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## COVENANT CHILDREN

By Pastor Sherry Gregory

### Covenant Children

Because of the Covenant we have, through Christ (the Anointed One), there is Great Hope for your children-No matter what, you through Christ, can turn it around!

**Key Scripture: Romans 11: 29** For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. He never withdraws them once they are given and He does not change His mind about to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call. (AMP Bible)

**Definitions: Calling: Kesis #2821** in the Strong's Concordance; an invitation, to call forth, for whose name was called, to urge on, to incite by word, to bid, to give commandment.

**Gifts:** Charisma #5486 in the Strong's Concordance; to grant as a favor gratuitously, in kindness, pardon, rescue, to frankly forgive, to freely give or grant, i.e., deliverance from danger or passion; a spiritual endowment, miraculous faculty; a free gift.

Covenant Children: Because of the covenant we have with God through Jesus Christ, there is great hope for your children and for you as a child.

Scripture: **I John 5:4** For *whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.*

- A. What did the Lord say to me? "There are those parents who are listening to the broadcast (this teaching and others), that need a Word from Me concerning their Children."
1. There are children not living for God, Teens and Young Adults
  2. Young children, parents not knowing how to raise them up in the Lord, but the parents are Christians desiring to raise their children up in Him
  3. Knowing that some children are in public school, yet they attend church.
  4. Knowing that there are some older children in college, who have moved away from home, or even still at home who are living with a boyfriend or girlfriend in sin.
- B. What did the Lord say about Parents? "They..."
1. Feel pulled in two different directions:

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- A. On one hand they don't want to alienate their children by being too strict or "speaking the truth" about their children's sinful lifestyle too loudly.
- B. On the other hand they don't want to condone the worldly lifestyles either.
- 2. Every parent who loves their children wants them to have a good life, to meet their full potential. To be safe from harm, to be happy.
- C. Vicki Burke, in her book "Aim Your Child Like An Arrow" says, "No Christian parent purposely wants to live under the curse, but many find themselves there by default." Default means: failure to do something, or the absence of something needed. Failure of a parent to love the Lord by obeying His voice (God's Word) will expose the family to the enemy's deceptions and attacks even if the cause is ignorance or indecision. Failure of a parent to take the time to spend quiet time with the Lord so they can really, truly get His direction on how to raise their children is also an open door for the business and confusion of the times we live in to cause lethargy and an "I don't know what to do" or an "What can a parent do, in this day and time" type of attitude to take hold. It is easier to set the child in front of educational T.V., or in front of the computer, or to play with a number of self accompanying games than to spend actual quality time with them. This is part of the downfall of families.
- D. The testimony of our younger daughter as a baby, when Sherry was driving her in the car, listening to a Christian radio broadcast as a lady was telling her testimony. The lady said, "You know I don't have a testimony like most do now days. I never lived a destructive lifestyle and then had to turn to Jesus to turn my life around, I've always known Jesus, from the time I was little I've known Him and talked to Him and felt His presence". Sherry exclaimed as she welled up with emotion and tears, "Oh God I want that testimony for Bevin, I don't want her to go through what I have been through!" God spoke back and said, "Sherry, Bevin will be OK, it's already taken care of, she is going to live for me!"
- E. Pastors Bob and Sherry have the testimony that even though they both had some tough situations growing up, and even as young adults, they are so thankful for their heritage of faith. Grandparents and Parents who prayed and stood on God's Word and their faith in God for their children's future. So, even though their own families were not perfect, as no family is perfect, Pastors Bob and Sherry are living examples, clear proof of the power of prayer and faith in God for Bevin, their daughter.
  - 1. Both sets of parents "believed" in God, prayed, and went to church.
  - 2. However, neither set was truly aware of the strength and power available to them. Yet Pastors Bob and Sherry are now fulfilling the call on their lives in victory! How much more can a parent who is truly putting into action the principles of spiritual law, experience victory for themselves and their families!

F. Practical Steps for Parents to Take:

Practical Steps that Parents can take to insure God's Covenant Promises for their children. For those of you who have young children or those still at home this is very timely. Take hold of these principles now and get consistent with these things I am sharing and you will see the fruit! Even adult children have a spirit that longs for the Lord. When they are seemingly at their "worst" state, they are still trying to fill a space in their hearts that can only truly be filled by God.

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**Step #1 Create an atmosphere.** This is started with YOU. You must put God first then all the other things in the covenant can come to pass for you. Deliberately setting aside private time with God in prayer, the reading of God's Word and the study of God's Word, and praise, daily! The Spiritual things which are unseen but eternal, are the things that really matter. The things, which can be seen, are natural, of this world and are temporal or subject to change.

1. Pastor Bob and Sherry have always raised our young daughter on these principles, standards and God's Word.
  - a) Be diligent in including your child in the family prayer time, praise time, and study and sharing (discussing meanings and practical insights) in the Word.
  - b) Be selective about day cares, and/or schools your child attends.
    1. Outward appearance is not everything. The inside spiritual atmosphere is really what matters. It is good to have a clean building but it should not be judged by how new it is or how modern the supplies are. Clean and neat is good, the frills and attractive trimmings will come with time.
    2. Does the day-care or school allow PG or G-Rated movies that include witchcraft or magic? Do they teach evolution? Do they forbid prayer, and discourage a practical application of the Word of God and prayer in the classroom? This is an indication of carnal/worldly values. Stay clear of it. There are some suggestions of quality wholesome videos/movies that are secular, but very few. Mostly Christian authored movies and materials should be exclusive to the school.
    3. Does the school have teachers that know God personally? This is a key issue. If you want your child to have "good" all-round education, you have to consider the spiritual condition of the one who will be teaching your child. If they seem to be nice, and they believe in God, this is a good start, but it doesn't hurt to explore even further and see if they attend church, where, and if they have ever received Jesus as Lord and Savior, and it is extra great if you can get a teacher who is Baptized in the Holy Ghost too. Pray ahead for the following school year for a teacher that matches your requirements, and watch God bring it to pass.
    4. Does the day-care or school have a good academic program (Christian based), that has the ability to take your child into advanced work in any given area?
  - c) Be selective about your child's friends.
    1. Some carnal Christian families are really not too different from worldly or heathen families. They may profess Christianity, but do they really practice it? Do the parents watch "PG", "R" or "X"-rated movies? Do the parents of your child's friend's drink or smoke? Be a "Watchman" for your children! Often a child who is being raised to avoid worldly things, because of the dynamics of family life, has temptation to rebel and explore toward a friend's family's life-style. It seems to be more enticing and appealing to live like Johnny's family than their own family, that's why it is important to keep a friendship as well as a parent-child relationship with your child.
  - d) Be selective about what your child listens to and watches on TV or in Movies or even plays as far as computer games or Nintendo games. The eye-gates are the inroads to a person's soul. Since most sin starts with thoughts, and the eyes receive images from TV or

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Videos, or other visual aids. Be cautious about what material and influence is allowed into your child's eye-gates. The way that the world "de-sensitizes" children and their parents to acceptance of outlandish, immoral lifestyles is to get one to laugh at, example: *a man dressed as a woman*, or to get a person to think that it is *alright for unmarried couples to live together*. God has put in our hearts the difference between right and wrong, but if our "judge or conscience" has been made numb by desensitization, then we may not recognize it as easily.

- e) Scriptures: Proverbs 22:15 and Proverbs 13:20 say, *He who walks with the wise will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.* Psalm 1: 1-6 says, *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful...but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law does he meditate day and night.*
- f) God respects a parent who's purpose is to train their child to know Him; Deuteronomy 6:7; Teach them diligently to thy children.
- g) Make the atmosphere of God a priority in your home. A couple of hours per week (i.e., church or Sunday school for 1 or 2 hours only) is not enough exposure to God and Godly values.
- h) The fruit will be evident in your children; you will see the change for the good!

**Step #2: Stand on God's Word** (the promises of God's Covenant). Speaking it, praying it and believing it. Scriptures to Stand on:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Romans 11:29          | Galatians 3:29        | Galatians 4:22-31   |
| 2. I Peter 1:23-25       | 2 Peter 1:1-4         | Matthew 19:26       |
| 3. Mark 9:23             | Philippians 4:6-9, 13 | Hebrews 4:12,16     |
| 4. I Corinthians 2:13,16 | Isaiah 55:8-11        | Romans 8:17         |
| 5. Isaiah 53: 3-5        | Hebrews 3:1           | Acts 2:39           |
| 6. Joel 2:28             | Proverbs 3:1-10       | Proverbs 4:20-22    |
| 7. Hebrews 7:16          | I Peter 2:9-10        | Isaiah 40: 28-31    |
| 8. Genesis 18:19         | Deuteronomy 30:15     | Deuteronomy 28:1-14 |
| 9. Psalm 33:11           | I Peter 2:9-10        | Psalm 22: 30-31     |
| 10. Psalm 112:2          | Psalm 103:17          | Isaiah 62:12        |
| 11. Hebrews 12:1-2       |                       |                     |

We are not of those who have "the curse" on our families. It's time we began to take hold of the victory that was gained forever by Jesus! Jesus came and abolished the devil's curse of death over our "seed"! No "black sheep" curse can operate in our families either! That is a lie of the devil! We are those who have an inheritance of peace, truth, life, light, prosperity, joy, love, wisdom, we have the mind of Christ, we are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath, no weapon formed against us will ever prosper, nothing by any means can harm us. We aren't defeated; we are more than overcomers! We will not be defeated and we will not quit.

**Step#3: Pray-Prayer is your most powerful source of influence, your most effective weapon.** Scriptures: Ephesians 3:14-16, Colossians 4:2, I Timothy 6:12, James 5:16, Isaiah 55:11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 2:4, Jeremiah 7:23, Jeremiah 29:11, Luke 6:38

**Step#4: Always speak the truth in love.**

1. Do not backbite your children when they are not around. The Word says that we reap what we sow. That is a spiritual law, and the words of our mouths are very powerful. Sow (speak) words that are beneficial to them, and not detrimental. When you speak about them, no matter how they are acting in the natural, speak nicely and according to the Word of God (His covenant promises of them), and do not base what you say on what you see, or on the circumstances. Example: They are not going to end up in jail, they are not going to end up dead, they are not going to fry their brains... your words are powerful, so put the “report of the Lord” to work for you when talking about your children to others. Tell God your troubles and disappointments, but speak the Word to Him also, proclaiming His Covenant over them and thank Him for bringing it to pass in their lives. If you find yourself in a “training process” about the words that you speak, take it easy on yourself and do not allow the devil to make you feel low or condemned when you “mess-up” and say a negative about your child, just “root up those words in the name of Jesus, they will bear no fruit”, and do better next time. Sometimes it takes a while to train your tongue to speak “good” things.
2. If they are not living a godly/holy lifestyle, do speak the truth to them if the Lord gives you the opportunity in conversation with them. Tell them the truth about their lifestyle without condemnation, but with conviction to the values that adhere to a Christian lifestyle.
3. Speaking the truth to them letting them know that you love them and are praying for them and standing on the Word for them to make the right decisions. Let them know that you love them, but you do not approve of their actions and/or lifestyle because it is sin and sin causes death and destruction of life. Make sure they know that you are absolutely sure that they will come around to the truth; it is only a matter of time. They are meant to be the Lord’s own chosen ones and that you will not accept anything short of that.

**Step#5: Stay powered up-prayed up-standing in the gap-pleading the Blood of Jesus over them.** Hebrews 7:25-26, Hebrew 10: 19-25

1. Get into fellowship with other believers and go to church! If you don’t have a good strong Word-based church, then come and join us at Embassy Of Christ 2504 Lynch Road in Evansville, IN 47711. We would love to have you! It does not make you a Christian to go to church, but it helps us all to have fellowship, one with another for the purpose of strengthening our faith and keeping us in company of strong non-compromised faith!

**Step#6: Speak things that be not as though they were.** Romans 4:17, Colossians 3:1,2,8, God the Father brought this world into existence by speaking things that be not as though they were. We were made after His image and are to do as He does in our life also.

1. This can begin totally by faith, based on the promises in God’s Word.
2. Begin by proclaiming the promises in God’s Word concerning your family and your inheritance “In Christ”. Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Psalms 23, Psalms 91, etc...

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**Step#7: Pray in your Most Holy Faith**-Pray in tongues. Jude 20, I Corinthians 14:2, 4, and 14-15.

1. This is the most important part of your prayer life. This type of prayer is speaking to God by way of the Spirit of God in your reborn spirit. So even though you may not understand what you are praying, when you focus on the “subject” of your son or daughter or family member, then tell the Father that you receive the wisdom you are praying out concerning them. Then it opens the door for the supernatural to happen in your life and in theirs.

**Step#8: Stay out of condemnation over the past;** Romans 8:1-2. Press for the mark; Philippians 3:14. Refuse to lose; Matthew 19:26, Mark 14:36, Luke 18:27. Be consistent and constant in your prayers and confession; Philippians 1:19, 2 Corinthians 4:16, and Ephesians 4:23.

1. Make your relationship with God and your prayer life a life-style wherever you are, whatever you are doing. Practicing it makes it a life-style.

**Step#9: Rest** in the hope and don't grow weary. Philippians 4:6-8, Isaiah 40:30-31, Isaiah 61:1-11...Our inheritance NOW. Matthew 11:28-30 Come To Me  
Isaiah 26:3-4 Established in peace. Philippians 4:7 And God's peace shall be yours.  
Ephesians 2:14 HE is our peace.

References used:

Holy Bible: Amplified Bible, King James Version, Message Bible

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

“Aim Your Child Like An Arrow”, Vicki Burke

**Teaching Series by Pastor Sherry L. Gregory**

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