

Be a Praying Parent 2018-05-13

Lamentations 2:19a

*Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches!
Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord!
Lift your hands to Him for the lives of your children*

PARENTING is the most fulfilling, exhilarating, exhausting, difficult of jobs!

- In God's infinite wisdom: He determined that a union between 1 man w/1 woman be foundation of family. Matthew 19:4-6
 - Lord sovereignly brings man/woman together for His purposes/glory.
 - Singleness also high/holy calling of Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:7-9

Miracle @ conception: Lord creates someone who did not exist before. Except Jesus Christ.

- He never makes a "mistake" in creation process or in circumstances of conception...out of wedlock, rape. Is 42:5, Act 17:25b, Ps 139:13

All-wise God gives each child best natural or adoptive parents who He will use to accomplish His purposes in that child's life.

- Not all parents are "good parents" but God has a plan in forming all families.
 - My difficult family situation molded me into the man I am today.
- You won't parent perfectly, but you are the perfect parent for your children.

Begin parenting adventure feeling overwhelmed & in competition w/world.

- Especially with 1st born. Roll over, sit up, talk by ___ months, even % of growth. 1 day occurs 1st in lifetime of responses in your relationship with child.
- Child gets hurt (usually trying to walk) and their suffering affects you as well
 - At some point you realize you can't always protect/control them physically, emotionally & morally because the world is big, fallen and cruel, and your child is sinner.

God uses that truth to open parent's eyes to their desperate need for Lord's presence and power to enable them to parent their children, regardless of child's age.

- Only Lord knows & sees all and can be there when you aren't/can't.
- Only expert parent (Father) gives the ability/strength/wisdom to imperfect parents.
 - It's through prayer that we humbly acknowledge we need the Lord to parent, ask for His strength, wisdom & help to parent and then trust Him....Steve's message.
- God did not promise nothing bad would never happen to your child but has a purpose for them and you in everything. Rom 8:28, 5:3-5, Phil 1:6, 1 Pet 1:6-8
 - Nothing like having child to reveal our sin!

No one will pray as fervently for your children as you, maybe not even themselves!

- Parent's privilege & responsibility to pray for children. Lam 2:19, Jam 5:16
 - Don't have to be parents - you can be a friend, teacher, grandparent, aunt, neighbor.
 - Single person....your family is the whole church!
- Pray big PERSONAL prayers for your children, not safe, broad, vague prayers.
 - Check your motives! Seek God's glory not your own self-promotion.

- When they become discouraged with their unwise choices/sin, don't blame self or stop praying....Lord can do the impossible. Mk 9:21-24, Mt 19:26b
 - Remember, devil is your enemy, not your child.
- Don't let good things (busyness) get in way of best (prayer).
 - Schedule/agree to pray with other parents.

Lord has determined you are perfect parent for your children, but you won't parent perfectly. Be a praying parent who makes a difference.

- At every stage in your child's life they need/benefit from your prayers.
 - Cry out to Jesus for them, then trust Him at all times, in all situations.