most important thing is to defeat him if he needs common sense use common sense don't be too spiritual so you don't have common sense again praise the Lord now what is the other thing I want to round up with that is very critical is what my wife began to mention is relationship and love your children need love even to learn the truth is that even the ordinary natural Lord that you see between a mother and a child is for a purpose it is so that the children

can learn from you children learn from those whom they love who love them I have learned that a lot when I was a nursery school teacher I taught for many years one of the things I came to know and I came to discover is that if you want a child in class to excel in what you are teaching adopt that child as a parent you will suddenly discover that that child has an inner motivation to please you and to respond to reciprocate your love so even for children you must become their friends fathers no matter how busy how tall how highly placed you are you must be a friend to your children you must cultivate their friendship you must enter their world you must know their friends and if possible enter their friendship when their friends come to visit they have come to visit the family they have come to visit you enter their hobbies you see that Deuteronomy passage that my wife quoted he said when you go on the road with them when you walk God expects you to take a ride with your children go for a walk if it were possible go and play football with them like what I used to do those days when they were growing up oh my God Saturday was wonder the wall of my house I will lock the outside door my whole parlor I will bring sheets of paper paste them on the wall my wife is in charge of granotes for that day my children I distribute brushes to them paints we just look at pictures and we paint from morning till night and you know that's how all of them became artists not by profession yes they could all paint and draw and some of them choose not to do it but you know what I just wanted to do is to enter their life preempt them just let them know that you care for them let them know that you are thinking about them all of that becomes a preparation for you to instruct them for them to listen to you for them to have confidence in you and tell you their deep secrets sometimes they may struggle with it for five months six years six weeks wondering whether to tell you or not but at the end of it all they will come and tell you now that's a wonderful thing when your parents after all when your children after all said and done still single you out as their best friend praise the lord I think by the grace of God as you can see the time is up I know God will give us more time for this so I would like my wife to round up for us and pray praise the lord after all said and done just a word for my sisters I pray that the lord will continue to give us grace and I say it because I know that most times our husbands are not there but let us always be there and where they are supposed to stand may the lord grant us grace to stand for them don't ever criticize your husband and his lack of availability to your children they will use it against him and if he loses his authority over your children you are the one that will suffer for it so let's continue to give the authority over the children to our husbands so that the children can always look up to their father and like a child said I was just joking with a child I said when we call god our father what does that mean I said it's somebody you can talk to it's somebody you can play with and once I say play with I said why not he said ah my father you cannot play with him he's too serious for somebody to play with fathers play with your children and I know that one day my children said something that surprised me they said we know that our daddy is always following somebody and the way that person relates with his own children we see him play with them he takes them out but daddy is too serious sometimes so they are also watching I pray that the Lord will help us we can't say everything that we need to do in order to bring up our children properly and for us especially we are still stumbling but the grace of God is ever there whatever we can do on our knees let's do it and if we do it the Lord will not disappoint us I'm sure we all know about a woman like Susan Wesley she took time out of her busy schedule to pray for her children and to pray for them by her name she gave the Christian word Charles Wesley and John Wesley may the Lord help us to give the church children that the Lord will be proud of and our knees must always be on ground for them not just when they are babies pray them into marriages pray them into motherhood and fatherhood and we continue to pray for them as the Lord gives us breath I pray that the Lord will help us we have not said much but I know that the Holy Spirit we interpret it much more in our hearts and like we have said when we take up some of these materials and we begin to study them and study them well you know that something will break if our children become the next generation then you know that this Christianity will not

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