

“Raising Kids To Serve God”

Psalm 127

August 20, 2017

“I can still remember reading Howard Taylor’s moving biography of his father, James Hudson Taylor, early missionary to inland China. Howard’s impressions of the importance of God, his earliest convictions, were first formed as he witnessed his dad’s devotion. The same with Corrie Ten Boom. It was from “Papa Ten Boom” she received her first and deepest realizations that God mattered...that He was worth her trust. Truth is more permanently transferred from a parent’s life than his lips. Modeling the truth far outweighs preaching it to the young.”
Chuck R. Swindoll

I) Surround Their Lives With Prayer: (vs. 1-2)

- A) God will do nothing on earth except in answer to a believing prayer.
John Wesley
- B) A recent survey found that 76% of Americans say they pray, and more than 50% pray every day.

II) Bless Their Lives With Praise: (vs. 3)

- A) “Not one of our children has given us any pleasure. God knows we did our best, but we were failures as parents and they are failures as people.”
Ann Landers
- B) Tell them you love them...
Tell them you believe they are God’s gift to you...
- C) Be careful how you speak to your children. You can speak words of life or death to them in one short phrase.
(Prov. 18:21)

III) Shape Their Lives With Purpose: (vs. 4-5)

- A) A warrior sharpens his arrows and straightens them to make them effective. In the same way children must be disciplined and taught.
(Prov. 13:24)
- B) As a warrior aims his arrows, so a parent instills vision, hope, and faith.
(Prov. 22:6)
- C) As a warrior bends the bow and releases the arrow, every parent needs to learn to let go.
- D) As the warrior intends to hit the target, a parent should anticipate and encourage success.