23/01/2018

\*ARE YOU A PRAYING PARENT?\*   
  
"Train up your child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it"  
Prov 22:6.  
  
Growing up as a child was very traumatic for me. I witnessed  incessant parental conflicts.  
  
However, if there was anything I imbibed from  my late father in the midst of the disruption and differences between my parents; it was   
\*"knowing the Lord".\*   
  
My father will gather us together and insist we study the bible.  
  
Now as a well- grown man with the love of God fully rooted in my heart; I have understanding of the foundation upon which I was brought up.  
  
I cherished the toughness upon which I was raised up and more importantly the good Christian values my parents put in me; I will not swap them for riches and fame.  
  
The strictness  and caring of my late mother was second to none; if am allowed to be "born again" as Nicodemus thought it was, I will choose to come through her again.  
John 3:4    
  
Fellow believers, I read something on the internet lately that threw me off balance.   
  
"A ten year old child requesting for naked pictures from her class mate while exchanging text messages".   
  
As a parent, that's quite worrisome for me to read.  
  
Ephesians 6:4 "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".  
  
I strongly believe as parents in this generation, we have taken the foot off the pedal; tricky \*complacency\* has set in consciously.  
  
We now indulge our children in so much lavishness like the prodigal son; without any remorse.   
Luke 15:11-32  
  
Family altar is not known in many homes; most parents prefer to chase  money and position to the detriment of their children.  
  
Some parents are so busy they resort to video, phone calls and  whatsapp as means of  spending time with the kids.  
Most parents     hardly have time to talk to their teachers or go through their school work.   
  
God bless our  teachers, especially children's Church teachers  
;who constantly help to instil biblical teachings in the children.   
  
✅May God  immensely bless  and reward you for your time and efforts. 🙏🏼  
  
In the bible, God commanded us to teach our children His commandments   
: "Teach them to your Children.....  
Deu 11:19.  
  
While I was in the secondary school; what was in vogue then was taking our parent's cars behind them and coming to school to do stunts.  
  
In sharp contrast  
,parents of our generation now willingly buy vehicles, "Power bikes" or permit our children to drive even when they are not of age.    
  
We buy tablets, Android phones, Laptops and the likes for them with unlimited internet access.  
  
"But the sons of Eli are worthless men;they did not know the Lord.   
1 Sam 2:12.  
  
One can imagine that the 10 year old girl who requested for nude pictures; has unrestricted access to pornography websites.  
  
A reliable source of information confirmed it just yesterday ,that  the pornography industry is now worth $100 billion. That is a  staggering amount; plus the fast growing betting industry that seems to have taken root in our dear Nation.  
  
God is warning us as parents to rise up to the obligation placed on us concerning our children:  
  
Stop honouring your children's emotions above God. 1 Sam 2:29  
  
It is important to distinguish between caring and pampering (spoiling).  
  
Caring is displaying love, kindness and concern to others.  
  
While, pampering, otherwise known as spoiling is to treat with extreme or excessive care and attention.  
  
The bible says :"withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die".  
Prov 23:13.  
  
There is this general opinion in the world that children of committed church leaders are usually spoiled children.  
  
Am sure many of us reading this will relate well with that sentiment.  
  
Without any doubt, news and events within the christendom over the last 4 decades have come to buttressed that notion.  
  
However, shall we continue to allow the world to dictate what our children would turn out to be?  
  
God Forbid!  
  
The bible says "If someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's Church?  
1 Timothy 3:5.  
  
Charity they say begins at home.   
  
Our Lord Jesus Christ says in Mathew 19:14.  " \*suffer not the children and forbid them not ,to come unto me; for of such is the Kingdom of God".\*   
  
Invariably, our children needs serious prayers now more than ever before.  
  
Many of us rode on the prayers, discipline and good deeds of our parents; otherwise we will not be where we are today.  
  
Every now and then I still hear the powerful prayers of my late mother vibrating in my Spirit ; knowing that those prayers are still paving ways for me even after 6 years she passed on.   
  
By God's Grace I will continue to do same for my children.  
  
The bible says: Tell your children about it and let your children tell their children and their children next generation.   
Joel 1:3.  
  
Our children are  the "chosen generation, royal priesthood, an holy nation, peculiar people; bringing forth the light of God in their time.  
1 Peter 2:9.  
  
Many parents are still folding arms; targeting schools to get connected to the "high & mighty" parents, instead of putting kids'  interests first.  
  
The word discipline has quietly left the dictionary of many of us.  
  
Correction has suddenly become like an evil monster to some parents; how many times have you seen scenarios where one parent is  trying to be firm and correct their children while the other parent sees it as harshnesss.🤷🏽‍♂  
  
Parent ought to be unanimous in the grooming and rebuking of their children.💑  
  
There is an old  adage that says:   
  
" \*When you use one hand to discipline a child; you use the second hand to draw him closer"\*   
  
I beseech you parents to pray and guide your children well; especially you  mothers.  
  
✅ Pray that, we will not bury our children 🙏🏼  
  
✅ Pray that our children will not turn out as Eli's sons. 🙏🏼   
  
✅Pray our children will fulfil their years and destiny.🙏🏼  
  
Are you trusting God for a child? JESUS will bless your home. 🙏🏼  
  
Children are an heritage from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.  
Psalm 127:3   
  
Consequently, treat and guide them \*responsibly\* .   
  
Lastly, the bible says we should   
"watch and pray"  
Luke 21:36.  
  
As praying parents;we must ensure that we are physically and spiritually alert to issues concerning our children;as we put them in the path of righteousness.  
  
✝Can you make heaven now; assuming the trumpet sounds? If not; repent now before is too late.  
  
JESUS IS LORD  
  
Signed, Bro Cole