

# **7 Ways to Give Your Child His/Her Own Faith**

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## **Introduction**

- i. Having one's own faith is essential!
    - a. "Without FAITH it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).
    - b. Each person, including my child, must have his own faith to please God.
  - ii. Having one's own faith is valuable!
    - a. "This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4).
    - b. When a child leaves home, the parent's faith will not help him overcome the world.
  - iii. Having one's own faith is the only way to slow the apostasy rate among today's youth!
    - a. By most estimations, more than 50% are losing their faith when they leave home.
    - b. While multiple reasons exist, the fundamental truth is that they do not have their own faith.
    - c. It is possible for an entire generation to be raised who does not know the Lord (Judg. 2:10).
  - iv. Having one's own faith is the only way to make it to heaven!
- 1. Have and Build Your Own Faith First!**
    - a. One cannot impart or share that which he does not have himself!
    - b. Spend time reading the Word of God (Deut. 31:10-12; Eph. 3:3-4; Rev. 1:3).
    - c. Spend time meditating upon the Word of God (Psa. 1:2; 119:97, 148; 1 Tim. 4:15).
    - d. Spend time studying the Word of God with diligence (2 Tim. 2:15).
    - e. Spend time praying fervently to God (Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:21; Jas. 5:16).
    - f. Even so, let your child see you reading, meditating, studying and praying.
  - 2. Live a Life of Faith Before Your Child!**
    - a. Your child should see Christ living in you (Gal. 2:20).
    - b. Your child should see the church first in your life (Matt. 6:33).
    - c. Your child should see you doing good works for the Lord (Matt. 5:12; Eph. 2:10).
    - d. Your child should see you engaged in evangelistic efforts (Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 2:2).
    - e. Your child is less likely to walk where they have not first seen you walk.
  - 3. Teach Them Diligently!**
    - a. Faith comes from the source of faith (Rom 1:17; 10:17). Use the Bible to teach.
    - b. Start early. You cannot start too early. Timothy was taught from infancy (2 Tim. 3:14-15).
    - c. Teach your child to love God (Deut. 6:4-9; Matt. 22:36-37).
    - d. Teach your child to love the Bible (Psa. 119:97, 127, 159, 167).
    - e. Teach your child to love doing right (Heb. 1:9; Psa. 119:104; John 8:29).
    - f. Teach your child to love the church (Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27; Eph. 5:25).
  - 4. Talk about God, Jesus, the Bible, the Church, Righteousness in Everyday Conversations!**
    - a. Sitting down with a Bible and having a Bible study together is essential.
    - b. However, that should not be the only time that these matters are included in our conversations.
      - (1) "...When you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:7).
      - (2) "God was so happy with you today when you..." "Jesus dealt with that same thing one time."
    - c. Biblical and spiritual matters should not require a special occasion or conversation to come up.
    - d. They should be an integral part of our homes, our families, our hearts and our goals.
  - 5. Give Evidence for the Existence of God, the Inspiration of the Bible and the Deity of Jesus!**
    - a. Our culture and our schools are bent on destroying faith; we must be tenacious in creating it!
    - b. From infancy, your child should learn that "God made dogs, duck and dinosaurs."
    - c. As years progress, your child should learn to see design and know God is the Designer.
    - d. Show evidences of Bible's inspiration (factual accuracy, prophecy, scientific foreknowledge, etc.).
    - e. Establish the historicity, deity and Messiahship of Jesus. He is our Savior, Lord and King!
  - 6. Create a Respect for God and His Word, a Love for the Church, and a Joy for Serving!**
    - a. Too many children have no respect for authority – parents, teachers, police, God, etc.
      - (1) Thus, we are seeing the consequences in rebellious and self-centered behaviors.

## **Heaven's Home-Improvement Workshop**

*16<sup>th</sup> Annual South Florida Lectureship*

*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

- (2) A verse to memorize: "Fear God and keep His commandments..." (Ecc. 12:13).
- (3) Jesus said, "The word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).
- b. Children should never think of the church as drudgery or some obligatory inconvenience.
  - (1) The attitudes and words of parents will determine a child's view of the church.
  - (2) Create a heart in your child that says, "I was glad when they said..." (Psa. 122:1).
  - (3) The church should grow to be as precious to your child as it was/is to Jesus (Eph. 5:25).
  - (4) A child, a parent and every Christian need to move from "I have to" to "I get to."
- c. Children should grow up experiencing the joy of serving the Lord and helping others.
  - (1) "Let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).
  - (2) The heart of your child needs to sing, "I want to be a worker for the Lord!"

### **7. Make It a Daily Priority to Pray Together!**

- a. True prayer expresses and demonstrates one's real dependence on our Father.
- b. Through your example, your child should learn to pray about everything (Phil. 4:6-7).
- c. Through humble prayer, your child should learn to say to God, "Not my will but Yours" (Jas. 4:15).
- d. Pray: "God, please help us make good decisions. Please help us to be leaders and help others to do right."
- e. Make sure your prayers and their prayers are saturated with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:18).
- f. Children need to know that God is always listening to them (1 Pet. 3:12; 1 John 5:14-15; Jas. 4:2).

### **Conclusion**

- i. Having one's own faith is essential, valuable and the only way for our children to make it to heaven!
- ii. May God help us to build faith in their hearts diligently, early, joyfully, prayerfully and continuously!
- iii. Let us remember: "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psa. 127:1).