

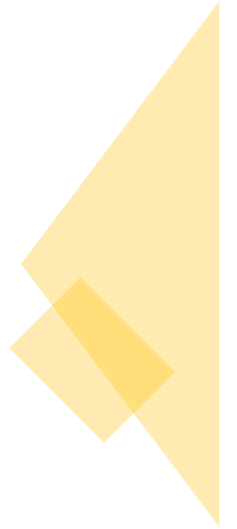
**Giving Your Children
Back to God!**
1 Samuel 1:27-28

Surely That Thought Has Crossed Your Mind: Giving Your Children Back to God

- **Some might say: *“I’d like to but I didn’t think God would take them back.”***
- **Some others might say: *“I thought there was a no return policy.”***
- **Still others might say: *“I wish that I could, but I lost the receipt.”***
- **The truth is that every parent will experience a day when they would like to take their child back to “God’s Customer Service Counter” and say, “I want my money back please!”**

But What I'm Really Asking Is:

- **Have you ever really recognized that your children are a special gift from God, and they really belong to God first and not you?**
- **Have you ever released the “ownership” of your child to Him?**
- **Did you realize that God is responsible for the design of your children and already has a plan and a purpose for their future? Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the plans I have for you”***
- **Did you realize that God has left it up to you (parents) to show them the way? Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child....”***



Hannah, Mother of Samuel, Brings Him to the Priest in 1 Samuel 1:27 and Says:

“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshipped the Lord there.” N.I.V.

- As a Godly mother, Hannah took the “spiritual development” of her child seriously
- This woman knew that her child would take a “cue” from her on the importance of God in its life
- So, what does it mean to give your children back to God?

#1 Giving Your Children Back is a Confirmation of Your Love for God

- What you are actually saying is: *“I love God even more than I love my child/children!”* Children need to know that!

Remember When God Asked Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac His Son? Genesis 22:1-14

- Abraham (100) was blessed with a son and God asked for him
- At the altar of sacrifice, his son asked a question, verse 7
“The fire and wood are here,” “but where is the lamb...?”
- One of the best things you can teach your children, by your actions, is that their love for God has to be relentless!
- You teach love for God by modeling or living a life of sacrifice, Romans 12:1 (your children see what discipline looks like).
- Children can learn from parents how to avoid sinful desires
“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- Children watch their parents say no to their immoral desires and learn from those experiences (they will repeat them).

#2 Giving Your Children Back Is a Clarification of Ownership

- When you give your child back to God you are openly saying:
 - “This child is a gift from God”
 - “This child does not really belong to me”
 - “I have been given the privilege to train this child”
 - “But the child really isn’t mine, God, it’s yours”
- I suggest to you that this had to be on Abraham’s mind when he laid Isaac on the altar, tied him to it, and drew back his knife
- Wasn’t he saying, “Lord, this young man belongs to you, not me. I will do with him what you want.”
- And because of Abraham’s “relentless religious faith,” a man named Jesus was born in his future generations, Matt 1:2

Listen to God's Instructions To Parents When Giving Children Back To Him

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deut. 6:6-8

- **Teach your children to never be ashamed to own their Christianity. Make it familiar to them. The word of God should be “an available restraint,” from sin, “a reminder” of what we ought to do. *Psalms 119:11, verse 105***

“And ye fathers, provoke not your children, but bring them up in the nurture (training) and admonition (discipline) of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

But What If No Man Is Around?

- Listen to Paul's commendation of the young preacher Timothy, in 2 Timothy 1:5 -

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned (sincere) faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and in thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

- Notice that Timothy's father is *not* commended here for Timothy's religious training
- With 67% of black children born into single parent households, this should be encouraging information concerning what God can do for a child raised religiously by one gender
- Eunice and Lois allowed God to use them as vessels to develop Timothy as such an outstanding Christian servant, that even the great Apostle Paul could use him in his ministry

So, Parents, Be Careful How You Treat and Care for God's Property!

- That little girl/boy is not really yours
- Our babies belong to God
- Our babies are precious gifts from God, *"on loan to us!"*

And God is Going to Hold Us As Accountable Stewards for What Happens to His Babies!

- That's why Joshua could make his statement in Joshua 24:15

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the Gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

#3 Giving Your Children to God is “Claiming” God’s Plans and Promises for Your Child

- The blessings that Isaac inherited, including God’s protection and His promises, were because of Abraham’s relentless obedience (Abraham was called a friend of God, James 2:23)
- Remember when God stopped Abraham from literally using a knife on his only son? This is what God said. Genesis 22:15-18

“... because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies (be successful), and through your offspring (Isaac) all nations on the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

What Does This Mean To Me?

Children Can Be Blessed or Cursed By Their Parents' Obedience or Disobedience To God

- Imagine that lasting impression that Abraham's dedication to God made on Isaac, his son
- *"God asked my father to end my life on an altar, because of his faith, AND HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO DO IT!" (Genesis 22:10)*
- His father's lasting lesson to his son was: *"You are not more important to me than God!" "And Isaac, you need to live that way too" (you may be cute, smart, darling, but God is NO. 1 in my life)*
- Parents, your children have "free will" to make their own decisions in life, but you "stack the odds" in their favor by the way you live your life. (Put the seed in them, Luke 8:11, Psalms 119:11)
Abraham "positioned" Isaac for God's blessings
- If you happen to leave before them, leave the seed in them!
- The lesson today teaches us that as you obey God with your life, and give your child back to Him, you "position" your child to receive God's very best for their lives

But Preacher, My Child is Grown Now and Doesn't Listen to Me!

“My child is an addict now!”

“My child is an alcoholic now!”

“My child is gay now!”

“My child won't speak to me now!”

“I can only see my child every other weekend now!”

“My child makes their own decisions now!”

How Can I Try To Give My Child Back To God Now?



Remember: God Loves Us In Spite of Us!

- There is a decision we all have to make as we answer God's love, John 3:16
- Our decision doesn't dictate whether God is still going to love us, Romans 5:6-8, *"For when we were yet without strength ..."*
- Your child may be spitting your love out of their mouths
- But their rejection shouldn't dictate whether you manifest your love to them.
- Refuse to let your hurt dictate how you "agape" your children; Let it be "relentless" (you may be the driver)
- Do you condone bad behavior? No, neither did God condone yours. Love never fails; (The Prodigal son took a while to come home, Luke 15 says he lived wildly in distant country)
- Remember, Christ still intercedes for us and so must we!

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

