



## Devotional \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:1-4 TPT

*<sup>1</sup>Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you. <sup>2</sup>For the commandment, "Honour your father and mother," was the first of the Ten Commandments with a promise attached. <sup>3</sup>You will prosper and live a long, full life if you honour your parents. <sup>4</sup>Fathers don't exasperate your children, but raise them up with loving discipline and counsel that brings the revelation of our Lord.*

Jesus learned obedience from His parents, but the Bible says He continued to learn it throughout His life on earth by the things He suffered. Respect, honour and obedience go hand in hand. That is the kind of obedience that pleases God. Jesus is our example of this. He honoured His mother, right up to the end! (John 19:25-27)

In Ephesians 6:6-8, we see that God looks at the heart and attitude when we obey. So we want to **train our children's hearts**. Thus we must be consistent and at the **same time patient and gentle when we train them. We need God's help to rightly** represent Him in our homes, because that is where they get a picture of what Father God is like!

If we do our part right, it will be easier for children to obey. The way we relate to our children is so important. If we shout and are harsh with them or make unreasonable demands, we will not have peace with God and also not with our family members. Plus we will not get the desired results. They may obey outwardly, but rebel inwardly or even get wounded. We need God's grace and empowerment with this!

The Lord has a comforting verse for parents tucked into the chapter on discipline in Hebrews 12:10 *"Our parents corrected us for a short time of our childhood as it seemed good to them. But God corrects us throughout our lives for our own good..."* This shows that God understands and is pleased that we try. We all want to do a good job of parenting!

### Application

1. Do we realize that, whilst we are representing Father God to our children, that He is there to forgive us when we blow it and repent. He does not condemn, but helps us up again and will enable us to do better?
2. Do we focus more on the verses meant for the children, and preach that to them, or prayerfully and humbly apply our own verses?
3. Are there any adjustments we can make in our approach to discipline, keeping in mind that we want to train the hearts of children?

### Prayer

Thank you Father that you don't just give us laws to obey, but have given us Your Spirit to live in us and help us live Your way. Forgive us where we've blown it with our children and help us do better. May we rightly represent You in our homes. Help us to lovingly discipline, nurture and train our children. Thank You for Your grace. Thank you for always loving us and wanting the best for us Dad. We love You. Amen.