



~ Raising Spirit-Filled Children – Part 2 ~

“But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.” – Philippians 2:17

As parents, we sometimes forget how long-suffering and sacrificial it really is to have children – especially when you are seeking to raise them up morally and spiritually strong in Jesus.

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. 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.

The idea of raising Spirit-filled children is not a new one and as daunting as it may seem or feel, it can be done. But how?

It all starts with YOU. The answer is with sacrificing our own will as a parent. We have an idea or presumed path of approach we feel we need to take as parents. However, our own understanding of dealing with our children can be clouded by many factors in our lives: our own childhood, our own parents, our perception of right and wrong, our past, and fears. But until we take our own understanding and put it in the hands of Jesus to show us what we really need to be doing, we could very well be digging pit holes where Jesus is trying fill them in our children. To raise victory-bound, Spirit-filled children, we need to be Spirit-filled ourselves. We cannot teach something we ourselves do not know. We need to hear the Voice of God revealing to us how to approach and raise our children effectively.

This process of change and action within us and for our children is hard work. It requires determination, self-sacrifice, and surrender on the part of the parents. Our self will must literally be poured out like a drink offering. Many times radical steps need to be taken in order for God to change wrong, negative attitudes and perceptions within us so that He can truly impact our children. It takes sacrifice and willingness to truly let it all go in order that our children are raised to truly know who their Savior is.

What does your life look like? Are you walking in obedience yourself to what you know God has asked you to do? It’s very difficult for the Spirit to use you to engage your children, if you aren’t willing to be engaged yourself. What steps or actions in your life do you need to take to get rid of the things that are an avenue for Satan within your household? It’s a sacrifice. It’s a sacrifice of your own will. It’s a sacrifice of what you want. It’s a sacrifice of yourself and an acceptance

of God's as the replacement. That's what parenting is really about and that's what must happen before true victory in your own children can begin. It must begin in you.

The apostle Paul was a "spiritual parent" to the New Testament church and he felt this responsibility keenly and did everything he could do to fulfill the role God had called him to. Through his tireless efforts, his encouragement, admonishment, his love, and leadership the churches he started grew strong. Because his will was in the hands of his Lord, God could instruct him on what to say and do with the "spiritual children" in his care. The results were stunning. ALL of Asia received the message of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 19:10)

It's never too late to begin walking in victory ourselves as parents. The results WILL reach our children, whether they are 1, 11, 16, or 26. Our faith in Jesus coupled with our own actions in obedience WILL bear fruit in our families. (1 Corinthians 15:57) Let Jesus begin the work in you today as He uses you to reach your children effectively for His kingdom.

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