



## ~ Raising Spirit-Filled Children – Part 3 ~

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will direct your paths.” – Proverbs 3:5-6*

Parenting is the most selfless act one can do. If undertaken as it was ordained by God to be, it means sacrificing your own will and desires for the sake of your children and what they need in order to know Jesus. It is the ultimate act of self-sacrifice because your life is truly not your own. However, too many parents today see childbearing as a novelty. They don't really understand the grave importance on their own soul to raise their children up for Jesus. It requires much sacrifice, determination, and prayer. This work cannot be done without the power of the Holy Spirit. Only by submitting to His direction can parents of today know how to minister to the individuality of their children.

It starts within our own selves first - listening to God-led thoughts instead of ignoring them, and then choosing to cooperate with God to obey instead of cooperating to our fleshly thoughts and responses. God gives us His own power to do His will. But we must be WILLING to cooperate with Him and do our part. Our part is what we know He is asking us to do.

Once God has built this within us, He can then use us to teach this to our children. This development of character – learning to trade in negative, wrong thoughts, feelings, and reactions for God's right emotions – will change you and your children forever. It will anchor your children to God so that they will not be moved by the storms this life brings.

Much help is available to us as parents if we would only ask. (John 16:24) Like the apostle Paul, we can find strength, ability, and power to undertake the work of properly parenting our children. The first step to parenting is not to automatically lean on to our own reasoning to situations or to give in to our natural reactions to how our children respond to us – especially when we are working with them to help build character. We must trust that our heavenly Father loves us and is able to give us all we need to raise our children. We do that by putting aside our own reactions and thoughts and asking Jesus for His instruction. He will talk if we will listen. He will give us the power we need to do what He asks us to do. We need only to cooperate with His suggestions. We must believe and trust.

We are entering into a time where distractions and diversions abound. Raising Spirit-filled children is really about becoming Spirit-filled yourself and allowing God to show you how, through your own walk, you can instruct your children on the same path. It means finding your own special walk with Jesus daily and letting Him fill you and instruct you so that you can, in turn, instruct and help your child find their walk with Jesus.

Ephesians 3:7 says “Whereof I was made a minister [ministering parent], according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.” Run to Jesus today. He will accept you with open arms and can give you power today to be a “ministering parent” to your children and raise them to be Spirit-filled and empowered in this life to overcome the enemy and to not be moved.

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**Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals**

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