



Outer Growth - Family 1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Father - Ephesians 6:4

Active - 1 Timothy 3:4

Mother - Proverbs 6:20, 10:1, 15:20

Infants - Proverbs 22:6, Psalms 12:7

Love - 1 Corinthians 13:13

Yahweh - Isaiah 26:4, 42:8

Everyone is part of a family, whether natural or unnatural. God has His with the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Truth, His Spirit, and His Son Jesus Christ, the Son of God, which makes the Trinity. Among these three are the heavenly angels surrounding them within the Kingdom of God, which resides in Heaven. Lucifer, the Devil, has his with the demons (who are fallen angels), which are spirit beings that roam above or under the earth below the heavens. Then there is the world, the earth God made that consists of animals, things, and the activity that goes along with it. The natural family in this world God created consists of a mother and father, with them having children as the mom bearing them. A family begins with the younger generation, which are the children. In the New Testament, "Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord, as in Colossians three, verse twenty-one. For a

child to honor their parents throughout their lives is a privilege because God will bless those who do so. In some cases, not all, the well-being of children, as they grow older, depends upon how they treat their parents, where some turn out great, and others do not based on how they treated them in the past. Family begins with the father, who is supposed to be the leader of the house. However, not to be domineering but to set an example for the future offspring. The character or personality of both parents, especially the father, will have a significant role in the upbringing of the children. What children see or have exposure to within their environment may affect them as they grow. Fathers are not to make their kids angry in a provoking way so they can enjoy a positive experience.

There have been too many children who, unfortunately, go through some dark days of depression, oppression, and other mental illnesses as they get older. These kids discover their problems in medical evaluation or examination and refer to rough childhood experiences within the home. Therefore, how fathers conduct themselves around their kids when they are small could determine their outcome. For that reason, as fathers, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not, as in Galatians six, verse nine. "That the generation to come might know *them*, *even* the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children," as in Psalms seventy-eight, verse six.

A wonderful, adventurous family is about being active. In Genesis forty-seven, verse six, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle." Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sent to Egypt. He persevered through hardship with his brothers, Pharaoh, the master's wife, and imprisonment to eventually become governor under the King of Egypt.

Joseph actively worked with his family, and God made him prosper. A productive family is usually a successful one. The parents caring for their family, young and old, as Joseph did,

especially believers, will receive God's favor. "But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," as in First Timothy five, verse eight.

The family starts primarily with the mother because she is the mother of all living, as in Genesis three, verse twenty. She is also a co-leader in the household along with her husband. A mother who bears children will have more burden when something goes wrong. However, this is not to say that the father will not be concerned for their kids. Still, it will impact the mother more than the father. The mother nurturing the child is needed, while the father's guidance is necessary. When emotions run high for the child and the hurt that touches the heart, they will run into their mother's arms and let it out. A mother is like a cushion, while the father tends to be a rock. They are there to listen and absorb all that comes from their children's hearts. The father can fill that role and do the same, but there is a special bond between a mother and her children that expresses tenderness and love. A family begins with infants born into the lives of a husband and wife. And their roles change from husband to father and wife to mother. They are no longer focused on each other but now have infants as their responsibility for and take care of in their lives. They become parents and shift from a "couple." Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it, as in Proverbs twenty-two, verse six.

The general principle of a properly trained child is that they will not depart from the ways taught by their parents, especially the godly ones. However, there is no guarantee that all children of God-fearing parents will remain loyal to God and His Word. When living in an evil society where many of God's people are themselves unfaithful, children brought up with godly parents can be influenced to sin and give in to temptation. The child will eventually inherit some of the mother and father's ways as they grow older. However, how much percentage of each parent's character and the ways they will get remains unseen until they start living independently.

A sign of a good, strong, persevering family begins with love. No household of related

people will live together successfully without sincere devotion to one another. A family will only stay close if its love and relationships remain strong. What is the solution to having a strong family? Faith, hope, and charity begin from the inside out.

Achieving this in a family will take daily commitment from each involved to withstand the tests of life that will come their way. Outside influence and opposition will challenge and attempt to interfere with each family member. The devil is a deceiver and will disrupt any family because he is the opposite of love and strives to make trouble, whether a believer or an unbeliever. "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand," as in mark three, verse twenty-five. For believers and the godly family, it is clear that God exalts Christlike character. God values and emphasizes character that acts in love, patience, kindness, unselfishness, hatred for evil, and adoration for the truth: family with honesty, endurance in righteousness that is much more than faith to move mountains. Those in the family with inward godliness and genuine love for God and people will have God's love poured out within the believer's heart through the Holy Spirit. If one within the family has these inner qualities and diligently continues to demonstrate that within the family, God will take care of the well-being of that family because of that one member who has His love within them.

A family with Jesus Christ as the center of their group will overcome and persevere as they put their trust in Him daily. All godly families will undergo various trials, but how we respond and react toward them with God watching is the test. "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee," as in Deuteronomy thirty-one, verse six. We cannot fail God but trust Him to work things out. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that **love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose," as in Romans eight, verse twenty-eight. The believers who love the Lord are the ones who get their situation worked out.

Everyone is a part of a family, whether a loving one or not. All people come from somewhere.

The environment begins with the household leaders. Whatever lifestyle they bring into the family could affect the younger generation born into the family. However, God can make a difference for any family. The believers who believe and depend upon Him from the inside out will experience His presence.