

Children - a Heritage of God

By Pastor Lynette Farrier



What a blessing God has bestowed on us as parents. It is a divine privilege to be chosen as God's investor on the earth, on behalf of His legacy.

Psalm 127: 3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

The Message Version reads: **Don't you see that children are God's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don't stand a chance against you; you'll sweep them right off your doorstep (Psalm 127:3-5).**

We see in the book of Genesis the formation of the solar system, the preparation of the land for habitation, and the creation of life on earth. The family is part of God's covenant with Adam and Eve. This covenant contained two profound interdependent provisions: Descendants and Dominion.

God in His infinite wisdom knew that in order for the earth to be fruitful, it will take more than two people by themselves to take dominion of it. It would require descendants and according to **Genesis 1:28, God said "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..."**

As believers, having children is a direct response to this command. Loving and caring for our children honours God. **Psalm 127: 3-5** tells us that children are called a '**heritage from the LORD.**' Our children belong to God.

As parents they are ours only in a secondary sense. Just as a man entrusts his fortune to his heirs; as parents, God give us children. He places His treasures into our hands for us to provide and care for them in a safe, loving and nurturing environment.

Proverbs 22:6 states: Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Train up...; this term gives us the idea of a parent diligently investing into a child's life: an investment of wisdom, love, discipline and nurturing, which is necessary for a child's commitment to God and society.

He has equipped us for the job. He has entrusted us with our children, and has given us the grace to perform the job. **...In the way he should go...;** here we see again the involvement of parents. The spiritual and emotional maturity of parents is important in training their children according to their children's unique personalities, gifts and purposes for their lives.

It is essential that as parents, we help our children develop the kind of riches that cannot be tabulated. These riches which come as results of a warm touch, kind words, and kind deeds will cause us parents to reap the benefits for years to come.

Our children should find affection and affirmation at home. They should be seen as a blessing from God. As parents, we need the help of God to prepare our children with a vision for their future, and that does not mean manipulation. We are to guide them into what God reveals to us to be their destiny, and not what we desire for them. This will cause us as parents to seek God in prayer for our children.

God has anointed us to raise our children in His ways. He is able to give wisdom, which we need in order to be effective parents. **James 1:5** says, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."**

Each child is different from another, and it takes the wisdom of God to teach us, as parents, how and when to administer discipline and kindness. You see, you may be able to reason with one child, but with another you may need to extend a greater command of authority.

God's Word will never fail, and it is the anointed Word of wisdom which will become effective in raising our children in the way of the Lord. As parents, we ought to bring God on the scene in bringing up godly children. In doing so, we are honouring and submitting to God and acknowledging Him as the final authority.

The wisdom of God will cause us to listen intently to His voice. He will give us clear guidance and direction. Knowledge brings information, information gives wisdom, and wisdom brings application. Knowledge without wisdom is incomplete; therefore, wisdom is very essential to carry out the task of bringing up our children.

Parents, please remember that the favour of God is with us. His hand is there to bless us; His love is there to keep us. Let us put our trust in Him.

After all, our children are His Heritage. **Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.** The Message Version says **"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track (Proverbs 3:5-6)."** Do not lean to your own understanding, God will give us wisdom as we walk in faith.

We are the vessels God has chosen to labour with Him in forming the character of the next generation. It will be our standards that will mould our generation and those to come. We must do it with dignity and integrity.

Wherever our children go, they represent us. They are our seed and our destiny. We may never be known to the world, but the possibility exists that our children might be. Our children are our arrows; we ought to shoot them in the right direction.

We need to sharpen them with all that we have. Let it never be said that we failed to raise our bows. We shall stand tall, raise our bows and shoot. Point them towards Heaven; they will surely land amongst the stars. Parents, this is our calling.

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotes are from the New King James Version (NKJV)