

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

## PARENTS WHO ARE CHRISTIANS

*Frank Himmel*

It is obvious that parents have an obligation to feed, clothe, love, protect, and care for their offspring. A newborn human is about as helpless as any creature could be. Parents who are Christians have responsibilities which extend far beyond temporal provisions. There is an area of spiritual care, training, growth, and development that demands special attention.

Parents who are Christians have an obligation to set a good example before their children. That includes a godly home life — no drugs, no tobacco, no strong drink, no profanity, and no fussing and fighting. A good example means godly living in the home, on the job, while on vacation, during recreational activities, and in all other situations. A good example includes regular attendance at Bible classes and church services. It also includes honesty, fairness, willingness to admit wrong, and readiness to forgive.

Parents who are Christians have the responsibility of disciplining their offspring. Mischievous acts that may be

dismissed as “cute” in the little ones can be quite annoying to others. Those “cute” little capers, if unchecked, can establish a pattern that turns into a nightmare by the time the child is a teenager. Discipline must start early. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6).

*“Which comes first, your personal interests or the Lord’s work? Which is more important, a child’s solving a math problem or preparing a Bible lesson?”*

Parents who are Christians should teach their children right priorities. Which comes first, your personal interests or the Lord’s work? Which is more important, a child’s solving a math problem or preparing a Bible lesson? The principle taught in Matthew 6:33 is learned quickly by a child who sees that basic truth demonstrated by his mother and father. Your child needs your help in establishing the correct sense of values.

Parents who are Christians are responsible for bringing up

their children to be Christians. Put your child in the tiny tots’ class on Sunday morning and teach him to sit still during worship. If you do not train him, who will? Tell him some of the great stories in the Bible. Those historical narratives about Noah, Abraham, Daniel, Moses, and others will do him more good than nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Drill him in Bible facts. Make him conscious that there is a wealth of material in the Bible. Teach him about God and Jesus Christ. Some fathers leave the spiritual training to the mothers. But the Bible says, *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4). Daddy cannot shift his responsibility over to mother. The spiritual training of a child calls for the best efforts of both parents. Christians who are parents have much for which to be thankful. Children are *“an heritage of the Lord”* (Ps. 127:3). But the responsibilities of parenthood are serious. In today’s wicked world, it is not easy to bring up children in the nurture of the Lord. However, it can be done.

## WHAT SHALL WE DO?

John Edwards

The question of all questions was asked in Acts 2:37: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" This response came from those convicted of sin by the pointed preaching of Peter concerning Jesus (Acts 2:22-36). This brief writing calls attention to the answer given to the question.

**1) WHAT THEY WERE NOT TOLD.** First of all, they were not told God unconditionally preselected the individual to be saved or lost, and that there was nothing they could do. Nor were they told that God, in His grace, had already done everything and that there was nothing for them to do. They were not told to just believe and they would be saved. And they were not told to pray a "sinner's prayer" of some kind. Nor were they told that they needed to "get" the Holy Spirit. Why is it that many today tell us things that folks in the New Testament were never told in being saved?

**2) WHAT THEY WERE TOLD.** Take your Bible and read Acts 2:38 in black and white for yourself. "Then Peter said unto them (now here is what they were told, JE), *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (Acts 2:38). To repent is to change one's mind and course of action (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30). To be baptized, in this verse, is to be immersed in water (Acts 8:36-39; 10:47-48). The purpose of repentance and baptism is to receive the remission of sins, as Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins (Mt. 26:28). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:41, 47). To receive the remission of sins and be added to the church to which they were added, we must simply do what they did. Will you do it today?

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## WHEN GOD BREATHED

John Edwards

**1) MAN WAS GIVEN LIFE.** "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). Man is not the product of evolutionary chance, but the result of divine breathing (Job 33:4).

**2) THE HEAVENS WERE MADE.** "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Ps. 33:6). What power, as God "spake, and it was done" (Ps. 33:9)! "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:4).

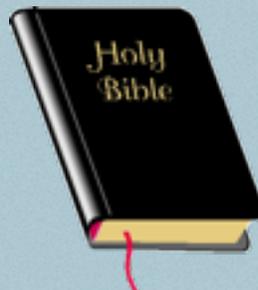
**3) THE SCRIPTURES WERE GIVEN.** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). That literally means the Scriptures are God-breathed! As there is life in breath, the words of Scripture are the words of life. Peter said of the Lord, "thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jn. 6:68).

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