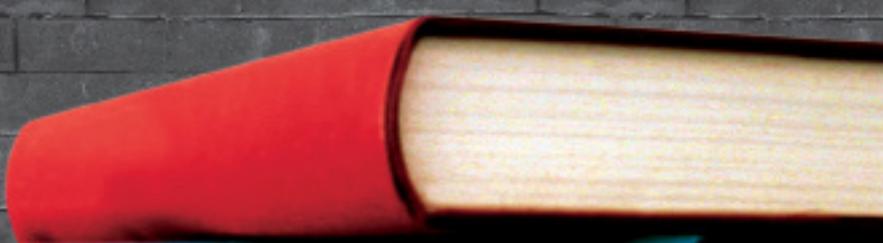




Seven Things
Every Child
Must Know



Peter Doseck

SEVEN THINGS EVERY CHILD MUST KNOW

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by Peter Doseck

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SEVEN THINGS EVERY CHILD MUST KNOW

I dedicate this book to all the
godly children in my church
that I have watched over the years
as they have been raised
by dedicated parents.

CHAPTER ONE
THE DIVINE CALL

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Jesus knew that people invest in what they value.

Think of your first car, men. You wore your arms out shining every inch of the exterior and wiping every dust speck from the interior. Two years later, though, you couldn't be bothered to pay a few dollars for a car wash. Why? Because it lost its heart value in your life.

A car can lose its value, but people never should, especially children. Our children should rest easy, knowing they are the greatest treasures in our lives. After all, only God can open the womb, only He can give life, and only He can make us good parents.

Good parenting begins with understanding the trust God placed in us, a trust wherein He lends us children to raise in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, only to be given back to Him in due season. In my estimation, parenting is a divine call that comes with a divine equipping that empowers us to raise our children to be disciples of Jesus, productive citizens, and blessed family contributors.

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Surely, if our children are our greatest treasure, it seems we ought to put our greatest effort into raising them. We must nurture our children, teach them, and give them the time and attention they deserve. It's time for us to embrace our divine call to be parents, and to do what God expects us to do.

Make Disciples

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, "Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." A follower is an imitator, one who acts the same as another.

Your children are following you, and like it or not they are imitating you. The question is, what kind of example are you giving them? Are you teaching them the Word of God and instructing them in the faith? Or are you teaching them to depend on themselves as you unconsciously depend on yourself?

Children today are the disciples of tomorrow. As parents, we must engraft our faith in our children as Christ engrafted His faith in us, and as Paul engrafted his faith in those who followed his example.

Paul showed us how to disciple our children when he said: "Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

You must teach, so that your children can learn. You must give, so that they can receive. You must speak, so that they can hear. You must do, so that they can see. When they

learn, receive, hear, and see, then they will do as you do.

The truth is, if you are not making a disciple, you are making a rebel. You can't afford to let your kids raise themselves, or you will launch rebellious takers into the world instead of giving disciples.

Teach faith, give faith encouragement, speak faith words, and do acts of faith so that your children will learn, receive, hear, see, and follow you as you follow Christ.

Bend the Bow

Psalm 127:3-5 says: "Lo, children are the heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Your children will be the light of the world in their generation, which is why you must help them develop their personalities and "bend" them the right way - the same way you would bend a bow to make an arrow fly straight.

Every child has strengths which can be shaped and molded, and every child has weaknesses which must be controlled. Parents are expected to apply the right discipline and training to increase the strengths and diminish the weaknesses.

Here's an example. In society today people like to talk about raising a strong-willed child,

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what our parents called a stubborn child. Book after book has been written about it, but let me tell you what the Bible teaches. When a child repeatedly refuses to listen to you, no matter what society may say, it is nothing less than rebellion.

I know people don't want to hear this, but it's true. Rebellion must be corrected, not tolerated or made worse by giving into it. It cannot be ignored, but it must be disciplined and set in order.

Never give up! No matter how tough the cookie is, it will crumble if you keep applying pressure to it. You don't want to pulverize the cookie, just reshape it, which is why Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Be firm and consistent, but also be kind. If you remain steadfast and patient, you will find that God will help you bend the bow, even when you are weak and uncertain, and He will give you wisdom if you will ask (James 1:5-7).

With some children rebellion goes much deeper than with others, and it must be dealt with in a direct manner. There is an answer for outright rebellion, and we find it in Proverbs 23:13-14 which says: "Withhold not correction from the child: for if you beat him with the rod, he shall not die. You shall beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell."

I believe a child abuser should be thrown in jail and never again see the light of day, but

I also believe we must adhere to the Word of God. So, there is a balance.

A spanking should not draw blood, form bruises, or damage a child's body. What it should do is sting just enough to get the point across and prove to the child that there is something called sowing and reaping. If you sow rebellion, you will reap a warm bottom; not a broken bottom, but a warm one nonetheless.

God provided the perfect place for a spanking, and it comes with its own padding and protection. Use wisdom, discipline your child in love, and know when enough is enough.

Train Them

Training a child is a multi-faceted job. First, you must help your children develop their own personal faith. They cannot live off of your faith forever, because eventually, they will have to stand toe to toe with the devil on their own. The sooner you begin to teach and train them, the better off they will be.

You also need to work hard to mold your child's character and moral integrity. Make sure they know how to make good decisions in bad places. Train them to watch carefully, pray fervently, and call for help if they need it. If peer pressure rises up, your children should have enough confidence in God, themselves, and you to know it's okay to say, "No!", and call home for a rescue.

Proverbs 22:6 says: "Train up a child in

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the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." When you help your children discover who God made them to be, when they get older they will remain in the light of that discovery.

Show your children how God used certain gifts and callings in the Bible, and help them identify their own gifts and calling. Once you make your discovery together, help your children use their gifts whenever the opportunity arises.

While you are busy training your children, be sure you take the time to enjoy life together because Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Keep laughter alive in your family, and you will reap great rewards.

Be a Mentor

"My children are raised, and I am all done", you may say with a smile on your face, but I have news for you: it isn't over yet - not even close. Your job as a parent will not end until you leave the earth. Until that time, you have much to do.

Your children should be connected to you for life as a mentor. Are they supposed to leave the nest? Absolutely. Are they supposed to leave father and mother and cling to their spouse? You bet! But, they should always feel a connection to you as a parent and a grandparent for the purpose of giving wise counsel.

Until they have their own grey hair, they

must live by yours. They will increase in their own understanding, create their own authoritative structure, and live by their own standards, but they should also rest in the confidence that they have open access to your wise reservoirs.

You don't necessarily bail them out when storms arise, but you do give them an oar of wisdom and a bucket to help them do what needs to be done in each situation.

Why do our children have to run out of gas before they realize "E" means empty? Wouldn't it be better to cultivate a relationship where our advice would be heard and heeded? It would be far better for them to feel free to live off of our grey hair than to have to wait for their own to take root, so we all need to work on our relationships with our adult children so that we may offer them the wisdom that comes from experience.

God is in the generation business. He called Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was not just the God of a man, but the God of a family structure.

If you study the Old Testament you will notice that every time Israel was in trouble it was because one generation failed to pass their faith on to the next. A king would live right, and Israel would prosper, but along would come his son to take the throne, and everything would fall apart because the father never taught the son to walk in God's ways.

Don't let your lineage fail. Don't let them walk away from the faith. Stay connected with them all of your life, and continue to teach

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them the ways of the Lord.

Grandchildren!

Parenting may feel like a never-ending job, but then the grandchildren are born, hallelujah! Finally, some pleasure in life.

As a grandparent, you can be a wonderful role model, an excellent teacher, and a wise counselor for your grandkids. Your grandchildren will only be babies for a little while, but your impact can last a lifetime if you will cultivate a relationship with each grandchild that gives you an open door to express your opinion when needed, to offer advice when wanted, and to be a listening ear when mom and dad “just don’t understand”.

You never want to undermine the parenting of your children, but you do want to be there to give counsel and instruction when the opportunity arises. Keep your door open, and make your grandkids a part of your daily life as much as you can. They need you, and your children need you. They may not know it yet, but they need you!

In 2 Timothy 1:5 we read about Timothy’s mother and grandmother, who are credited with having instructed him in the faith. The verse says: “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in you also.”

Timothy’s faith did not come by osmosis, and it did not come by occasional observation. His mother and grandmother put it in him

deliberately.

We see the fruit of their labor described in 2 Timothy 3:14-15 which says: "But continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them; and that from a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

I teach my grandchildren the way of faith at every opportunity. I see the gifts God has placed in them, and I do my best to train, encourage, and bend them in the way they should go. They still must choose to follow God, but I will do everything in my power to equip them to make a good choice when one arises.

You can be a godly grandparent, and you can make an impact in the lives of your precious grandkids.

CHAPTER TWO

A SURE FOUNDATION

I believe there are seven things children must know before they leave home. These seven things are essential foundations for life, and they give children the best possible start in the demanding world of adulthood.

All seven should be based on a personal experience with Jesus Christ with fruits that follow, because your children will be unable to progress successfully beyond their relationship with Him. All that you teach them about life, all of the important information and revelation you are waiting to pour into them should always come from this one starting point.

Your children should know that if they say they are a Christian, then they ought to live like one. Don't let them be hypocrites and say one thing while they do another. You need to teach your children to live the truth, speak the truth, and act on the truth, for there is no greater advice to give than this.

In short, the seven things your children must know before they launch out into the world are: to depend wholly on the authority of the Word of God, to understand the rewards of obedience and disobedience, to live a life of sacrifice, to stay committed, to find and

maintain good relationships, to respect and honor themselves and others, and to maintain financial responsibility.

If you will teach all seven, your children will leave home equipped to serve Jesus as willing, obedient, and successful disciples, and one day they will rise up and called you blessed for it.

The Word is Absolute

The first block of a sure foundation for your children is to teach them to depend on the Word of God. If the Word says something is right, then you teach your kids that it's right. If the Word says it's wrong, then you teach your kids to stay away from it because it's wrong. No matter what the world tells them, you make sure they depend on the absolute authority of the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Word of God is His voice, His breath of life. That's what the word inspiration means: "divinely breathed in." It's not just that God stirred men to write something nice, but that He breathed into them the very words He desires to speak to you and your children.

God's Word is His connection, His instruction, His doctrine, His leading, His purpose, and His design for your family.

Romans 10:17 says: "So then faith comes

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by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Without the Word, your children will have no faith, and without faith, they cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Begin teaching the Word to your kids today, even if they are babies. Explain the Bible in bite-sized chunks they can digest, and you will begin to establish moral soundness in your kids.

They need a moral compass to make it in this corrupt world, and you are called by God to be their chief instructor – not your children’s pastor or Sunday school teacher. You be the one to carry the load, and God will help you.

The Word is so important to God, but it will only be as important to your kids as it is to you. You have to instruct your children, but more importantly you have to show them through your actions that the Word is what you live by.

Do what the Word says, and teach your kids that the Word is to be their final authority. When you instruct them in sound doctrine, you set them up for abundant life today and success for a lifetime.

Willing and Obedient

Equally as important as teaching your kids to honor the Word of God is teaching them about the rewards of obedience and disobedience, for surely to know the Word is not enough; obedience is the key that will unlock its treasures.

Isaiah 1:19-20 says: “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but

if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.”

Your child will be a disciple of something. He will be a disciple of obedience and faith based on your instruction, or he will be a disciple of disobedience and faithlessness based on your lack of instruction.

Correction, discipline, and punishment for sin will cause your child to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only, protecting the glory of God in your family, and creating an understanding in him that obedience and disobedience both have consequences.

A disciplined child will be prepared for the storms of life. He will adhere to God despite the trouble around him. He will be an example in word and deed, and he will be an arrow that finds its mark.

I used to call my daughter to my bedside when she was young, and I would say, “Listen to me. You love righteousness more than sin, and remember whose child you are because you represent me to the world. Don’t make me ashamed.”

Though it was tough to say to a little girl, I had to say it, and it worked. I am so proud of my daughter. She has grown to be a godly woman, an example in our family and in our church, and she is raising godly children who will fly right as a result of her discipline and instruction.

Proverbs 22:15 says: “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” Do you want your child to be a fool? Do you want him to believe

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there is no God? If he believes this way, he will think he can do what he wants, when he wants, and how he wants. This is dangerous, but the rod of correction will drive it from him.

Children who never face punishment or correction have no understanding of the consequences of sin. They cannot grasp the idea that if they do something, they will receive a reward for it, whether for good or for evil. You must instruct and correct them in order for them to get the picture.

If you let your child go because of a soft heart, or because you can't bear the crying, when you send him forth into the world, they will view him as a Christian, and they will be deceived by the very one that you sent out cloaked as a disciple.

Do not let this happen. Train, correct, discipline, and disciple your child. The world will be better for it.

CHAPTER THREE

HELP THEM SUCCEED

Do you want your children to succeed? Teach them that life is not just about getting what they want. If you raise them to be takers, they will be useless in life, so you must show them how to live a sacrificial life.

In Mark 8:35-36 Jesus said: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

You must raise children who are taught, and who by example see the riches of sacrifice in your life. Do you give to the poor? Do you tithe and give offerings? Are you hospitable, opening your home to those who need a comforting hand?

If you do, your children will grow up sharing, and they will be willing to sacrifice their own interests that Christ may be glorified.

Would it be worth the loss of the comfort in your life if somebody came to Christ through you? Certainly, it would. Let your children see you do good works, and let them participate in the process.

A family outing to serve food at a homeless shelter can work wonders to open your child's

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eyes to the abundance you have at home. Serving someone who has less than they have will do more to instill thankfulness in them than a thousand lectures by you.

Offer your children opportunities to give. Don't give for them, but ask them what they would like to give to someone else. You may be surprised at the result.

Sacrifice is also about laying down today's desires for tomorrow's treasures. This is where you teach the principle of sowing and reaping.

The kingdom of God functions by giving and receiving, and by sowing and reaping. We sow today, and we reap at some future date; maybe not tomorrow, and maybe not for years.

This is not an easy thing to teach children, to sow for a harvest they may not see right away, but if they can learn the principle now, they will be far better off when they encounter delays as adults.

There are even times to teach them to give without expecting to receive. We do this when we give to the poor, or when we give our time in intercessory prayer for others. To understand that God gives abundance when we freely give is an important thing for your children to know, but to teach them to give just because they love God is even better.

Commitment

James 1:5-8 says: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

There is only one thing which counteracts double-mindedness, and that is commitment. Don't let your children start something, get double-minded, and then go off and do something else. Teach them to stay the course.

Anybody can be a team player as long as they are winning, but everybody wants to quit the team when they are losing. That's a lack of commitment. Don't let your children fall into this trap. Make them finish what they start even if it looks like they will lose in the end. It's not about winning or losing, but about developing character for a lifetime.

Teach them to keep their word when they make a promise. This life skill is necessary in school, sports, relationships, marriage, financial matters, work, and of course in faith. As they grow, they will need more and more commitment in more and more areas of life.

When you instill commitment, you teach them to be steadfast no matter what they put their hands to. In other words, don't raise quitters.

Ephesians 6:10 says: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” And Ephesians 6:13 says: “Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Your children will never be able to “be

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strong in the Lord” or “having done all, to stand” unless they have been taught how to stay committed.

Teach your children to be dedicated to do right because they are devoted to God. Teach them to live the Word because they are faithful to Him. Teach them to stand fast because they are committed to live the life of a true believer, no matter what comes against them.

You’ve got to help them break the bad habit of giving up when the going gets tough. If you do, when they are grown and face turmoil and tribulation, they will be able to stand strong.

Teach your children how to handle pressure and persecution by heeding this word: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Help your child to understand that they should stay faithful to God, not just for their own benefit, but for the benefit of others. They should remain committed so that they never break your heart, or the heart of their spouse or child; so that they do not blemish your faith, nor the faith of the generation to come; so that they never discourage anyone from living for God, but encourage others to stay committed with them.

Commitment will help your children protect their minds, their confession, and their acts of faith; which leads me to your part of the equation. Do not let your child commit to

something unless you are willing to commit to it also. Don't punish them for quitting one time, and then the next time you decide to let them quit because it is more convenient for you.

If you can't stay the course, taking your child to piano lessons once a week, and enduring their practice sessions for 30 minutes a day, don't sign them up. You must live as a good example, helping your children succeed rather than hindering their efforts by letting them take the easy way out on the days when you are tired.

Your children must be taught, but they must also be mentored, meaning you have to set an example in word and in deed. If you make promises, and then break them when it is inconvenient, so will your children. If you manipulate people or lie to them when you fail to show up somewhere when you said you would be there, so will your children.

Keep your word even when it hurts, and you will teach your children the rewards and responsibilities of commitment.

In teaching them commitment, you also need to teach them how to resist temptation. How can you stay devoted to your spouse if you can't say no to temptation? You can't. People who commit adultery are double-minded. They cannot stay faithful, and so they give in to every wind of temptation that blows by.

When you break a covenant it is because you view yourself as the only important person in life. Commitment to self is sin. It is a manifestation of the lust of the flesh, the

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lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). This is why you must instill the value of commitment to others in your children.

CHAPTER FOUR

RELATIONSHIPS

I believe every child should be taught how to find and maintain good relationships. Friends are important, but you have to teach your children the difference between good ones and bad ones.

You need to teach your children how to recognize good character so that when they spend time with friends, and eventually with a boyfriend or girlfriend, they will not be influenced in a bad way. Teach them how to recognize what is behind the person they want to connect with. They need to know them by their inward fruit, not by their outward traits.

1 Corinthians 15:33 says: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." If you allow your children to run around with friends who dispute their faith or who live corrupt lifestyles, you will be raising them for a future overthrow. Eventually, the voice of the friends will outweigh your voice, and your child will go astray.

It's all about the seed principle. If you get enough seeds under anything, it will crack. Don't let your child be seeded by people who do not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Monitor their relationships, and don't forget to examine the adults behind the child friends.

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Helping your children learn to cultivate good friendships is vitally important, but be careful that you don't raise a loner because you went overboard to protect them. If you believe a child is a good friend, but the parents are not a good influence, then invite the friend to your house instead of allowing your child to go over there. Make your house the one everybody wants to come to.

Proverbs 27:17 says: "Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Good, godly friends can help your child stay focused on what is right. Good friends can challenge your children to do right when wrong is knocking on the door.

Teach your children how to pray for their friends, and how to be the one who influences others instead of the one who follows. Show your children how to stand up for what is right; not with manipulation or a demanding spirit, but with a spirit of holiness that is unafraid to say, "No."

Teach your children to be a good friend. This is not a natural trait in most kids. Sharing their best things can be difficult for some children, and opening their space to someone new can be intimidating, but if you will teach your children how to be friendly and share, it will help them tremendously in every area of life.

Teach them to treat their friends the way they want to be treated. Show them how to be a good listener, and one who is not afraid to give advice. Train them to give to their friends, even when they do not get anything in return.

Good friends can be a safe-haven when sin is all around a young person. Help your child show himself friendly so that good friends are never far away, and he will benefit for life.

Respect and Honor

You need to teach your children respect and honor for themselves and for others. I believe a lack of respect is the number one reason moral decay runs rampant in the world today, and even in the church.

Some may wonder why I would say you need to teach your children to respect themselves. We often think of this as egotism, but what I am talking about is a healthy self-respect, one that will allow your children to say "No" when sin comes knocking at the door.

Children who lack self-esteem will give in to peer pressure, even though they don't want to sin. You need to raise your children to believe they are valuable to you and to God. When they believe this about themselves, they will be more likely to maintain a healthy self-respect among their peers.

The next step in teaching respect is to teach your children to honor you. Ephesians 6:1-3 says: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth."

You are the parent, not the best friend. Do not compromise your standing by allowing your children to treat you like a friend. Friendship

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can come later when they are adults, but while they are still living under your roof they should have a healthy respect for you as the parent.

Treat your children like children. Make rules, and make them abide by the rules. Set curfew, and make them keep it. Create boundaries, and though they may complain about it daily, in the end they will appreciate you for protecting them from their childish desires.

You also need to teach your children to respect and honor others enough to care about their eternity as well as their daily outcome. Children do not fully understand the concept of eternity when they are young, but you need to remind them of it anyway. Talk about where people will spend eternity, and why it is so important to protect them and treat them well.

Children should never regard people as disposable, as easy come, easy go. Teach them to value the gifts and talents of others, and train them to speak well of people.

Do not allow your children to manipulate or demand things from other children, or from adults. Sometimes people think it is cute when a child leads an adult by the hand and demands something of them, but this is a form of disrespect. Don't let a seed of manipulation develop, or someday it will become a fully grown plant that will come back to bite you when they are older.

And be sure you don't ever let your kids think they are better than someone else. Teach them to thank the waitress and the janitor, because someday that may be their job.

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Most importantly, teach them that every human being has worth because Jesus died for all of us equally.

CHAPTER FIVE
MONEY WISE

Finally, you need to teach your children about financial responsibility. The first and foremost concept they need to grasp is found in Proverbs 3:9-10 which says: "Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine."

To honor God with their substance, your children need to be taught to tithe. You do this by word and by deed. Let your children see you set aside the first 10% of your income, and teach them to do the same.

Show them the importance of giving offerings above the tithe, and of giving to the poor. Children will mimic you, so let them know what you are doing.

Children should also be taught to honor those who minister to them spiritually. 1 Corinthians 9:8-12 tells us that the man or woman who sows spiritual things in us should be free to expect to reap of our natural things.

Financial responsibility is a divine exchange. We can limit God by failing to tithe, by failing to give offerings, by failing to give to the poor, and by dishonoring the spiritual caretakers

that God has given us in our lives. Teach your children to show honor and respect for those who give to them spiritually by sharing with them financially.

The second part of teaching financial responsibility is to teach your children to live within their means. Romans 13:8 says: "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loves another has fulfilled the law."

Children should be taught to avoid being indebted beyond the covenants they can keep. It's not wrong to borrow money, but it is wrong to borrow more than you can repay, and it is sin to sign a contract knowing you cannot make the payments.

We owe others temporarily in the course of life. Just ask the electric company. They give you electricity, and then at the end of the month they bill you for it.

It's the same with a mortgage payment or a car payment. As long as you keep the contract you signed and make your payments on time, you don't owe them. But if you break the contract and fail to pay, then you truly do owe them.

Financial problems result in not only poverty, but in divorce, sickness, poor living conditions, and lack of self-respect. Don't let your children make bad financial decisions, but train them to know how to manage what God has given them so that He can continue to bless them all throughout their lives.

Conclusion

Parenting is a divine call. God has entrusted us with the greatest treasures in the world in the form of our precious children, and no parent should ever hold this calling in higher esteem than a believer.

As a Christian, I urge you to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Plant seeds in them to day so that if they ever face an uncertain future, or if they ever forsake the faith, the things you are sowing in them now will rise up and take root when they need them.

Even if you discovered these principles late in life, don't stop trying to be a good parent. If your kids have left home already, you can still make an impact on their lives.

It doesn't matter if they are saved or unsaved; never let them go. Draw them back. Pray for them, knowing God has given you a promise that if you will believe, you and your household will be saved (Acts 11:14). Don't ever give up! God is faithful.