

THE POWER OF A LIFE
or “Faith Must Be Caught, Not Merely Taught”
Psalm 78:1-8

The Psalm opens with a call to pay heed. “Listen up!” There is important information coming your way. What are we being told here? Mtt 13:35

1. Hidden things of old, passed down by our ancestors (Jer 6:16/Mtt 11:29).

- a. An ancient message, conceived in the mind of God before the beginning of time. (1 Cor 2:6-10; Rev 13:8; 1 Pet 1:17-21)**
- b. A message that needs to be heard. (Rev 14:6). Salvation! Light! Life!**

2. We will not hide them from our children.

- a. Just as OT believers learned it, we learned God's message from other people (e.g., 2 Tim 1:5).**
- b. Just as Israel did, we need to declare/tell the next generation about the Lord. Look at His commands to Israel - Exd 12:26; 13:8; Psm 71:18; 145:4-6).**
 - Tell of God's works (His power and His wonders).
 - His decrees and statutes. Teaching our children the godly wisdom of past saints.
- c. No one does this perfectly. To a great extent, we learn “on the job.”**
 - They do not need to see a “perfect” dad, mom or grandparent. In fact, such do not and never have existed.
 - * Seek the Lord, lead by example as well as by giving direction. (Prv 22:6). “Create in them a hunger” for the way in which they should go. “Good fathers not only tell us how to live, they show us.” Mark Twain. “Do as I say and not as I do has not and will not produce the fruit in a child's life that we long for. Remember that a God-honoring life is more something that is caught than something that is taught.
 - * Remember that they are just kids. (Eph 6:1-4)
 - By the time that our kids are grown and on their own, most of us have a pretty good idea of what we did wrong or right. Hindsight is almost always “20/20.”
- d. Do this knowing that our actions in parenting will affect not just our children but theirs as well. We are sowing seed that will/can bear generational fruit. We do not wish our children to lose sight of who God is.**
 - (Jdg 2:6-15; 1 Sam 2:12) - A couple negative examples.
 - (Jer 35; 2 Tim 1:5) - A couple positive examples.
 - Live your faith before them.
 - * Dad, Mom, if you are not seeking the Lord, do not expect them to do so.
 - * Do not take too much on yourself. Be faithful and trust God.
 - * Pray for your family.
 - * Be willing to own your failings.
 - Enjoy the journey. You are not “just a dad or mom.” You are a servant of God charged with leading and teaching human beings to know, love and serve the Lord. And the fruit is not merely generational, it is eternal.

Parenting is a high and holy calling.