

## Encouragement for Fathers

Being a Dad is one of the greatest honors in life, but it's also one of the most difficult jobs out there. Culture's skewed expectations and diminishing view of fatherhood haven't made our work as dads any easier. We know the importance of providing, protecting and leading, but, how do we do that faithfully in today's world?

Thankfully God's word exists to encourage and lead us in the work of fathering. One place we find great encouragement is the Psalms.

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate"* (Psalm 127).

Here are four lessons that we can quickly take away from these words of wisdom.

Let the Lord BUILD your home (v. 1). This isn't talking about nail guns and power tools (although those are cool!). He is raising the question, "Is God at the center of everything holding all things together?" If not, let Him build beyond a dwelling and establish your home.

Accept the Lord's protection (v. 1). As a father, we take security seriously. While we can check the locks at night and make sure our kids wear their seatbelt, here we are challenged to trust in the providence of almighty God and let Him protect us eternally.

Let the Lord guide your work (v. 2). The role of provider is not something most dads take lightly. However, we can easily become entangled in the grind and exhausted from the tempo. Remember, reliance upon God in all things leads to peace.

Enjoy the reward of children (v. 3-5). Sometimes screaming babies, inquisitive toddlers, needy young ones, and temperamental teenagers can cloud our eyes to the blessings of our children. Don't forget to stop and enjoy the joy that they are now and will continue to be in the future. Thanks for being a dad who puts God first!

-Ryan Parsons, Monticello church of Christ, Monticello, AR  
(Bulletin Digest) -

## The Person To Be

Trust cannot be produced where there is no basis to support it. Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Confidence... thrives only on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and on unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live."

It is assuring to be associated with a person so trustworthy that we feel safe with him around, assured that he will neither cheat us nor betray us, confident that he will not let us down. We can trust him, whether it be to look after our money or our reputation. We don't have to cut the cards when he deals. That's the person to be — what we prefer in another.

- Leroy Brownlow, *Thoughts of Gold* -

*The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.*  
Proverbs 20:7



## News & Notes

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Claudette Miller.

**BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:** Beginning the last Sunday evening of June (30th), and continuing each last Sunday evening of each quarter (depending on interest), Bible questions will be considered for Bible answers. Please submit your questions TODAY.

**CONVERT'S CLASS:** Resumes this Thursday, June 20th at 11:00 a.m.

**FIFTH SUNDAY, JUNE 30th CONTRIBUTION:** Will be sent to the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort in Nashville. Give cheerfully and generously.

**SUMMER BIBLE CAMP:** July 8-13 at Tomlinson Run State Park. Registration packets available.

**PANTRY:** Elbow Macaroni (small).

**REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home:** Docie Moore, Linda Parkes, Zachary Guiddy (Tim Martin's grandson), Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Stocks (Karen Strum's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother), Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carol Williams (Sharon Sprout's mother), 104 N. Clayton, Carlsbad, NM 88220. **Herman McHan,** 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

## Watch for These Warning Signals

1. Lack of time for Bible study, church assemblies, or Christian service.
2. Devoting of more time to reading newspapers or novels than the Bible.
3. Preference for the company of the irreligious to that of Christians.
4. Looking for reasons to justify something you have already done or decided to do.
5. Evaluating the sermon more by its length than by its content.
6. Becoming more prone to illness on Sunday than on other days of the week.
7. Stretching one week's excuse to cover two or more weeks of absence from church.
8. Thinking of the church in terms of "they" rather than "we."
9. Reaction to sorrow, doubts, or personal problems by avoiding Christian association which might help to resolve them.
10. Resentment toward being visited by representatives of the church.

These danger signals are early symptoms of the various aspects and development phases of worldliness, a malignancy far more deadly than cancer. Early diagnosis and intensive prolonged treatment are of utmost importance.

Should any one of these warning signals be detected, it should receive immediate attention.

This stubborn ailment has been known to respond favorably to massive ingestion of Bible study, combined with regular and sustained attendance at worship assemblies, and committed involvement in teaching, visitation, and personal service, augmented by increased exercise of prayer and sacrifice.

- Author Unknown - (via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)