



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## THE IMPACT OF A GODLY PARENT

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Timothy 1:1-5 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 6:4-7 | Psalm 34:10

Proverbs 13:24; 29:17; 31:27 | Matthew 14:23 | John 15:12-13 | Romans 12:12 | Galatians 5:13; 6:9-10

Ephesians 4:1-3; 32 | 2 Timothy 1:7; 3:15-17

### SUMMARY:

**Parents have tremendous influence on the happiness and success of their children.**

A son or daughter without a firm spiritual foundation will find the transition to healthy, balanced adulthood more difficult. That's why it's so important that parents purposefully teach their children about the Lord as well as faithfully model how to live the Christian life.

The Bible talks frequently about the fruit of godly parenting. The New Testament tells us that Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures from his youth. This wise instruction helped prepare him to be a leader of the early church.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

**Parents should specifically *teach* biblical principles to their children and *model* them faithfully. My mother Rebecca taught me:**

■ **To read the Bible.** "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). She taught me the importance of the Bible and patiently showed me how it applied to daily life (Deut. 6:4-7).

■ **To pray.** Jesus made a habit of seeking solitude so He could pray, and the Scripture admonishes us to be "devoted to prayer" (Matt. 14:23; Rom. 12:12). How did my mother teach me to talk with God?

She knelt before Him each night and prayed with me. She impressed upon me the absolute importance of praying about every area of my life.

■ **To trust God for all of our needs.** "They who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing" (Psalm 34:10). Although my mother made very little money at the textile mill where she worked, I never saw her indulge in self pity or beg for a handout. We would take our needs to the Lord in prayer and expect Him to provide. And she was a faithful steward of whatever God gave her.

■ **To obey God.** If children don't learn to respect their parents' authority in the home, they are unlikely to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit later in life. Unfortunately, many parents today are afraid to discipline for fear they will lose the love and affection of their children. But Proverbs 29:17 says, "Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul." When I disobeyed my mother, she would verbally correct me, but she wasn't afraid to use a switch to discipline me either (Prov. 13:24).

■ **To be forgiving.** "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). When I was nine, my mother married a man who was abusive toward her. But she never complained or became bitter. She served him his entire life even after he lost his sight. The lessons I learned from her about the benefits of forgiveness have served me well as a pastor.

■ **To be persistent.** "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we

do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” (Gal. 6:9-10). My mother exemplified this verse. When she determined the right thing to do, she could not be deterred from that course of action. When I was tempted to quit in the midst of difficult circumstances and situations, she’d tell me, “Don’t give up—no matter what.” That’s why I advise people not to leave a position or relinquish a goal unless God gives them clear direction.

■ **To do the right thing, regardless of feelings.**

Many times, I witnessed my mother going into work or cleaning our home when she was tired. Since emotions are unreliable, we shouldn’t let them dictate our actions or hinder us from doing the Lord’s will. “God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7).

■ **To have a servant spirit.** “Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13). My mother lovingly cared for those who could not care for themselves. She was always ready to help a neighbor or church member who needed it. After she retired from the textile mill, my mother went to work at a nursing home, where her genuine concern for others prompted the residents to call her “Sweet Becca.” From her, I learned the value of having a servant attitude.

■ **To live an orderly life.** My mother learned early on how much she could get done in a certain amount of time. So she didn’t try to do things that could only be completed if she hurried. She patiently and quietly completed her tasks (Eph. 4:1-3). Although the homes we lived in were small, our rooms were spotless. Everything was in its proper place (Prov. 31:27). “Cleanliness is next to godliness” isn’t found in the Bible, but my mother lived by this principle. She also instilled in me what people have heard me say many times: “Look your best, do your best, and be your best.”

■ **To be an encourager.** As a parent, encourage your children rather than shaming them for their mistakes and shortcomings. My mother never

chastised me for bringing home poor grades. She would simply ask, “Did you do your best?” Later, when I began preaching, she showed her support by coming early, sitting in the front, and praying for me during the sermon. Her example has inspired me to encourage people with truth from the Word of God rather than focus on their sins or false beliefs.

■ **To love unconditionally.** Jesus said, “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13). My mother knew my faults, failures, and weaknesses. Yet even when she disciplined me, I knew she loved me. Her affection helped me understand how much God loved me.

## CONCLUSION:

Was my mother perfect? No. But the lessons she taught me about living the Christian life profoundly affect me to this day. What you intentionally or unintentionally communicate to your children will shape how they respond to life’s challenges as adults. The most effective parents explain the Bible to their children and consistently live by the principles they teach.

If you haven’t been the mother or father that God has called you to be, don’t let Satan condemn and discourage you. Instead, get on your knees before our heavenly Father and surrender your life and your parenting to Him. Ask the Lord to make you into the godly mother or father that He wants you to be. You will still make some mistakes. But God will begin to change you if you let Him have control of this and every other area of your life. ✨



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