DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY TO CHILD RAISING

Only God knows how to get the very best results with children.

It's never too late to get God involved.

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How Do You Feel About Your Child Raising Struggles?

What You Think About Yourself Really Matters
It isn't just a matter that you are being pressured and damaged by your issues with child raising. It's also a matter of your reactions, your evaluations of yourself, and your attitudes about the fact you are struggling with it. If you are critical toward yourself, because you have this problem, that will add to, multiply, and magnify the problem. If you are handling it with proper evaluations, reactions, and good attitudes, it puts you in a place where you can be healed.

Jesus wants to help you evaluate, react, and feel some important things, so you can approach your issues with child raising through positive feelings of hope and faith. Not that you feel good about the fact that you are struggling with it; but, you feel good about the fact that you are normal. Everyone has something just as difficult as your issue. When you are down, it is hard to address any kind of problem because of the negative feelings you are experiencing. If somehow you could be given emotions that gave you faith and hope, even though the problem you are facing is extreme, you have feelings that are encouraging and strengthening you.

Allow Jesus to Speak to Your Emotions
Jesus is saying to you in **Matthew 11:28 (NIV): "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** Jesus wants you to allow Him to give you His evaluation and reaction to the fact that you are struggling with child raising. It is bad enough that you are having struggles, difficulties, and problems in your life. But, if those issues are causing you to reject, hate, or get down on yourself, then you need Jesus to help you understand that what you are going through has no bearing on who you are. You can be thinking that because you are having these difficulties and struggles that, that means you are inferior to those who seem to be happier, more successful, or more trouble free. Jesus loves you; and, His love isn't affected by your struggles. He feels your pain and identifies with your problems. He isn't judging you; He is hurting with you.

Allow Jesus To Show You The Truth
Jesus said in **John 16:33 (NIV): "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. <u>In this world you WILL have trouble</u>. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** Don't let people's smiles, bragging, and success stories fool you; every person on this planet is going through some kind of trouble. Some people's troubles may not show up and be as obvious as yours; but, *every* person is struggling, battling, and dealing with all kinds of issues, difficulties, and problems. Don't be fooled by those who can "put on a good face;" don't be fooled by those who have been trained by the world to "fake it until you make it." Don't be fooled by those who have learned how to "manage" their problems or "work around" them. Don't be fooled by those who work hard all day and then drink, drug, or party their way into some form of happiness.

You Don't Need Sympathy; You Need Healing

Jesus said in **Matthew 15:14 (NIV): "Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."** Sometimes you can feel better by talking to someone who is going through what you are going through. It can feel good just to know you aren't weird, different, or weaker than most people. But, after you have shared with these people, you will find that the benefits are temporary. You need emotions that can empower you, strengthen you, build faith and hope into you, and be there no matter what you are facing.

You Aren't Your Problem

Rom 7:20 (NIV) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. The world teaches you that if you do something bad, you are a bad person. They teach that if you do something good, *that makes* you a good person. However, that philosophy can make you feel like your struggles with child raising means *it* is a diagnosis or evaluation of *who* you are. However, Jesus makes it clear that this isn't true; Jesus has made you into a new person who is loved, accepted, valued, and appreciated by God, Himself.

John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jesus has given you a perfect record with God; you are free from anything you have *ever* done, *are* doing, or *will* do that is wrong, bad, or evil. **2 Cor 5:21 (NIV) God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, *so that* in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

You Were Made In God's Image

Gen 1:26 (NIV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." You are very valuable to God because He made you in His own image and likeness. You are so valuable to God that He demonstrated His love for you by sending His Son to die for you.

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. While you were busy doing wrong, bad, and evil things to yourself, other people, and God's plan, God proved how much He loves you. You were so valuable to Him that He sent His one and only Son to die in your place. Jesus paid for all your past, present, and future mistakes, failures, shortcomings, sins, and misdeeds; you are totally forgiven, free, and loved.

God Really Loves You

Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for *us all*--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us *all* things? God didn't send money to redeem you; He didn't send some kind of temporary cure for all your sins you committed against yourself and other people; He didn't produce some brilliant system for saving you; He sent His one and only Son to die for you. Yes, you have problems; but, so does everyone else on this planet. Yes, you have made mistakes and have got yourself into things that were wrong, bad, and evil; but, so has everyone else.

Rom 3:22-24 (NIV) This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <u>for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God</u>, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God Loves You Because You Are His Child

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. A good parent does things for their children they would never do for anyone else; and, God is the very best parent in existence. Jesus said in **Matthew 7:11 (NIV): "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more* will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!"** The reason you must ask God before He gives you good gifts is, because He made you in His own image. Once that happened, you got a God-given free will. So, you must ask for good gifts; but, when you ask, God pours them on you *because* you *are* His child.

How Do You Feel About Life?

Your Attitude About Life Matters

It is important that you realize that the way your life is now isn't the kind of life Jesus wants you living. Life with Satan tempting you, pressuring you, driving you, depressing you, and your body causing you all kinds of problems, isn't anything like what Jesus has to offer you. Jesus is saying to you in **John 10:10 (AKJV) The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, <u>and that they might have it more abundantly</u>.**

You are moving from Satan **the thief,** who is trying to steal your life away from you to Jesus, Who wants to give you a full life. The experiences you have had with life aren't any kind of representation of what life is like with Jesus. If you will give life another chance, Jesus will show you what He can do to make your life a wonderful life.

A New Approach for You

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! <u>I stand at the door and knock</u>. If anyone hears My voice <u>and opens the door</u>, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. The pressures of life, like issues with child raising, are not coming from Jesus; your relationship with Him will be totally different from what you are used to. Where the things of your body and the world have come at you with great force, Jesus is standing at the door of your life and knocking. He is giving you your God-given free will back. He is giving you a life of freedom; as a Christian you will have to get help in a different way.

John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jesus is giving you emotions that are wonderful: **Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** These are the emotions Jesus is wanting to fill your heart with; but, you only get them by asking for them.

A New Life for You

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Jesus isn't going to just improve your old life; He is giving you a new life. What you have experienced before isn't what you will be experiencing in your future. You may not see how it is possible for Jesus to remove you from your old life and give you a new one; but, He is much more powerful than you can ever imagine.

Pray and ask Jesus to help you see a little bit of your future and how He is going to help you with your difficulties with child raising, He will show you a way of life that is awesome. It doesn't matter how difficult, demanding, enslaving, and controlling your old life was, Jesus is setting you free from it. He wants to empower you to move into a new life that is wonderful. This new life is what you need for winning over your issues with child raising.

A New Goal for You

Mat 6:25 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. <u>Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes</u>?

The rat race you were running in was all about survival; you had to have food, clothing, a place to sleep, protection from the elements, and transportation for getting places. This required money so you could buy these things and pay the bills they created. It didn't take long before your life was dominated and controlled by money. Because you didn't know that **life** is **more important than food, and the body more important than clothes,** you became a slave to a job, a career, the needs of your body, and the demands of your life. This rat race and the demands it puts on you are the reasons you are now struggling with child raising issues.

A New Source of Supply

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet <u>all your needs according to</u> His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. You didn't know that if you opened the door to Jesus that He would help you make the right decisions as to how to get all your needs met. When you, the world, and the devil made these decisions, the needs of your life enslaved you and took control over every moment of your day. You became dominated by physical needs that could not bring the happiness, satisfaction, and enjoyment that you need. It just became a rat race that left little room for your happiness.

When you become too busy staying alive to be able to enjoy the life you have, you are driven into doing things that actually enslave you even more. You get pressured with responsibilities, requirements, duties, obligations, commitments, and needs that you *have to* respond to or things will get bad for you. Jesus wants to help you find a way of life where you come to Him and He gives you the rest, peace, joy, and happiness that you need. It is *time* you need; you need to be able to spend time getting your issues with child raising dealt with.

A New Purpose

Luke 12:15 (NIV) Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; <u>a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions</u>." There are goals, plans, and purposes that you have set for yourself; there are things you think would make you happy. So, since you have believed that *they* have the potential of making you happy, you pursued them. The main issue is, Jesus has the happiness you seek. If you get an abundance of money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, or accomplishments, you have invested yourself in *things* to bring you happiness.

Jesus is saying to you in **Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well.** Happiness comes through you seeking God's kingdom and righteousness *first*. Once you get happiness through God, then you can start getting *things while already being* happy.

A New Kind of Happiness

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. If your emotions are down, frustrated, stressed, or fatigued, *you* won't be able to deal with your struggles with child raising. The Scripture above is a list of God's power-emotions that inspire and empower you to go through life with great positive feelings. *happiness* exists for as long as things are going well for you; but, when things go bad or circumstances get difficult, happiness leaves you just at the point where you really need it.

Jesus gives you *joy*; it is a new kind of happiness that is faithful, powerful, inspiring, and supportive. It floods your heart and inspires your life *no matter what is happening*! It gives you the power to attack, change, and handle some of the most difficult times in you life. It isn't influenced by your struggles, difficulties, challenges, or problems. It keeps you excited and *joyful* so you can defeat those things that are coming against you. Happiness will abandon you just at the moment when you need encouragement, faith, hope, and confidence to deal with your problems with child raising.

A New Kind of Power

Rom 8:37 (NIV) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. Your issues with child raising make you feel weak and helpless at times. Even if you have been a person who typically can beat most things in your life, your child raising issues sometimes make you feel like you just can't win. Jesus gives you supernatural power that makes you **more than** a **conqueror through Him Who loved** you. With Jesus you get supernatural power that enables you to do things you couldn't do before.

Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives me strength. Don't be disappointed that you weren't able to defeat this problem; it actually helped you look outside yourself. It helped you realize you needed someone bigger than yourself. Not only will Jesus empower you to defeat your issue with child raising, He will be teaching you how to use His power to defeat all those things you struggle with. That makes it worth it to give Him a chance to show you what He wants to do *with* and *through* you.

Give Jesus' Life A Chance

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth *and the life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jesus created you; He caused you to come into existence; He gave you your life; and He did it for a very special purpose. He has an awesome plan for you; but, you, the world, and the devil have plans for you as well.

You have already experienced your plans, the world's plans, and the devil's plans for your life. Now, give Jesus a chance to be your new life. Let Him show you what life is all about; let Him show you what *your* life is all about. He is a life that is wonderful, powerful, and exciting. Let Him join you in life and show you what your full potential looks like. He will give you your God-given free will back, so you can let Him lead you into the most dynamic life beyond anything you ever dreamed of. Don't let your difficulties with child raising decide or define who you are. You are a child of God; and, that makes the solutions to your problems definite.

I Have Twenty Books on Child Raising

Past Experiences May Not Help

It is true you were a child once; and it is true you had parents. It is also true you have seen other children raised by their parents. Most everyone has developed child raising opinions that they think will be better than those used by other parents. You can feel somewhat smarter, more sincere, better informed, have better attitudes; or, you can feel inadequate, uninformed, and without any qualifications for the job.

There Is No Set Pattern

Regardless of what your attitudes may be, all parents are going to run into problems with raising children. If you were to have ten kids, you would have ten different kinds of child raising needs and problems. Each child you raise is unique and requires a different approach to being raised. You would have to be a genius and an expert to be able to handle such a difficult assignment. Jesus is a genius and an expert on how to raise every kind of child there is. The Bible is incredibly wise in helping you raise your child to be able to be successful in life. No matter how different you child may be, there is nothing God hasn't already addressed in the Bible.

I Don't Have a Parent's Degree

You may be wishing there was a manual for getting instructions on how to handle each child. Your children will typically go through things that seem very different than what you went through as a child. The pressures and temptations that children face today are even greater than they were when you were a child. Kids are doing things that you didn't do and having problems with things you didn't have. But God, through the Bible, has anticipated all these issues and has provided all the answers to every one of them. Jesus can help you raise your child with great skill and wisdom. There is nothing your child will go through that Jesus can't help you handle.

There *Is* A Child Raising Manual

It Will Give You the Best Guidance Possible

The world has all kinds of philosophies for how you should raise your children. They have goals, standards, and opinions of what they think will help your child be successful in life. However, those people that are considered "experts" in the field are failing at life themselves. If you take their lives and compare them to the Bible, they are total failures. Even some of the Christian books that are available to you today have been written with many contaminates from the world.

The Biblical standards that make your child a success in life are rejected by world training. If your child gets money, possessions, positions, power, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments, the world doesn't care much about how they went about getting them. Nor does it care much about what they do with them. The Bible presents the system for getting these things; and, it deals very strongly with how they should be obtained and used.

What Should Your Child Be Exposed To?

The world tells children to read; but, they fail to tell them what to read. Even if they do tell your child what to read, they often get them reading many wrong things. The world offers supplies, care, and products to almost anyone. They aren't very concerned about how their products, services, and training are used. They don't deal with what kind of a professional they turn out. They just teach young people how to become an accountant, doctor, or lawyer. If they are an evil professional, it is because the Bible was left out of all their training. If they cheat, steal, lie, mislead, or destroy someone's character or business, that wasn't covered in their training.

There IS A Child Raising Class

Jesus Is Your Instructor

Jesus and many Bible characters were successes in life. Those in the Bible, who failed, were presented with important perspectives from God. All the case histories in the Bible are presented with God's perspective on how they should have lived.

Jesus is the expert on how you and your child should live. He offers you and your child all the truths, instruction, and power to live a successful life. Just like He is the answer to your life, He is the answer to your child's life. No matter how old your child may be, they must be born again once they get to the place where they know right from wrong. All of Jesus' training and provisions from the Bible are vital to your child. It will be your responsibility to pray and ask Jesus how to break it down into a presentation they can comprehend; but, Jesus and the Bible are their only hope for succeeding in life.

The Pursuit of Happiness

Preparing Your Child for Life

The original goal of most people is to try to find happiness, have fun, and avoid pain. In your child's pursuit of having fun and being happy, like the rest of humanity, they will discover things that bring a lot of pleasure. Some things will make them happy and provide them with a mild to moderate amount of pleasure. But, they will also find that there are other things that create extreme pleasure and are a lot of fun.

What your child is learning is that some things are fun, pleasurable, and make them happy while leaving them feeling good about themselves. What they don't know yet is, there are other things that are extreme fun, extremely pleasurable, and seem to make them very happy; but, they will leave them feeling guilty and empty afterwards.

Guiding Your Child Around the Pitfalls

Your child needs to be helped to understand that those things that are mild to moderate pleasure will satisfy; but, there are extreme pleasures that God calls sins; they will leave them with confusion and emptiness. Plus, this type of extreme pleasure will *demand* that they do it again and again. It will drive them so that they will lose their ability to resist its demands. What happens to a lot of children and young people is, they open the doors to things during childhood that they can't close as adults. Building a relationship with Jesus and the Bible will help you take a look at a way of life that delivers and protects them and you from all these issues.

Six Important Biblical Truths

In your child's pursuit of happiness, there are six things that, if not considered, will cause them to end up with bad and undesirable results. These are very important truths from Jesus and the Bible; a relationship with Jesus will help you and will help you train your child. If you understand Jesus' principles, you will be able to use them to guide yourself and those under your leadership. You will even be helped to explain things to those too old to be under your leadership.

- **First, your child's methods:** There are right ways and wrong ways of approaching life, happiness, and relationships. The right ways win; the wrong ways lose.

- **Second, your child's experiences:** If your child does it the right way or the wrong way, they will experience consequences or results of their pursuit. They will experience problems or successes based on the consequences or results of their methods.

- **Third, what your child believes to be true:** Your child will use right or wrong *methods* and get good or bad experiences based on what they believe to be true. Your child is deceived when they think something is true and it isn't. Teachers trained by the world are deceived in those areas where they were taught wrong, bad, and evil things. Your child's peer group will have philosophies that are wrong, bad, and evil.

If your child doesn't have Jesus' training and His Biblical principles, they won't have truth to combat the fake, false, and misleading things coming their way. A relationship with Jesus and His Bible makes all the difference in what your child believes to be true.

- **Fourth, your child's attitudes and character:** There aren't just right and wrong ways of doing things, there are good and bad ways for your child to treat themselves and others. One reason they will have struggles in life has to do with their motives for WHY they do what they do. If they think, feel, say, or do something out of selfishness, greed, hatred, or revenge, then there are flaws in their attitudes and character that need to be healed. A relationship with Jesus and the Bible are your child's *only* hope of getting good attitudes and character.

- **Fifth, your child's humility:** Repentance (making a U-turn) and going the other way will be necessary for undoing any mistakes you and they have made or are making. Your child can't keep doing the same things and expect different results. You have to learn that principle and your child has to learn it too. Jesus has a way for you and your child to deal with your mistakes, failures, and sins that won't do damage to your esteem and confidence.

- **Sixth, God's grace and mercy:** Your child must learn how to move out of getting what they deserve. Their relationship with Jesus isn't based on what they deserve. If they deserve to be punished, He will give them mercy. If they don't deserve good things happening to them, He will give them grace. A life in Jesus involves your child in special favors and gifts from Him. Your and their problems will be solved without you or them having to earn the solutions; they will come as gifts from Jesus.

Right And Wrong Methods

Doing the right thing the wrong way can create a lot of confusion in your child. Them doing their best and ending up with bad results is frustrating. Sincerely applying themselves to an issue and it not working out well can discourage them. The reason for all of these failures is because they are applying human effort and world training to trying to live as a Christian. If they are taught wrong methods for living life, it sets them up for failure.

It is important to train your child in the right way of living life. If that doesn't happen, they can't expect to win at it because their methods are faulty. But, how can they find out why their methods are faulty? You can teach them by using the results they are getting from these methods. You are heading into training that helps you grow in living a successful life in Jesus; and, you are passing on that training to your child. As they encounter a situation in life where things go wrong, you will be able to explain to them *why* it went wrong.

Finding Good Examples

Even though things for this generation are different now and in many ways may seem worse, God gives examples of children who were raised His way, taken into captivity by corrupt nations, and were able to resist the temptations of that land. In other words, Jesus is saying to you that He will help you and give you ways of dealing with situations that seem impossible.

There are people who prayed and worked with their children for decades and it wasn't until late in life that all that work paid off with their child's life turning around. No matter how it looks, if you keep trying to help your child learn Jesus' principles from the Bible, they will pay off in the long run. If you decide it just isn't doing any good, then they don't stand a chance of winning at life.

Forceful-Freedom God's Way

Ridged Parenting

There have been parents who have forced their children to live the way they wanted them to live. They provided them with a strict environment that didn't allow for much deviation from their control. But, when their child got opportunities, they did what they wanted to. If the parent's objective was to just cause them to live a certain way for as long as they were under their roof, then they accomplished their goal.

Freedom Parenting

Other parents are "hands-off" parents; they don't do much of anything to guide their child. They believe their child is just going through phases and will turn out alright in the end. These parents just try to be their child's friend and do not understand their responsibilities toward *raising* them and preparing them for life. If their child turns out okay, it will not be credited to them.

Forceful-Freedom Parenting

If a parent is trying to help their child with life, then their approach has to be the way God guides His children. He explains *why* each of His rules exist and then He gives them rewards and punishments; but, He lets them decide whether or not they will follow His rules. Then He waits to see what it is going to be with them.

Rather than being a parent who is always discipling and concentrating on all those wrong things their child does, God also concentrates on rewarding good. Not following His rules always results in consequences; following His rules always results in rewards. Rather than being a parent who only sees the good their child does or only sees the bad they do, you will disciple wrong and bad deeds and reward good and righteous deeds. This is the child-training system Jesus will be teaching you through your relationship with Him and the Bible.

The Whole Bible Is the Child Raising Manual

A Wealth of Information And Power

God has provided the whole Bible for you as a parent to follow. It shows you how to behave as a parent; and, it shows you how to raise children. A lot of people only use those verses that make a specific reference to children or to parents. These people are missing out on a tremendous wealth of information, instructions, illustrations and power. As you move on in these studies with Jesus, He will help the Bible come alive for you and your child.

Our Father in Heaven

As you walk together with Jesus through the Bible, you will see examples of good parents and bad parents. You will see good kids and bad kids. You will be able to see how God thinks and what He does to handle various child raising situations. He is a perfect example of what to do in every situation as He raises us, His children. We are children of God; you will see what He does with every type of child, and how to deal with every type of deed. You will be able to get God's training, His wisdom, His incredible knowledge, and His unlimited understanding.

If you start reading the Bible and going through these studies with the realization that God is a parent (our heavenly Father) and us humans are His children, you will soon see how this training works. You are a child of God; He has been raising you His way. Just by being aware of how to approach the Bible as a parent, you will start following God's pattern for raising children. He is the master Father and will set you the very best example. Jesus will be here to help you see God's principles; He will help you apply them to your life and to your child's life.

Every Child Has This Problem

All children suffer with a potential drive to involve themselves in things that take control over their life, if they try them. Many things only have to be tried once for them to be hooked. Children don't know the difference between those things that bring instant, extreme pleasure to their body and those things that are just fun. God has labeled the instant, intense pleasure things as *sins*; and, He has labeled those things that will be a blessing to your child as *righteousness*. Just pay special attention to these two labels as you go through the Bible and it will help you guide your child.

I Need Help!

Your Spiritual Growth Is Vital

It is difficult finding programs and books that really help adults prepare spiritually for life. Then when you go into the child and teen areas looking for materials and programs that address the spiritual issues they need help with, you really run into problems. That is why Jesus is addressing this issue. If the parents aren't ready to face the problems and issues they will be facing, then their children won't be ready to face the kind of problems and issues they are going to have to face. A lot of parents haven't been trained on how to help their children be ready for life. Jesus wants to get you spiritually ready to be able to *live* the life you teach your child; and, He wants to help you be ready to *be* the very best parent you can be.

Baby Food

The way a mother breast feeds a new baby their milk is to eat good food, digest that food, and then supply a type of food that is just right for their baby through breast feeding. That is the principle you will be taught by Jesus, as you go through these studies.

1. First, you will expose yourself to great Biblical principles; that is the process of you eating good spiritual food.

2. Then you will open your heart up to Jesus and let Him teach you what these concepts mean; that is you digesting this spiritual food for yourself and your child.

3. Then He will help you learn how to live these truths; that is you living by means of the part of the food you eat and use for yourself. All the food a mother eats can't just become milk for the baby; she has to stay healthy and fed herself. That is you being empowered to be a good parent.

4. After that, Jesus will help you digest or breakdown these life changing words into terms your child can feed on spiritually. That is like a mother's body breaking down the food she ate and turning it into milk.

This system helps you seek a relationship with God. The more you want to be a good parent to your child, the more you will apply yourself to that relationship with God. You won't teach your child things you aren't living; you will allow Jesus to make them real in you. You will teach your child things that work in real life. That is why Jesus exposed you to the first two days of this study and prayer you just did. Your problem with child raising can't be the major focus of your life. To be the very best parent you can be, you need to be the very best Christian you can be.

Spiri
tual Training

Attitudes And Character

Suppose a child gets neglected concerning spiritual issues. What if their parents make sure they have the very best education, clothes, food, sports training, and physical benefits? Then let's say this child grows up and gets a great education and becomes a lawyer. If this adult lacks the spiritual training they need to be honest, moral, and filled with integrity, what kind of lawyer and human being do you think they will become? The reason the Bible, Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit are so important to you and your child is, they work on you and your child's attitudes and character.

A Godless Society

Our society is providing the very best of all kinds of things. Our children are growing up with the best of everything except God. Our professionals, politicians, teachers, and parents are trying to exclude the most important issue and Person. When they get the best of everything except God and His truths, they cheat, steal, lie, kill, destroy, and hurt those around them. They were taught to think they could be successful in life without the Bible, Jesus, Church, and being born again. If a child grows up to be the very best mobster in the world, that would be because they learned from the very best world training; but, they didn't get trained by Jesus and His Word.

A Godly Parent Has a Godly Relationship
Be a person who values a *relationship* with Jesus. Be a parent who has a close and intimate relationship with Jesus. Let Him teach you proper Biblical procedures. Allow Him to so influence your heart and life that you are able to teach your child through the way you live your life. Let Jesus make you into a parent that raises their child in the ways of God. Make sure they get the best of everything you can provide. But, make God and all He stands for, your top priority.

God has chosen to be a God Who has incredibly wonderful attitudes and character. No one or nothing could have stopped Him from being evil. It is His *choice* to be such a loving, gracious, merciful, generous, and great God. If you will allow Him to put His character and attitudes in you, you will be able to "feed" them to your child.

The Benefits of Biblical Training

Establishing Your Relationship with Jesus and His Bible
There is a special book in the Old Testament named after a man called Daniel. Let Jesus take you on a journey into the life of this Daniel in the Old Testament. Jesus was there when Daniel's parents raised him. He had established Biblical training and procedures for Daniel's parents. He made sure Daniel's parents were properly trained and changed so they would know how to properly train Daniel. Daniel's parents didn't know that things were going to be very different for Daniel than they had been for them. But, because of their relationship with God, they used God's Word for their own life and for the training of their son. So, let Jesus lead you into seeing the importance of you and your child's relationship with Him and His Bible.

Children Surrounded by Sinful People
Dan 1:1 (NIV) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

The reason Jerusalem was being attacked was because God's people weren't following the principles of God. So, even the families that were supposed to be people who followed Biblical principles, they were neglecting God's Word; and, they were applying humanistic and worldly concepts. They were still going to the house of God, the temple, and going through the systems that God had laid out; but, they were just doing it as a form and a ritual. **Isa 29:13 (NIV) The Lord says: "These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is made up only of rules taught by men.**

Going From Bad to Worse
Dan 1:2 (NIV) And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his (Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon's**) hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.**

As you can see, this place where God's people are being taken is a very dark and godless place. In other words, things were spiritually bad in Jerusalem; but, the people were being taken to a place that was worse than that! You might assume that all the children coming from Jerusalem were pagans. You would expect the society back home to have such a horrible influence on the children that there was no hope for them; but, there were *some parents* who were living and teaching God's Word. Their children were being prepared for facing some of the worst things a person could face. They were being helped to live as a child of God *in spite* of what was going on around them.

Young People Being Exposed to The World

Ready Or Not

Dan 1:3-4 (NIV) Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. <u>He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians</u>.

These young people from Jerusalem were about to get taught information that a lot of it is going to be contrary to what God wanted them to know and believe. If they hadn't had a solid foundation built in their lives by their parents, they were going to be misled into false gods, world training, and human philosophy. They would be turned into very sinful, unbelieving, and godless young people. They would have been spiritually empty young people who were just waiting for someone to establish their belief system for them.

World Training

Dan 1:5 (NIV) The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. <u>They were to be trained for three years</u>, and after that they were to enter the king's service. It is easy for parents to feel like they don't stand a chance of combating the pressures of society, the children's peer group, satanic temptations, their child's own physical drives, and a whole bunch of other things. But, parents must not underestimate the power, wisdom, and influence of God and His Word. It is vital for you to believe that if you consistently expose your child to God and the things of God, He will give them power to resist all those influences and pressures.

Children Raised by Godly Parents

Dan 1:6 (NIV) Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. God focuses in on these young men and makes sure their life is recorded for a very special reason. As you look at all the bad things that pressured these guys, you might feel like they don't stand a chance. You might see so much pressure against them that if you were their parents, your little efforts of providing them with Biblical teaching wouldn't make a difference.

Sometimes parents give up because they can't see how powerful, gracious, merciful, and loving God and His Word is. When you start leading your child into a relationship with God, you are equipping them with weapons, tools, and training that is *much* more effective than all that is going to come against them. As you go through these studies with Jesus, it will no longer just be you training your child. Jesus will be flowing through you and empowering your words and prayers with His supernatural provisions.

Faith In the Love and Power of God

It's A Parental Decision

Dan 1:6 (NIV) Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. These are just young people who had godly parents who gave them a chance to be exposed to the training, principles, and power of God. The parents could have allowed themselves to be contaminated by all that was going around them; but, they didn't! The parents could have looked at all the wrong, bad, and evil and decided God and the things of God wouldn't help; but, they didn't! The parents could have lived a dedicated and committed life with God and neglected to share those things with their children; but, they didn't!

It was *highly* possible that the four Hebrew children were already showing signs of leaning toward sin, the world, and humanistic trends. Their parents could have allowed these signs to discourage them and decide the children wouldn't be interested or receptive; but, they didn't! Instead, they resisted any signs of leaning toward sin and trained them how to resist it themselves.

It Has Started

Dan 1:7 (NIV) The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

These young men were forced into new identities; they were renamed after foreign gods that were evil. The names they were to be called were going to try to take away who their parents had trained them to be. Their clothes had been changed; their training had been changed; those in charge of them had been changed; their geographical location had been changed; and they were no longer able to consult their parents in times of confusion. But, their parents had built a relationship with God in them and had taught them how to look to God and His Word for their guidance. <u>The parents didn't just teach their children to obey them; they taught them to obey God</u>.

God's Power Is at Work

Dan 1:8 (NIV) But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. You might admire Daniel for *his* resolve, see him as a young man not easily influenced by his environment. But, if Daniel had *not* been properly trained by his parents, he wouldn't have known about being defiled. If Daniel hadn't been led into a close relationship with God, he wouldn't have had the power or resolve to stand up against such odds. Daniel had to be receptive to his parent's training; but, once he opened his heart, his parents were right there to provide him with what he needed.

Don't Underestimate God

This Is Why Christianity Works

Dan 1:9 (NIV) Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel. Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity operate in supernatural power. When you raise your child using Biblical principles, it isn't just another philosophy or school of thought. It isn't like being trained on how to be a mechanic or a plumber. You aren't just filling your child's mind with information and knowledge. You are giving them a relationship with God that works with power in their lives that they are going to desperately need.

It's important not to think that Daniel was just a unique, special child different from your child. The reason God made sure he was in the Bible was so you could have faith that the Bible and a relationship with Jesus works. The book of Daniel isn't in God's Bible so as to impress you with Daniel. He isn't in the Bible so as to depress you about how your child is, or, how your child raising isn't going. Daniel is your example of what Jesus wants you to "eat" and "feed" your child spiritually.

Biblical Training Isn't Understood by The World

Dan 1:10 (NIV) But the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

You have seen certain foods and drinks make a difference in your body. You understand what it takes for an athlete to develop their body. You have seen what exercise and physical training can do to an athlete. But, if food, training, philosophies, and exercise involve doing things that pull your child away from putting their trust in Jesus, you have to be aware of these sinister tricks of the devil that hurt your child. Pop psychology, secular humanism, and believing in themselves seems to be spiritually neutral; but they aren't. Once your child tries to use these things in real life, it puts them into a relationship with themselves that removes God from their life.

The Biblical Test

Dan 1:11-12 (NIV) Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.

What made Daniel believe that such a test would work? What kind of training and experiences would cause him to think that the lack of "proper" foods would make them physically fit? What's wrong with just going along with the rest of the young people? In the Old Testament, a lot of Daniel's relationship with God had to do with his diet. In the New Testament, concepts, philosophies, principles, belief systems, and spiritual training have much to do with you and your child's relationship with God. If you or your child embrace things from the world that structure your character and attitudes, God will step back and allow you and your child to run your own lives.

Good Parental Training

Children Taking Advantage of Their Biblical Training

Dan 1:8 (NIV) But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Dan 1:11-13 (NIV) Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."

Daniel wasn't handling this God's way because his parents just taught him a whole bunch of Scriptures; he wasn't just trained on what the Bible said; Daniel had been led into a *relationship* with God that believed in God's power and faithfulness. He had a working knowledge of how to live the life. He knew he could obey the Scriptures and God would reward him for being faithful. That is what Jesus wants to help happen in you and in your child's life.

Trained To Do the Right Thing

Dan 1:14 (NIV) So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. If God uses this test to demonstrate His power, then Daniel will be able to honor his parental training because of the good circumstances. But, if they looked worse after ten days, then he would have to be strong and refuse to defile himself anyway. In this case, God decided to work a miracle in these young men and make it easy for them to be obedient to the requirements of their relationship with God.

Another thing that is in play here is, the royal food and wine would have tasted so much better than water and vegetables. Their training from their parents had helped them be willing to make sacrifices and be inconvenienced so as to do the right things. It isn't always easy or as enjoyable to go God's way. But, the *end results* will pay off with incredible blessings and benefits.

The Privilege of Experiencing God

Dan 1:15 (NIV) At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. The blessings of God for being willing to do the right thing shows up in God-sized ways. God is supernatural; His knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power flow through those who do the right thing. Once these young men were trained by their parents what the right things were, they were equipped with powerful information and skills for getting miracles from God.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah's parents were so much better than the parents of the rest of the young men in this training program of the king. None of the other young men would get to see this miracle of God making them **healthier and better nourished.** These young men just got a miraculous experience with God that will help them live a dynamic life in the future.

Opening The Door to The Great Things of God
Dan 1:16 (NIV) So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

This looks like the end-results of taking advantage of godly parent's training. However, this just opened the door for God to bless and use these young men in very special ways. The test they just passed brought them into the powerful, miraculous, and God-sized works of God. Their parent's training made it possible for them to apply it and do what it took to connect to God's supernatural knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power. They are now on a path that they would never been able to get on without that parental training. Let Jesus show you the potential of you and your child pursuing a total relationship with Him.

The Great Things of God
Dan 1:17 (NIV) To these four young men GOD *gave* knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. Now this is the reward and benefit of these young men applying their parent's godly training. Because their parents were so wonderful and faithful to provide them with God's Word, and, because these young men were so appreciative and wise in listening and applying that training, God did incredible things in and through them. Your child raising involves two free wills; you are free to decide whether or not you are going to provide your child with Biblical training. And, your child is free to decide whether or not they will listen and apply it. All you can do is pray and ask God to help you provide the very best Biblical training to your child. But, even if they decide to ignore it, you have done your part in making the miraculous world of God available to them.

God's Principles in The Real World

Ready To Succeed in Life
Dan 1:18 (NIV) At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. Your child will be exposed to all kinds of information; some of it, like math, language, and scientific facts are neutral spiritually. However, there will be information given to them that has to do with spiritual training. The world offers secular humanism, false religions, and satanic training. That is information that can really damage your child.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were exposed to the neutral and were able to tell the difference between it and the fake spiritual information that came with it. How? They got that ability through the wonderful, spiritual, Biblical training from their parents. They had been so exposed to the real and true information of God, it was easy to tell the difference. The other young men were easily fooled by those things they were exposed to. They couldn't differentiate between the neutral information and the spiritual.

The Results Of Biblical Training
Dan 1:19 (NIV) The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

You are preparing *your* child for the future; those who only make sure they get a good education, sports training, and good worldly resources are failing their child. It is important to see to it that your child is trained in neutral information. But, Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33 (NIV): Seek first His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness, and all these THINGS will be given to you as well.** If your priority is to expose your child to the very best Biblical training, that will make all the other information work in a supernatural way.

The Truth of Biblical Training
Dan 1:20 (NIV) In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

The thing about Biblical training is, it is the truth about life. The Bible explains how life really works. It prepares your child with training they must have in order to win at life. The Bible is the *truth*; all other non-neutral, fake spiritual information is a *lie*. When your child bases their life on the *truth*, they are addressing life with all the facts. It is like turning the light on; your child can *see* the world, life, and the circumstances of life clearly. Your relationship with Jesus and your Biblical training shined the light on life and helped them be able to navigate in it with a clear vision. Without those truths, people grope and stumble through life in the darkness of false information.

Provide The Best for Your Child
Dan 1:21 (NIV) And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus. Daniel responded to his parents training better than even Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. It was Daniel's idea for their trainer to change their diet; he became a great spiritual leader.

Even though the parents of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah provided great Biblical training to them, they gradually disappear from the Biblical narrative. They will demonstrate incredible spiritual commitment, dedication, and resolve. But, Daniel will be the main person in the book of Daniel. He *really* took advantage of his parent's Biblical training. His parents made sure he had the very best spiritual training; and, Daniel took it to the limits of serving God.

You Are Building a Foundation

Your Child Is Building on The Foundation
Dan 2:1 (NIV) In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. Life will have increasingly difficult challenges for your child; if they successfully go through each life-class, as they get more challenging, the previous life-classes will get them ready for the more difficult ones. Daniel used his parent's training to grow far beyond the beginning training from his parents. He grew to be a mighty man of God; and, that made him ready for a very difficult assignment.

The King had a dream; but, he not only wanted the interpretation, he wanted the **magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.** If they couldn't do it, he was going to chop them into pieces. So, God revealed his dream and the interpretation to Daniel, and saved his life and the lives of all the **magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers.** God gave Nebuchadnezzar a revelation of all the world rulers that will rule the earth from himself all the way to the Antichrist. It predicted and was fulfilled all the way down to our time. All we are waiting on is the reign of the Antichrist. If Daniel hadn't received his parent's training and hadn't taken advantage of it and grew even further, this revelation wouldn't have been explained.

You Are Giving Your Child Potential

Dan 2:46-49 (NIV) Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

Once you do your part by praying and asking Jesus to teach you and empower you to provide your child with the very best spiritual training, God will take it from there. He will work with your child and help them reach their highest and best potential in life.

Building A Relationship with Jesus

Jesus actually knows everything your child is going to face. As you build a better and better relationship with Jesus, He will guide you in making sure your child is ready for their future. No matter how old your child is, there are things Jesus can give you the wisdom to say that will provide them with their very best chance. You can see from this case history of Daniel that parents who have a relationship with God are vital. Your relationship with Jesus and His Bible will raise your potential as a parent. He will be taking these studies and helping you grow in those areas where you need it. You can trust Him to give you power, training, skills, potential, and wisdom that will enhance everything you are. There is no limit to what Jesus can do in and through you.

Your Path to Healing from Child Raising Issues

Being Equipped to Win in Life

You are struggling with child raising issues; and, these issues are what is bothering you the most. Jesus will be providing you with three tool sets that you will need to win over these issues. You are now moving into a relationship with Jesus; His training will help you become *extremely* skillful with these spiritual tools. By establishing a relationship with Him, He will teach you how to apply these three tool sets to your child raising issues and to every other issue in your life.

Your next step is called spiritual growth; Jesus is using this growth to increase your relationship with Him; He will use it to train you and help you with your struggles. He will empower you to become a mature, trained, experienced, skilled child of God. The three tool sets that Jesus will be giving you and training you how to use, will be like you going down to the store and buying your very first set of tools for a new career. You wouldn't know much about how to use them; but, you would need to buy them so you could take them to school where they would train you in their use.

A Project to Practice On

If you bought woodworking tools, then you would need to get some *materials* to practice on and you would need a *project*. Jesus is going to be giving you three spiritual tool sets for dealing with your child raising issues. The *materials* you will be working on will be your life; and, the PROJECT you will be working on will be your struggles with child raising. Your new spiritual tools will be basically kept in three "toolboxes." They are labelled, **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity, The Seven Biblical Principles,** and **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God.**

Since this problem with child raising is something you have a real desire to win over, Jesus will be using it as your major "project." Using your spiritual tools to overcome your issue with child raising will help you get skillful with these tools. Jesus will also be going through various other needs you have and letting you practice using these three tool sets on them. Since your difficulty with child raising is the biggest and most challenging issue in your life, it will be the hardest for you to completely win over. So, there will be times when Jesus will have you practice on some smaller issues.

Getting Some Successes

Easier, smaller problems in your life will take less effort to win over. You will need to see your three tool sets help you get good results from time to time. Long, complicated, and difficult problems like child raising will take a lot of skill, experience, talent, and power. You will need to allow Jesus to teach you, train you, help you practice, and help you grow spiritually before you get a final success over your problems with child raising.

You must trust Jesus to know what is best for you; even though you may not agree with His methods, He is extremely brilliant in guiding you into the very best way for you to win over your issues with child raising. Plus, Jesus' objective isn't to just help you win over your struggles with child raising, He wants to lead you into exciting ways of living your life. These exciting things that Jesus will be leading you into will crowd out the emotional aspects of struggling with child raising and a lot of other things that are causing you to feel pain.

Spiritual Growth

If you were a person in sports working on something that was going to take a lot of physical strength and agility, there would be special routines that you would have to do every day to get your body ready for it. You would be required to do exercises that may not seem like they had anything to do with your goal. But, as a person in sports, you would have to trust your coach. You would have to be willing to allow them to take you into physical training, special diets, and practices that got your ready for the real thing.

Jesus knows what He is doing; there can be many studies and prayer times that don't even mention your issues with child raising. But, they are vital to you future successes in dealing with child raising problems and with all of the rest of your life's assignments. Spiritual growth has to do with your power, your training, your skills, your talents, your experiences, and your abilities. Jesus is teaching you how to be a very successful child of God.

The Training and Provisions of Jesus

Spiritual Power

The world says that absolute power corrupts absolutely. This isn't true of Jesus: **Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "<u>All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me</u>. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and <u>teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you</u>. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus immediately shared His power and authority with you; and, He is telling you to go share it with everyone else. Spiritual growth helps you have the necessary attitudes and character so Jesus' power won't tempt you to be corrupted. Instead, you will get the same generosity, love, and compassion for others that Jesus had for you. Spiritual growth helps you get the mighty power and principles of Jesus; and then you use them to help hurting people. You will be exposed to power that could be used for wrong, bad, and evil purposes. But, Jesus makes sure you use them for win/win methods, systems, programs, and relationships that bless everyone who is willing.

Character And Attitudes

Most training programs don't deal with the attitudes and character of a person. The hospitals, clinics, businesses, schools, and suppliers will typically provide an evil person with the same things that they do to an honest person. As long as they get their money, they don't usually try to make sure the person is going to use their provisions for good. However, Jesus cares more about attitudes and character than anything else.

Jesus wants to know what you are going to do with all your wins, victories, and successes. If He healed you, blessed you, and gave you His power and you purposefully used it for wrong, bad, and evil, that would make Him a part of what you did and who you were. Jesus isn't going to drive the get-away car while you rob the bank. He will make sure your attitudes and character are such that you will use His miracles, blessings, healings, and power for only right, good, and righteous purposes.

Jesus' Top Priority

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first <u>His kingdom and His righteousness</u>, and all these THINGS will be given to you as well. So, if Jesus spends a lot of time working on your spiritual growth rather than just trying to help you win over your issues with child raising, you will know why. He wants you to learn how to win over these things by them flowing through you as a righteous, good person.

Jesus wants you to win and then go out and live a good, right, and righteous life with others. He wants you to use your victories for becoming a person who only involves themselves in win/win things. But, you will only *become* this type of person through a relationship with Jesus and His mighty power. If you will allow Jesus to change your attitudes and character through the three tool sets, as you start winning over your struggles with child raising, you will use this new freedom and success for wonderful, loving, and caring things. Many people will benefit from the new you.

What's Next?

Moving Forward with Jesus

You have been involved in studying with Jesus and Him helping you understand and grow through your studies. You have spent time praying and asking Jesus to put the truths in your life that you discovered during your studies. These two procedures of studying and praying are getting you used to and ready for a special life with Jesus. This is introducing you into procedures that work in Christianity. But, they are only two of many tools that are vital and powerful for helping you win over your child raising issues.

All the exposure to the truths in these studies and all the prayers you have prayed will need additional support. For example, you will need to *believe* that these studies and prayers are working. Faith to believe is very important to God; and, so are several other things that the three tool sets will provide you. So, ask Jesus to help you be ready for becoming skillful in all He is about to provide for you.