

For the Love of the Family Ministries™  
Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family  
For the Love of the Family™ Series  
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## Rearing Spiritual Children

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**Ephesians 6:4, 10-18** *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Put on the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Stand therefore, having your loins girded with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all taking, the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with an earnest supplication in the Lord, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

If you have a child, they will be reared somehow, some way. The desire we should have is that we rear spiritual children who have a heart's desire to love and serve the Lord. There is a difference. By way of review from our last message, we saw that not only does God tell us that we can rear spiritual children, **He expects us to. Then the question is why are we failing so miserably?** The children are not growing up to love and serve the Lord.

**Psalms 127:3** *Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* Children are a gift from God for safekeeping. That is what this word heritage is about. I said last time it is not my purpose to criticize anyone. God knows my heart. I want to help. All I can tell you is what the Bible teaches. The Bible says, "God has given us children for an heritage, safekeeping for Him."

We also saw last time that God has given the responsibility to fathers. **Ephesians 6:4**  
**And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

Proverbs is a book about a father instructing his children in loving and living for God. One of the purposes of Proverbs is to tell us how to rear spiritual children. Last time we talked about **Proverbs 22:6** **Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old (leaves the house) he will not depart.** I have heard many interpretations of this verse and unfortunately most of those interpretations try to explain away the teaching of the verse. I believe this is a real spiritual problem for many Christians today. I want you to notice the phrase in the verse "in the way". The failure in our contemporary society to see real spiritual truth is clouded by what the devil wants to do in our life. Proverbs 14:12 watch very closely the phrase in this verse. **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.** Folks, by our sin nature we desire to go our own way. **Jeremiah 17:9** tells us **the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?** Our old nature is a clone of Satan's nature. **Proverbs 14:14** **the backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways.** There are many passages of Scripture that tell us we desire to go our own way. Judges 17:6, Psalm 81:12, Proverbs 3:5,7, 12:15, 23:4, 28:26, Isaiah 5:21, Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 13:5, Philippians 2:21, I Timothy 3:2, Jude 16, etc.

Folks, that is our problem and our children's problem. We desire to go our own way, not God's way. I am convinced that many Christians are failing miserably in their relationship with God because they do not understand this principle, therefore, they try to explain away Proverbs 22:6b because they want to live their own way. When our children are not trained to understand their old nature and how to have a relationship with God then we have miserable results we have today. Most of our churches are filled with active families who do not understand what it means to have a relationship with God. Our children must be trained to understand what renewing the mind is about (Romans 12:1-2).

The book of James explains where we are and we are blinded spiritually by our lusts. In essence the desire to have life our own way. **James 4:1-4** **From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.** **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

This desire to have and go our own way comes from our own lust. **James 1:14** **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** Our old nature, the clone of Satan that dwells in us, desires to have its own way. Do you realize the Bible tells us that each of us have our own special lusts? They may be a little different from the next guy but they are all rooted in going our own way. The Bible calls them the **desires of the mind** in Ephesians 2:3. They are created by the **way we think**. Folks, all of us are born with certain natural desires like food, water, air etc. Most of the rest of the things we desire are learned from our surroundings. They have been nurtured, taught from the earliest stages of our life. We learn from our family, culture, and peers to desire certain things as we grow older. Example: a baby comes out of the womb hungry, but he

doesn't come out of the womb for an innate desire for reason Ephesians 6:4 tells us to bring our children **the Lord**. We will nurture God's way or we will nurture them our way. This is the real problem today. Many people because they do not truly understand their own relationship convey the teaching of the verse to their children.

**Train up a child in the way he should go.** What way is that? God's way is the aspect of the Christian understanding his old nature wants to go his own way not God's way. Folks, you and I can try to make the old nature religious, and put a pretty face on it but it does not work. This must be done God's way and that is about training the child not to go his own way but trained in having a real spiritual relationship with God. Much of what is going on today in the church is deceptive because many Christians are deceived about their relationship to God. Therefore, they cannot rear and train their children for God because they have never learned how not to go **their own way**. Unfortunately, many pastors are in this category as well and they are leading their people in this. When their children do not grow up to serve God, they are perplexed and want to explain away Proverbs 22:6 because it is not the experience of their life. Rightfully so, because they are going their own way. **Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."** This verse is written to Christians. So, it is possible for folk to be deceived about their spiritual relationship with God. Why, because they want to go their own way. They are following their old nature. Our old nature is wicked and vile. We cannot trust it and we can never let our guard down. We are told in the Bible to mortify the flesh and we have to train our children to spiritually do so.

or rock music! Folks, that is the **nurture and admonition of**

Proverbs 22:6 tells us to bring our children up in the way of the Lord. We will nurture God's way or we will nurture them our way. This is the real problem today. Many people because they do not truly understand their own relationship convey the teaching of the verse to their children. **Train up a child in the way he should go.** What way is that? God's way is the aspect of the Christian understanding his old nature wants to go his own way not God's way. Folks, you and I can try to make the old nature religious, and put a pretty face on it but it does not work. This must be done God's way and that is about training the child not to go his own way but trained in having a real spiritual relationship with God. Much of what is going on today in the church is deceptive because many Christians are deceived about their relationship to God. Therefore, they cannot rear and train their children for God because they have never learned how not to go **their own way**. Unfortunately, many pastors are in this category as well and they are leading their people in this. When their children do not grow up to serve God, they are perplexed and want to explain away Proverbs 22:6 because it is not the experience of their life. Rightfully so, because they are going their own way. **Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."** This verse is written to Christians. So, it is possible for folk to be deceived about their spiritual relationship with God. Why, because they want to go their own way. They are following their old nature. Our old nature is wicked and vile. We cannot trust it and we can never let our guard down. We are told in the Bible to mortify the flesh and we have to train our children to spiritually do so.

So, dad must have a real spiritual relationship with nature want to go his own way. The old nature is James again explains this. Satan's sin was one of Our old nature wants us to be independent of God. would be in this category. Therefore, surely our change that. James 4:6-10 "But he giveth more grace the proud but giveth more grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners: and purify your hearts ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

h God. How does he have it? The old very powerful in our life. The book of pride and independence from God. Keep in mind that most Christians children will be as well if we do not ce, Wherefore he saith, God resisteth Submit yourselves therefore to God, nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to our hearts ye double minded. Be turned into mourning, and your joy to ifty you up."

Folks, the first place to start in having a relationship of usefulness starts with repentance. The place of is one of pride, rebellion, and independence. The with God and render you useless for service to your relationship with God means we humble ourselves before Him. We come to the place of submitting our pride, our arrogance, our rebellion, and our self-will to Him. True humility means to be willing to repent and forsake our sins and put ourselves under the hand of our Lord. Most Christians are seeking to live the Christian life in self-effort. Therefore we fail, because we do not understand the place of humility and utter dependence upon God. Then and only then will we have a true relationship with Him. Then and only then will we start to understand what Proverbs 22:6 is about. Someone child that lived for God and one child ent this just recently in a family. Three of the children are not living for God and one is I have talked to the parents and the children. The parents did not have a clue of what it meant to have a spiritual

relationship with God is to understand the place usefulness is humility. The old nature devil's goal is to break your fellowship redeemer, Jesus Christ. To have a and our self-will to Him. True our sins and put ourselves under the live the Christian life in self-effort. Therefore we fail, because we do not understand the place of humility and utter have a true relationship with Him. Proverbs 22:6 is about. Someone child that lived for God and one child ent this just recently in a family. Three I have talked to the parents and the children. The parents did not have a clue of what it meant to have a spiritual



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