



## ~ Raising Spirit-Filled Children – Part 1 ~

*“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” – Matthew 19:14*

How many times as a parent have you watched with frustration at your child doing something you specifically asked them not to do? Then comes the whole disciplinary process that can open up a whole other can of worms at times. You watch your willful child and you sometimes wonder where you went wrong. Parenting is no easy chore. Raising God-fearing, moral, well-balanced children in today’s world can be a very daunting task. Yet, it can be done. Not on our own, of course, but through the strength of Jesus, all things are possible.

Some of you may say, “This doesn’t apply to me. I don’t have children.” This subject applies to all of us. The Word says, “And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.” – Mark 9:42 The Lord is very serious about the part you play in “raising” His children. When you are in contact with children, you are held accountable for your interaction with them also.

Today’s children desperately need to know the keys to victory in this life and the sooner they learn who their Jesus is for them and how to be obedient to Him, the more peaceful and blessed they will live. Many children receive a good theology and moral training growing up, but they never can seem to understand how to tap into Christ’s power for their own lives until much later – many times when it becomes too late.

They may learn how to be a good citizen and even a good Christian, but they never really learn how to yield that willful nature to Jesus and in return experience victory and a friendship with Jesus that will fill them. It can plague them for years.

Obedience without a knowledge of love is force out of fear and will ultimately cause rebellion. Jesus desires us to obey Him because we choose to. Our world is coming to an end. (Matthew 24) Our children need to be armed more than ever before by the power of the Spirit. They need a correct view of Jesus. They need to know that He loves them and that obedience to Him will help them and bless them, not hurt them. They need to learn to obey out of love, not force.

This training can only be provided through the power of the Holy Spirit. He alone knows each child’s exact individual needs and by obedience to His leading, we can raise children to know their God and how to learn to surrender their will to a loving, just Savior who will never leave them nor forsake them.

By providing this type of training to our children, we will arm them for the warfare going on in our world. They will walk in victory and will not be moved by the winds of destruction that satan will send their way as adults. Our homes can be peaceful, happy places where Jesus lives.

***Prayer:** Jesus, I understand the importance of truly submitting my child/children to you. I see that only thru you can they gain a knowledge of victory and obedience that will set them free. I repent of my own willful ways as a parent and I commit my actions to you. I desire to see my child filled with Your Spirit. Teach me how to hear Your voice to my heart so I will know how to bring my child's heart to you. Use me and teach me in the way that I should go and guide our paths towards this goal. ~ Amen.*

**Kimberly Mills**

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