

Subverting Authority

NEVER Alone!

Power of a Testimony

the Victory Voice

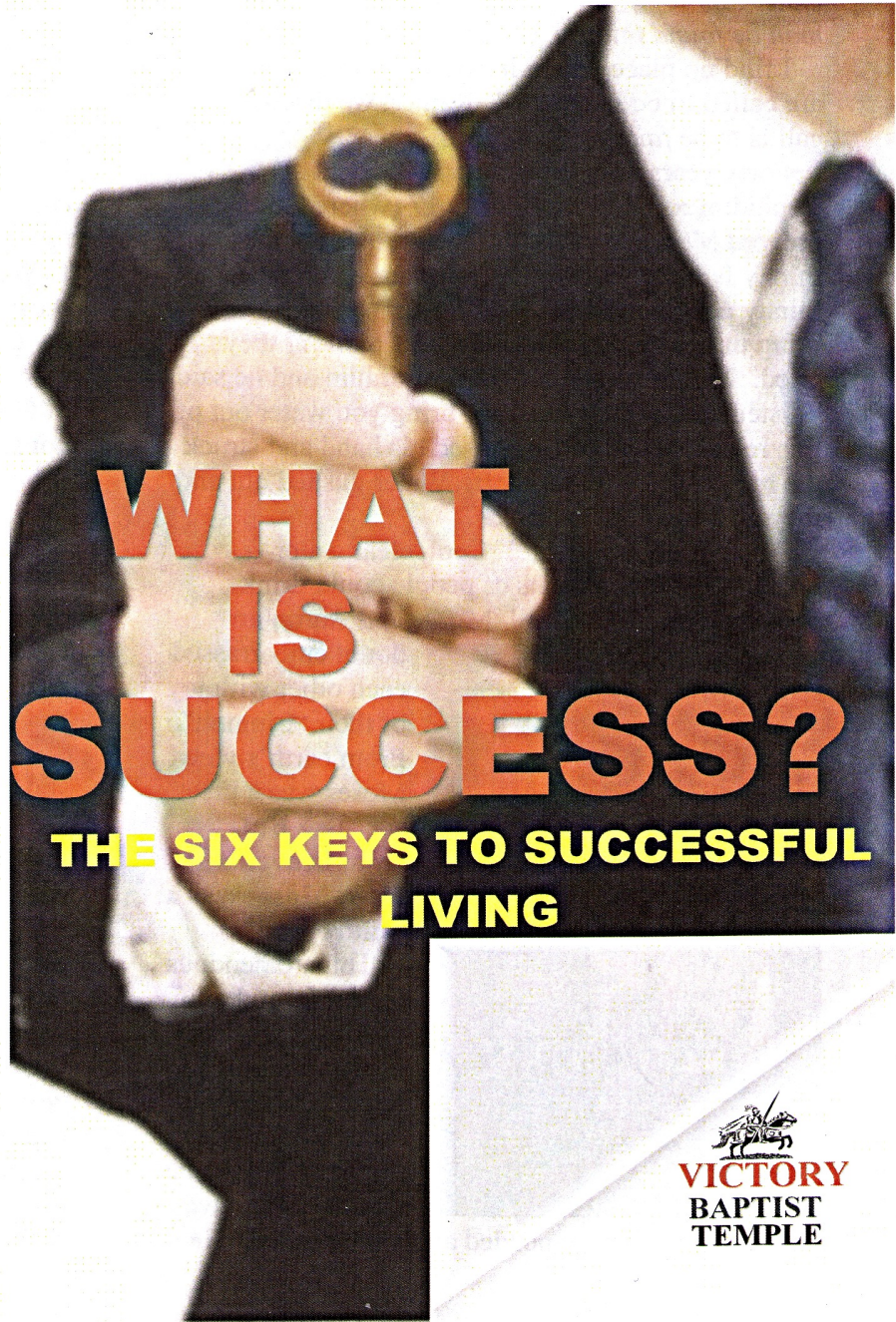
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a
PASSION
for God

How to KNOW
our Father

*Just when you
think that
nobody
loves you!*

Finding **peace** with God



**WHAT
IS
SUCCESS?**

**THE SIX KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL
LIVING**



**VICTORY
BAPTIST
TEMPLE**



WHAT IS SUCCESS?

THE SIX KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING

BY PASTOR ELMO PARKER

1 FAITHFULNESS

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful (I Cor. 4:1-2).

I find no place where it says that God's servants are called to be *successful*. Rather, we discover our call is to be *faithful*!

Forty years after the dramatic incident at Rephidim recorded in Exodus 17 (where God ordered Moses to strike the rock providing the thirsty Israelites with water), Moses again faced a thirsty people in Numbers 20:3-4: "Why did you bring us out here to the wilderness to die?" they cried. Moses' anger got the best of him and he said, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out and they all were able to drink!

Another great miracle! Cool, clear water---everyone of the millions of people could drink. What a great SUCCESS! Moses and Aaron no



doubt embarrassed each other with joy of their "triumph". From earth's view, Moses was a great success. **But, from heaven's view, Moses was a failure!**

This tremendous lesson from the life of Moses teaches us that one can be regarded as highly successful in the ministry and yet be a failure. He gave

the people what they needed and yet he failed. He

was not faithful to God's Word. God's primary call is to faithfulness. It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful (I Cor. 4:2), regardless of the size of ministry!

2 THE OBEDIENCE FACTOR

After Moses' death we find God saying to Moses' successor, Joshua (repeating it twice for emphasis), "*Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest observe to do all the law...*" (Joshua 1:7).

We sometimes think that when things are prospering that God is blessing us, and when things are going poorly we conclude that God's blessings are **not** upon the work. We must use the guide line of God as the real and only standard of our success, not some tangible or glamerous scale.

3 KNOWING AND DOING OF GOD'S WORD

Do you know God's Word? Are you a man or woman of the Book? We must know and obey God's Word. Of course knowing and doing are two different things.

4 THE GLORY OF WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE

Early one morning while on a Holy Land trip in 1985, I watched a shepherd (with the aid of his collie dog), herd his large herd of sheep. It was easy to see that the collie was in the height of his glory. The dog was doing what he was born and trained to do. *His eyes were always on the sheep, but his ears were tuned to obey his master.*

Through obedience the dog experienced his glory. The same is true in the spiritual realm. **To experience the glory of God's will for us means we must have absolute trust in God. It means to have the will to do His will.** When we do this, we will experience joy. Never do we know greater joy,

and success than when we are obedient to His will. It is in the reach of all of us!

5 THE HARD WORK FACTOR

Faithfulness not only demands obedience, but hard work. Our biggest danger is **not burn out**—its RUST OUT! In my opinion most preachers are lazy. There is no such thing as a lazy/faithful servant. God blesses work!

Matthew 25

14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money,

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

The servant who was given five talents, gained five more talents. Likewise, the servant who was given two talents, gained two more talents. The lord's response in verse 21 is: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

But the servant that was given one talent and did nothing with it, the lord strongly rebuked him in verse 26: "Thou wicked and slothful servant..." The Lord has nothing good to say about lazy servants. They are unfaithful.

We all go through difficult times. They are the baggage of any ministry. Times of joy are matched with times of criticism. When difficulty comes *delve* deep into God's Word. Read and reread it! Let His Word richly *dwell* in you (Col. 3:16). Then obey it, and keep on working hard for God! Because a faithful life is a successful life! Success is serving! We serve God through preaching, administrating, counseling, bearing one another's

burdens... A servant's hand yields success—we become more like Christ!

6 SUCCESS IS LOVING

Years ago, a fascinating interview took place between Mr. Charles Schwab, then president of Bethlehem Steel, and Ivy Lee, a self-styled management consultant.

Lee was an aggressive, self-confident man who had secured the interview with Mr. Schwab. During the interview, Lee contended that if the management of Bethlehem Steel would follow his advice, the company's operation would improve and their profits would increase.

Schwab responded, "If you can show us a way to get more done, I'll be glad to listen. If it works, I'll pay whatever you reasonably ask."

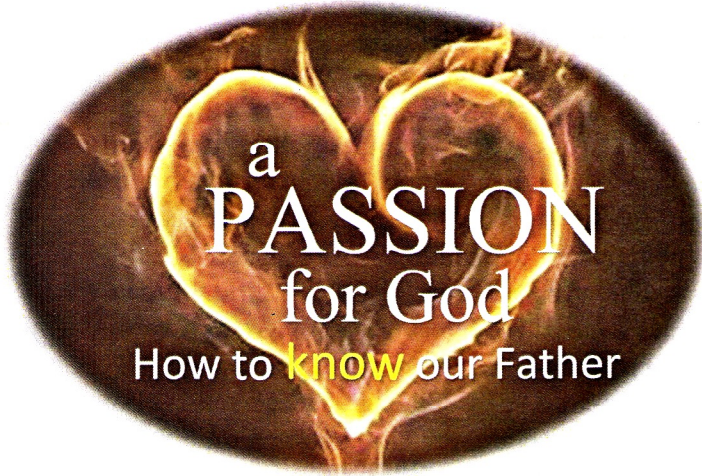
Lee said, "Write down the most important things you have to do tomorrow. Write them in order of their importance." Schwab did so.

Lee continued, "Tomorrow morning start on number one and stay with it until you've completed it. Then go to the second one, the third...ect. Do this every day. After you have been convinced, have your men do it. Try it as long as you like and send me a check for what you think it's worth."

The two men shook hands and Lee left the president's office. A few weeks later Charles Schwab sent Lee a \$25,000 check, quite a sum for the 1930's.

The business world knows the value of priorities to become successful! Likewise, to be a successful Christian, **our number one priority is loving and worshipping God!** *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matt. 22: 36-37).*





“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me...”

Jeremiah 9:24

by Scott Miller, Assoc. Pastor

Mankind boasts himself in a variety of things—mental prower, physical strength, outward beauty, fine clothes or a well-furnished home. We glory in matters that are of no consequence to Heaven. God through the prophet Jeremiah tells us what we ought to glory in—Him! He says to us, *understand* and *know* me. What does it mean when we use the phrase, “knowing God?” Is it a special sort of emotion? Shivers down ones spine? A dreamy, off-the-ground, floating feeling?

WHAT KNOWING GOD IS NOT

For many folk knowing God is simply knowing about him. For example, some people say that they know the President of the United States; when, in fact they know some facts about him, but they do not really know him personally. You see, knowing God is not the same as knowing about God.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD

This is a distinction that most Christians have never grasped. One can attend church for years and still not know God. He could have all the books of the Bible memorized, and have recited hundreds of verses, yet still not know God. One can sing in church, teach Sunday school, have a deep interest in the Bible, or even lead a Bible study group and have no idea who God is. No, *knowledge about God* is not *knowing God*.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GODLINESS

This may also surprise some, but knowledge about godliness, how to live the Christian life, or living a sanctified life does not mean that one knows God. In the past fifty to seventy-five years we have refined godliness into an art instead of a relationship. There is no shortage of “How-To” books on prayer, Bible study, soul winning, Scripture memory, tithing, receiving the Holy Spirit, sermon preparation, etc. It makes one wonder if our techniques are so fine-tuned that we really do not need God at all. Are our programs so well-conceived and so well organized that He is not even around? One may have a library full of biographies of godly saints who labored faithfully for the Lord, but at the best this is only secondary knowledge of God. The fact of the matter is that too many of us have only heard about the “lush grapes of Canaan” but have never tasted them for ourselves. We can know all about God and godliness but really not know God.

WHAT KNOWING GOD IS

So, what is knowing God? What does such an adventure involve? Knowing God is not a class you sign up for, but a relationship one is born into. If we were to study the epistle to the Hebrews, we would find that the author spends thirteen chapters telling his readers that Christ offers us a *relationship* with him, not a *system*.

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

The only way we can even begin to know God is through His Son Jesus Christ. In our sinful state, we are estranged, separated from the Father. We are unholy sinners, and He is a holy God. Jesus Christ “...*was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*” (Hebrews 9:28) In shedding His blood on the cross, Christ paid the sin debt you and I owed. Thus, He is able to offer mankind total salvation—the opportunity to be “born” into His family spiritually and to become His child. This is called the second birth (John 3:3).

You see, we cannot know God or even draw close to Him until we are *born* into His family. When we recognize our sinful condition and our need for a Saviour and turn to Christ with a *full heart of belief*, in that moment we become God’s

child and He becomes our *Abba* (Father). Real, true salvation is the starting point of truly knowing God.

A PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP

A close relationship with God is *structured* but not *systematic*. This is where many Christians get off course in their relationship with God. We all tend to gravitate toward an achievable “to do” list. Why? Because making God my “to do” list makes me feel “spiritual.” However, that spiritual feeling is only temporary, for it really makes God more distant. You see, relating to God is not so different from relating to someone else. He doesn’t care for systematic love. In fact, in Scripture He told His people repeatedly to put away their “systems” when their hearts were not in it. The moment we begin to spend time with God out of obligation is the moment He distances Himself from us. Obligated love or routine love repels God, and we are actually the poorer as a result. Everything we do in knowing God must flow from a pure heart of love or it means nothing.

At the same time, my relationship with God will have structure. Think of it this way, growing close to your spouse requires structure. In my case, I will be faithful to my wife. I will help around the house. I will tell her what time I expect to be home, or I will call her. Yet, our relationship is not about structure—it is about our love for each other. The structure, we might say, provides the framework on which our relationship can grow. Structure is the “skeleton” that holds the relationship together. But knowing my wife has to go beyond that.


In my walk with God, and striving to know Him, if I focus on the structure, or reduce my knowledge of Him to a system, I will find that it will kill my closeness with Him. In fact, Revelation 3:16 tells me that a lukewarm, heartless approach to knowing Him makes God sick. In our fellowship with God and learning to know Him better we should think *relationship*, not a *stiff system*.

RELATIONSHIP IS DEVELOPED OVER TIME

In Revelation 3, Jesus says that it is His desire that we know Him. He uses the word *sup* here. To *sup* implies a season of time spent together. If we are to know God, and not just know about Him, we are going to have to spend time with Him. You see, the more we do this the closer we are going to become

like Him. Let me briefly share with you what this involves and how it works.

- **Knowing God requires communication.** Just as time with a friend involves conversation and sharing the heart, even so knowing God will require communion *to* and *from* Him—*from* Him is in His written Word; *to* Him involves prayer.
- **Knowing God requires consistency.** While a relationship shouldn’t be systematic, it should be consistent. If I neglect my wife, children or a close friend for a season, relational distance is inevitable! To stay close, we must spend time together consistently! So too, inconsistent time with God will weaken my relationship with Him. Have a goal to spend time with God every day, but don’t let it become so systematic that you lose the dynamic of relationship.
- **Knowing God must have quantity.** Relationships cannot be rushed like overnight mail! People don’t want five minute conversations a month—they need a lunch time, an hour conversation, and some quantity of time! Healthy growing Christians who know God spend large amounts of time with God. This is what Jesus meant in John 15:4—“*Abide in me and I in you.*”
As time goes by and our fellowship grows, we know each other increasingly better. A person can be born into a family, but many years and much effort are required before the person can really have personal fellowship and real knowledge of his family members. A small child might recognize his father, but if his father were to die, the child would soon forget him. By the time he were grown, he would say that he never really knew his father.

Since the time you were saved and born into God’s family, have you grown into a more intimate knowledge of God? Do you enjoy a closer bond, a greater love, a sweeter fellowship now than you did right after you were saved? Do you **know God** or do you simply **know about Him**? 



Victory Baptist Temple's

38th
ANNIVERSARY
celebration

Sunday, March 15
10:00 AM Sunday school
11:00 AM Preaching
Meal following services

5th Sunday
SINGSPARATION



Sunday, March 29
6:00 PM
Meal following services

VICTORY
Cab Service

Sunday, April 12

Let's fill our cars with people and bring them to church!



Mini Missions
CONFERENCE



Sunday, April 26
Victory Baptist Temple

Morning session: 10:00 & 11:00 AM
Around the World Noon Meal
Evening session: 6:00 PM

Featured Speaker, David Board Jr.,
veteran missionary to Cambodia
and his wife, Debbie



FRIEND DAY
Sunday, May 10

Coming Home
SUNDAY



A special day to invite "old timers to come back home" and to invite those around us to make Victory their CHURCH HOME.

Special music will include the Parker Family.

Sunday, May 24

How to find peace with God



Just When You Think That Nobody Loves You!

By Dr. David Board

We are told that six to eight million dogs and cats are abandoned each year in the United States alone! Despite their helplessness they are left to fend for themselves. They are no longer desirable to the mass of humanity.


Sadder than this truth is the fact that many people are turned away and forgotten by those who once were their friends. Life is cheap to so many today! Even unborn babies are put to death because they would be too much trouble and expense. They too have no friend on this earth.

The helpless and unlovely are treated as they are because of the very nature of mankind. It seems that it is much easier to do wrong than right. We do not have to teach our children to lie, but we have to teach them to tell the truth. We do not have to teach them to be selfish, but they do have to be taught to share. This nature we find within ourselves is what God calls, *sin*. Because of our pride we are offended by the word *sin*. Be that as it may we still are sinners by nature. As sinners we are what the Bible calls, *lost*. We are as helpless as the abandoned animals we pity or the aborted babies we mourn.

Despite the fact that you and I are *lost* and unfit to walk with the Lord, He has opened His arms to us and welcomes us into His family. He is truly the "*friend of sinners*." As a matter of fact Jesus came into the world to seek and to save sinners!

The Word of God declares that, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but, have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). You may not think that God wants you. Friend, have you asked Him? His Word says that He is not willing that any should perish. His desire is that ALL should be saved. God declares that anyone who will come to Him will NOT be cast out, or "turned away." The Bible plainly states that "Whosoever shall CALL upon the name of the Lord SHALL be saved."

Someone DOES love you! Call on Him today and ask Him for forgiveness of your sins. You will find that He WILL forgive you, set you free from the guilt you now feel, and make you His child forever! It is a free gift to us, but this salvation was purchased with the blood of God's Lamb. A Lamb sent to take away the sins of the whole world. Believe ON the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice I did not say, believe IN the Lord Jesus. You might believe IN Jesus, but it is a different thing entirely to believe ON the Lord. The former is to acknowledge that Jesus is a historical person. The latter is to place your faith ON Him for your eternal salvation. God's Word promises that all who, "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,*" shall be saved.

Yes, just when you think that nobody loves you, you'll find Jesus standing by you with His arms outstretched. Hear His words, "*Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28). 



SUBVERTING GOD'S LINE OF AUTHORITY

Lessons from the Life of Absalom

By Dr. Ron Williams

Imagine a young man if you will, who has grown up in the home of a Godly man, he has received a good education and shows much promise for the future inasmuch as he has natural leadership qualities. Imagine this son committing a heinous crime and then fleeing to distant relatives for safety. He stays with these indulgent relatives for quite some time, and is protected by them from the consequences of his felony. The father of the miscreant desires to bring him to justice, but is powerless to act so long as he is sheltered by these permissive relatives.

ABSALOM SHELTERED

This story is not hypothetical, but is a part of the sordid account of Absalom's murder of his brother Amnon (2 Samuel 13 ff). The father is David, and the permissive relatives are Absalom's maternal grandparents.

We are quick to note the sin of these permissive grandparents, and most of us would condemn their undermining of David's authority as a father. Many of us would discern that Absalom's wrong character was actually reinforced by his indulgent grandparents, and their subverting of parental authority. Could it be possible their sheltering and coddling of a felon against his father's wishes actually encouraged Absalom to attempt a coup which ended in the loss of 20,000 lives in Israel?

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU HEAR

Rebellious sons and daughters are capable of giving slanted news to whomever they can find who would

have a sympathetic ear. A fallen nature in rebellion toward God-given parents will have great creativity in describing the weaknesses and failures of their parents, but will be strangely silent about their own failures. Anyone listening to a youngster describe the faults of his parents needs the sagacity and perspicacity of Solomon!

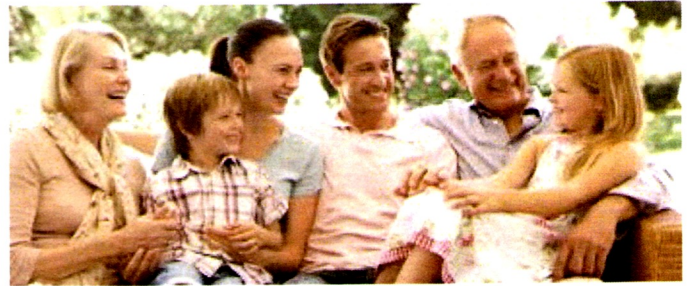
Our fallen nature is quick to "choose sides" and be offended at supposed injustices suffered by a son or a daughter at the hands of "tyrannical parents." In our pride, we believe we could have done better with this child, and find ourselves unwillingly playing the part of Taimai (Absalom's grandparents) rather than following Scriptural principle.

PREMATURE CONCLUSIONS

Scripture presents strong warnings about drawing conclusions before hearing **both** sides of any controversy. "*He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him*" (Proverbs 18:17).

Over these many years we have seen incalculable damage done by mature Christian adults who should have known better than to take the side of a rebellious youngster against his parents. Tragically, it is often a member of one's own family that will end up taking offense against a parent or parents and giving aid and comfort to a rebellious son or daughter. This ought not to surprise us when we see that our Lord's own siblings did not believe on Him during His earthly ministry, and even believed Him to be beside Himself (Mark 3:21, John 7:5). Moreover, our Lord felt the awful pain of an

“By your very interference with and supplanting of God-ordained parental authority, you may be the very tool Satan uses to prevent this youngster from coming to true repentance.



intimate friend betraying Him. “*Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*” (Psalm 41:9). This pictured the betrayal of Christ by Judas (John 13:18-19).

UNEXPECTED BETRAYAL

We expect the unregenerate of this Satanically-dominated world to undermine parental authority in fact, it is happening in a pervasive way today via the educational system, welfare authorities and other social agencies. Many God-fearing parents, seeing these encroachments on their authority as parents, have fled the government schools and seek to avoid social welfare agencies like the plague. But where can a God-fearing parent go to avoid the betrayal of a friend or family member determined to undermine that parent’s authority over their child or children?

OPPOSING PARENTS IS OPPOSING GOD’S AUTHORITY

God has established the various organizations of authority in this world: family, human government and the church. It is a clear violation of His mandated lines of authority to undermine a parent by siding with that child against her parents. To take up the cause of a child in rebellion against parental authority is to implicitly say that God has made a mistake in giving those specific parents to that child. What pride and audacity to suppose that I can improve on the family circle God has established!

No one knows the needs of a child better than his God-given parents. While there is no doubt many parents can and should improve their parenting skills, there is no excuse to supplant and undermine a parent’s authority with their children because of supposed failures we perceive in their role as parents. Be careful dear friend, as you feel compelled to intervene in the way a parent is

disciplining, correcting or counseling their child. On what authority do you gainsay a parent’s guidance of their child?

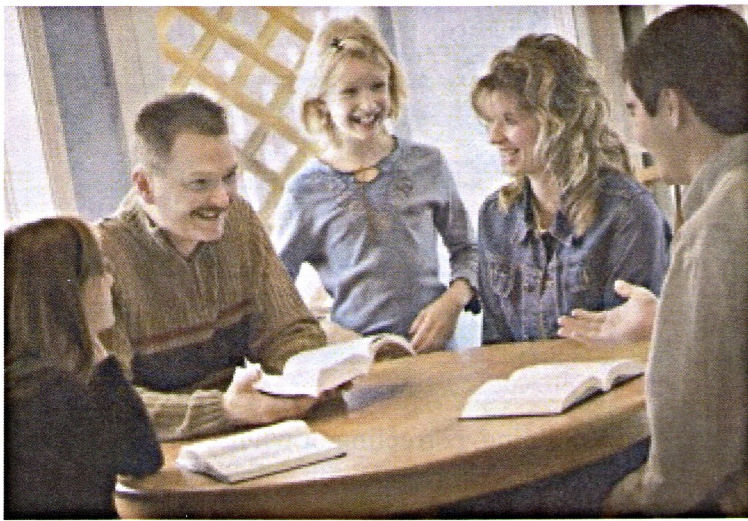
REBELS SEEK REBELS

It is no excuse that a rebel has sought you out for help. In fact, if a rebel seeks your assistance, it is very likely you yourself are a rebel because rebellious hearts have “rebel radar,” and will instinctively seek out those with whom they have compatibility. “*Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners.*” (I Corinthians 15:33). “*As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.*” (Proverbs 27:19). You will note that when Absalom ran, he did not run to anyone who would be spiritual or likeminded with his father David, but rather to permissive indulgent grandparents who were only too glad to subvert David’s authority as a father.

INTERFERING WITH GOD’S PLAN

By your very interference with and supplanting of God-ordained parental authority, you may be the very tool Satan uses to prevent this youngster from coming to true repentance. For example, you may believe it was heartless for the father of the Prodigal Son to let his son learn vital lessons through the reproofs of life, so you undertake to bail the Prodigal out of every difficulty he experiences. In so doing, he may never experience the deprivation, shame and humility of the pig pen which God specifically wants to use to bring the Prodigal to Himself and to true repentance.

No doubt there are children who need to be rescued from perverted and demented parents. Wherever there is physical or moral danger to a child, careful and judicious interference is justified for the sake of the child’s safety. However, the burden of proof that there is a clear and present danger is clearly on the shoulders of the one who



REVELATION OF CHARACTER

When you violate the sanctity of another man's home by undermining his authority over his child, you show yourself to be as unprincipled as the rebel whom you are indulging. In so doing, you have not solved any problems at all, but have become a part of the problem and have in fact made it more complicated.

WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT

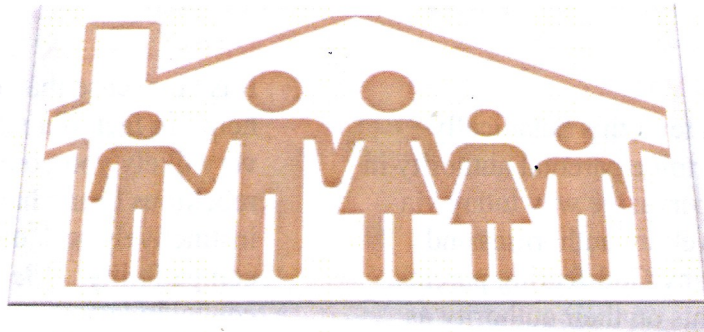
The foundation of the family unit is under unprecedented Satanic attack. God forbid that any of His children would participate in this attack by encouraging the rebellion of any son or daughter against his God-given parents. Nathan the prophet gives us a rather clear view of God's mind about violating the sanctity of another man's home in how

would intervene, because the family unit is God-ordained.

Since 1971, we have directed rebellious young hearts back to the authority of their God-given parents. Have we ever disagreed with parental advice, procedures and methods? Of course...sometimes

vehemently! But to sabotage a parent's authority over his child simply because we disagree with matters of procedure or philosophy is to violate the larger principle of God-given authority and the sanctity of that home.

Only a parent who has personally experienced the exquisite pain involved in having their authority as parent undermined by a friend, family member or Pastor can tell you of the anguish, trauma and torture involved in not only seeing a child turned away from them, but also in the betrayal of that intimate personality in whom they trusted.



sternly he rebuked David in the matter of Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (2 Samuel 12:7-12). One can only wonder what some believers will face at the Judgment Seat of Christ for how they have in any way encouraged the rebellion of the son or daughter of another man! 🐘

“To take up the cause of a child in rebellion against parental authority is to implicitly say that God has made a mistake in giving those specific parents to that child.”

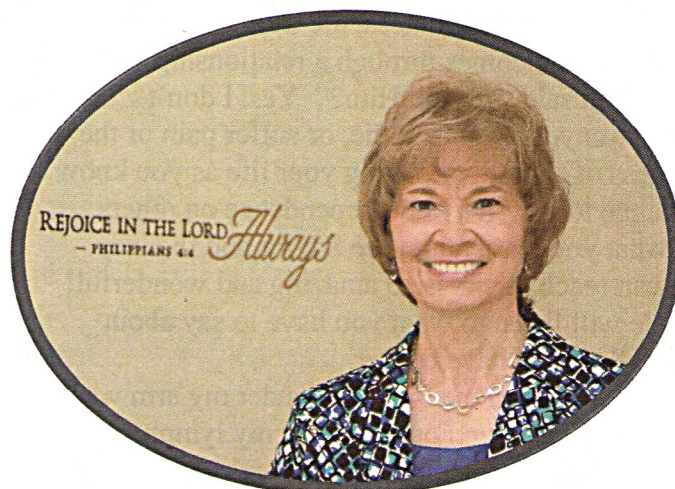
EXTREME CAUTION NEEDED

Be careful, dear friend, as you feel tempted to improve on the family of another person. You may honestly believe you have justification to do so based on what you perceive as mitigating circumstances and compelling situations. But, consider the example of Hagar. She was treated so harshly by Sarah that she chose certain death in the wilderness rather than face more of such treatment of her hands. When the pre-incarnate Christ spoke to her in the wilderness, He did not sympathize with Hagar, nor did he criticize Sarah, but rather told Hagar to “*return to thy mistress and submit thyself under her hands*” (Genesis 16:9).

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NEVER ALONE!

Julie Goodall, Shares her Salvation
Testimony of God's Goodness through her
Journey with Cancer



Why would anyone want to be a Christian? It is a good question. I have a good answer. There is no human relationship, even the best of one (with plenty of love), that is even remotely close to the relationship one can have with Jesus Christ.

I grew up an only child, raised far back in the country. I have very caring, loving parents. My grandparents all pointed me to Jesus and took me to church until I was able to go alone. I faithfully attended; and that is where I met my husband, David.

David and I got married and lived in Oklahoma for one year. In a new territory and away from family and friends, we just kind of dropped out of church life. We didn't know where to go and spent time sleeping late and taking drives on Sunday.

Praise the Lord! David brought us to Piedmont. After I wrote letters to several Alltel employers in Missouri, the one in Piedmont responded by saying, "Come on."

We lived here a while and one day Danny and Roberta McFadden came knocking on our door. My dog did not like Danny. He got up on the window air conditioner and barked at him through the glass window! But despite the obstacles, they kept coming. Danny and Roberta would always invite us to church and we would always say we would go, sometime. I remember closing the door behind them one time, and turned around to David to say, "I can't keep lying to those people. I think we should go."

After "hitting and missing" church, we became more faithful. I would listen to Bro. Jeff and Dwight Parker give their testimonies telling about

the day they got saved, and I would ask myself, "When did I get saved? I was baptized at age nine, but I may have gotten saved then because my friend got saved too." I wasn't sure, but that is all I had of a testimony. I remember Bro. Clifford Rice preaching and it brought thoughts to me, "When did I get saved? If I am saved I sure don't live like someone who is putting Jesus as Lord of their life." I then went forward two weeks later to believe and receive Jesus Christ.

It has been amazing to grow since that time of salvation. The first difference I remember happened the next day. I wanted to read my Bible. I didn't do it because I *should*; it was because I *wanted to*. This was something new in my life.

As time went on I received good preaching and teaching. I remember coming to the conclusion one day. Wow! I am not here to get something from this place and these people. What can I give? From there the relationship with Jesus grew. I learned great things about being a servant—(I haven't arrived on that one, just said I learned about it!). I understood about separation and how it isn't because I think I'm better or more knowledgeable than someone else. It's because I love Jesus and according to Scripture it pleases Him. When you love, you want to please. God's greatest desire is that all men everywhere would come to repentance and accept His greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. He left it to us to go and tell. I want to so desperately help others find what I've found in Him.

April 5, 2013, God gave me something new to learn about my relationship with Him. He called me to a mission for Him. He called me to have ➤

cancer. I honestly thanked Him for it and learned so much of His faithfulness, the truth of His Word, and peace that comes through a relationship with Him. You said, "Thank Him?" Yes, I don't suppose anyone wants to die, or suffer pain or the sickness of chemo, or having your life as you know it change to inactivity and dependence on others, but what you learn about the Savior and the way you can reach others is so amazing and wonderful! People will listen to what you have to say about Jesus when you have cancer.

When I figured the big lump under my arm was cancer (I later found out it was in my lymph nodes), I started teaching my first and second grade girls' Sunday school class about loving Jesus enough to do anything he asked us to do.

Would you go to the jungles of Africa as a missionary? Could you have cancer if God asked you to? I started teaching a verse in Junior Church about being soft and

letting God mold you like He said in Isaiah 64:8... "*But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father; we are the clay and Thou our potter: and we all are the work of Thy hand.*"

When the biopsy said it was positive, it was like putting your hand in God's Hand and saying, "OK, let's go." The lung biopsy was one of the worst things for me, and there was a moment while waiting for them to be ready for the procedure, I thought, "I'm alone doing this. My family can't do it for me. Friends are there, but I have to do this, just me, by myself." It was in that moment it was like Mary near the garden tomb as she cried and the "supposed Gardener" asked her why she was crying. She began to tell Him in her aloneness that if He had taken away the body to let her know where it was. He said, "Mary." That's just how it was in that moment. He said, "Julie." I knew His presence and I was NEVER alone through all of it, even now.

God provided for every need...spiritual, physical, money, help, you name it, and He has never left me nor forsaken me.

It was a blessing as I talked to people on chemo and radiation trips to find more than I thought who did really know Jesus and wanted to tell me all He was in their life. I can't imagine now what life

without Him would be like. He said He would never leave us, but I can't imagine ever wanting to leave Him.


There was one night He settled me with His words in Psalm 73:25-26, 28: "*Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart falleth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.*"

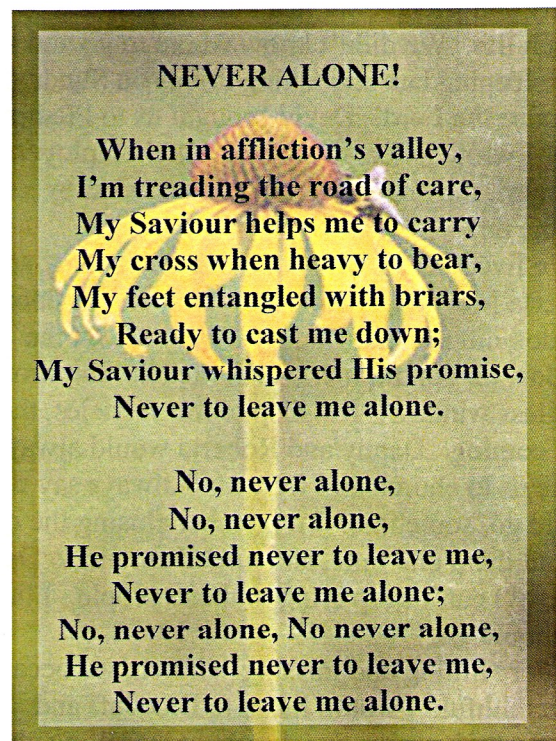
He also gave me Psalm 43:2a,3,5: "*For thou art the God of my strength; O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Why art thou cast*

down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

“ When the biopsy said positive, it was like putting your hand in God’s hand ” and saying, “OK, let’s go.

JULIE GOODALL

Those are good verses and they mean more to me than to anyone else, but my main "cancer verse" is Psalm 28:7: "*The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusted in Him and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth and with my song will I praise Him.*" 





SHRINK-WRAPPED CLOTHES

■ By *shrink-wrapped* clothes, I'm not referring to items still in the store on the shelf and wrapped in plastic, but clothes that are worn by women, and worn so tightly you might think they have been *shrink-wrapped* on them. Why? Is it comfortable? Is it healthy? Is it necessary? Is it Scriptural? Clothes have been called "the second skin." Tight fitting clothes on females is to attract the attention of the guys—a sensual, immodest, defrauding kind of attraction. Christian men and women with morals, dislike, and are embarrassed by this type of sexual exposure and temptation. Most of the time they are afraid to say something, because someone would say, "Well, why were you looking at them in the first place?" insinuating their complicity and judging them for noticing. Christian ladies, please learn what the Bible teaches about clothing and apparel and dress yourself to honor the Lord! "...women adorn themselves in modest apparel" 1 Tim. 2:9. "Only use not your liberty for an occasion for the flesh" Gal. 5:13. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him" 1 John 2:10. "The young women to be...chaste" Titus 2:4-5. Chaste is an absence of seductive influences. —Taken from *Bible Baptist Church Newsletter*, Euclid, Ohio. *Way of Life*, Dec. 26, 2014



THE POWER OF A TESTIMONY

■ One of the most effective ways to witness is to give your personal experience of being converted, of a changed life, of answer to prayer. Testimonies must be very effective, since they are modeled in the Bible (Acts 2:22-36; 4:8-12; 5:29-32; 9:10-22; 10:34-43; 13:16-38; 17:22-31; 26: 1-23). We are commanded to be witnesses for Jesus (John 15:27; Acts 1:8). Peter used personal testimony (2 Pet. 1:16-19). John used it (1 John 1:1-3). A testimony is accepted in courts of law. In fact, positive testimony can overthrow negative testimony. If two men are sent into the woods to gather mushrooms and one returns and says he saw no mushrooms while the other returns and says he saw mushrooms, which one will the people believe? Likewise, if one man says he has never experienced God while another says that he has, the positive testimony will be more memorable. —Taken from *Way of Life*, January 2, 2015



One in Five Babies Aborted in USA

■ According to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control more than 200 babies were aborted for every 1,000 live births in 2011. The CDC found that 780,322 mothers obtained an abortion. A report released by Planned Parenthood last year outlined that 333,964 of those abortions were performed by the abortion giant herself. The CDC found that the vast majority of women who obtained an abortion were unmarried. In 2011, adolescents aged...15-19 years accounted for...13.5% of all abortions, it outlined, and had abortion rates of ...10.5 abortions per 1,000 adolescents aged ...15-19 years. —Taken from *Way of Life* and "Over 200 Babies Are Aborted", *Christian News Network*, Nov. 30, 2014.

SOUL WINNING must become a **PASSION**



"Then saith he unto his disciples,
The harvest truly is plenteous, but
the labourers are few; Pray ye
therefore the Lord of the harvest,
that he will send forth labourers
unto his harvest"
(Matthew 9:37-38).



before it becomes
a **PROGRAM.**



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