

Dedicating Our Children – Proverbs 22:6

To Whom the Promise Has Been Made

The *pre-scribed* way of Yahweh is set out before the seed of Abraham. This way in Gen 18:19 is the way all who belong to Messiah keep. Gal 3:16,19 – The word of Abraham's God prescribes the way – and Pr 22:6 reminds all who belong to Messiah that, "This is the way, walk in it."

How much hatred is shown to our children who are not trained up in *the way*? The way — the only way they can go and be fashioned, shaped, formed, and fashioned in this way. There is no other way except God's way for our children to be trained. This then is the prescription for life (Pr 22:15; 23:13-14). And this is love — Pr 13:24. To spare the rod – the prod, the goad – is tantamount to hating your child. But love sees to it that your child is trained and disciplined promptly (Pr 19:18).

The Prescription for Life

A prescription is not what the so-called doctors give their patients and they go and give it to a drug pusher and he fulfills the order prescribed by the A.D.A. – the American Drug Administration. God has a prescription, which must be filled by His servants, the parents. Our Father has the remedy to rebellion in children in Pr 20:30. His words are the prescription, which is filled by the parents. God is the great physician and He gives the prescription to the prophets and the prophets give it to the parents and they give it to their children and the children respond to the medicine and are healed of the rebellion. No one can read the prescription but the prophets. The prescription our Father grants to His children gives us the direction, the instruction, or the recipe and the formula, which when filled is the remedy to rebellion so that when training has done its job, we can be taught by God (Jn 6:45) and as true disciples we then can train and teach others.

The Command

Pr 22:6 reveals the two ingredients in the prescription for rearing our children. The first is the *command* prescribed by God our Father. It stipulates or specifies the *set policy* for His children and the parents for their children who have been dedicated to Him. It is His policy to give parents the proper faith and grace to carry out their prescribed assignment. This is laid down in the Scriptures, or stipulated and specified in the Scriptures, and only by the help of the Holy Spirit can one understand even what the prophets say, much less the Scriptures alone. Or much less can one understand what the Scriptures themselves say without the prophets, and without the help of the Holy Spirit we misunderstand the prophets as well.

Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 4:11; 1 Cor 14:3; Rom 12:6 – So, provided that both the saint and the prophet are led by the Spirit, our Father will have many sons (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18). Nothing our Father instructs His sons to do is imposed upon them, for they are sons. Child training is not imposed on any son of God. Only those who are not sons feel that anything our Father speaks through His prophets is being imposed upon them. Many walk away from child training teachings with a heavy load upon them, as if they are not included in the blessings of Abraham's seed (Gal 5:18; 3:19), or as if they do not belong to Messiah and Gen 18:19 is not for them. If so, they are merely Christians and cannot carry out the dictates of love (Pr 13:24). It is as if Heb 4:16 is (or was) just a myth. Lk 18:7 – So, who are the elect? Or, who is the elect? (Isa 42:1,6). What so characterizes the elect, which, if they are not so doing, then Messiah will not find faith in them when He returns? Or are they the foolish virgins who have no understanding? (Dan 12:10; Mt 24:40-41; 25:1-13). Where do we, if we are the elect, get the oil? Who has it and who does not have it? What is it? Where is it? (Jms 1:5-8).

Pr 22:6 reads, "*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old [i.e., a youth] he will not depart from it.*"

How do you know the Promise is for you?

In Pr 22:6 the two ingredients are: 1) a command and 2) a promise.

The promise is contingent upon the obedience to the command. That is, the promise is conditional, controlled by, dependent upon and subject to the parents' love for their child and for their heavenly Father and the Word, His Son (Jn 14:15; Pr 13:24).

Pr 13:24 has two ingredients. The first is *hate* and the second is *love*. So, according to how God sees it,

the parent who spares his rod hates his son. This is a clear example of the truth that, "Whatever is in the well comes up in the bucket."

But the parents, who discipline their son promptly, do so because they love their son. Whatever is in the well comes up in the bucket. This is how God sees whether we have crossed over out of death and into life (1 Jn 3:14, 16), and how we actually know it ourselves.

- How do you know you love your son?
- How do you know you hate your son?
- How do you know you have crossed over out of eternal death and into the life of the Son of God? (1 Jn 4:20; 5:12-13; 1 Jn 4:21).

But what about your own son or daughter? If we love God we will obey Him, and He says Pr 13:24. If we love our brother, if we love our child, we have the witness of the Spirit that we belong to Him. And we know we love Him because we obey Him (1 Jn 3:24; Rom 8:16), and this is the only way we can experience that inner witness of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Love is defined in no uncertain terms and that is 1 Jn 3:16. Just as we must live with our brothers and sisters to be able to love as He loved, in the same way we must live with our children to love them (Pr 13:24).

Heb 12:5-11 – And remember this: Heb 12:7,8,9. If you do not discipline your child as God instructed you to do (Pr 13:24) it means you are a bastard along with your child. No one loves a bastard. A bastard is a fatherless child. Heb 12:7 – When it says *chasten* it means *early, promptly, immediately*. Do not wait for your "bastard [fatherless] child's" rebellion to be strengthened. Don't wait for your child to grow up feeling rejected and uncared for by illegitimate parents (Heb 12:8).

Gen 18:19 describes legitimate parents. Sons of Abraham are the sons of God who keep the way of Yahweh – the way His son (Jn 14:6) came to establish and which is now being restored upon the face of the earth (Mal 4:6; Mk 9:12; Lk 1:17; and Isa 42:6-7). Lk 1:74-76-79 – To prepare the way and deliver us from enemies like fear, even the fear of civil authorities who protect unwanted children in the world from abuse. There will be no deadbeat parents in the Kingdom – parents who hated their children according to how God sees it. According to what God calls hate and what He calls love we must love what He loves and hate what He hates.

The Dedication of Proverbs 22:6

So in Pr 22:6 the word *train up* does not mean just corporal discipline with a corporal rod, but rather includes it. The first and foremost idea in *train up* is *dedication*. Lk 2:22 – *Dedication* is to set apart as a child born unto you for the service of Yahweh. From that day on, the child is regarded by God and man as *Holy*, set apart for God Himself. The child is given by his or her parents in absolute agreement (with the terms of the covenant of child training) and absolute sincerity of faith. If this dedicated child dies in childhood, this child belongs to Messiah as much as Messiah belongs to God. If the child is taken away from the Body or parents a curse will come to the one or ones, even the institution which takes the dedicated to God child away. No dedicated child could be taken away from the Body by his own consent or the consent of the parents who dedicated the child to God, for they *would* not consent to it.

Our children's parents dedicate them to God with no less sincerity than Yoceph and Miriam had in dedicating our Master Yahshua. No dedicated child has ever left nor will leave the Body (the Community of the Redeemed of Yahweh) because even as 1 Jn 2:19 says, they are members of Messiah and of us. Ps 67:1-3 – God's face continually shines upon us and all who are of us.

Dedication of the child will not be registered in heaven without the parents knowing or realizing that the child belongs exclusively to their heavenly Father and was given to the parents only as stewards. So child training must begin after the forty or eighty days at the dedication of the child whom they, the parents, will train up for God to be all that they were intended to be. They will train him to be all that He has in mind for them, in all the child's God-given gifts and abilities. Parents would stimulate them to love and good deeds so that grace would fill their heart at *bar* or *bat mitzvah* when they are immersed.

Essential Ingredients for Healthy Youth and Adults

Training is instruction in the way they should go in. The parents are to cause their children to learn everything essential in pleasing their heavenly Father. Parents are to stimulate the proper taste and desires within their child so that they are internally motivated rather than merely externally compelled (Pr 15:31-32). The rod and reproof will be an effective measure to accomplish this (Pr 15:10; 29:15). Pr 15:10 is not the dedicated child upon whom the Holy Spirit rests (Pr 22:15).

So, a parent who has dedicated their children will know that both the rod and loving reproof are the essential ingredients to a healthy youth and adult. Reproof is to reprove or administer – as a minister of God, expressing disapproval for their negative action (Rev 3:19). So you can't separate love from reproofing your loved child for doing what is wrong so that he or she will know it and understand what is pleasing to you and God (1 Jn 3:22).

Again, in the second part of Pr 22:6, the meaning of the phrase *in the way he should go* is that the child goes through stages of development toward *that way of Gen 18:19*. The parents are to first dedicate, then train (or instruct and motivate) the child to do what the parents, who know what is best for him or her, want him to do, in order to be all God wants him to be in *the way* – or Edah. God has so equipped each child to function in a certain way in *the way* – according to his or her gifts (Jos 24:15).

So if the command has been kept the promise can be claimed when he is old, or a youth, or a young adult. If the command has not been kept the promise is not guaranteed since the dedication was not for sure either. If we can know that we crossed over out of eternal death and into eternal life by the witness of the Holy Spirit in us, since we are loving as Messiah loved (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:14,16-24), then we can know also that we did dedicate our child to Him because we are dedicated to train him up in the way he should go *for our heavenly Father*, for His will.

Isa 53:10 – Who is His offspring? No one except the one who is carrying out His will. Who is the fruit of His soul's suffering in death for our sins? In whom shall the pleasure of Yahshua prosper in his hands? In this case *his* is the seed, the offspring of His life, spirit, soul. The offspring's days will be prolonged on earth in this age to carry out His purpose (Mt 24:34). 1 Ths 4:17 – The we who are alive and remain to the very end are those who were the witness of His Reign and rule in our lives. Mt 24:14 – They are those who restored the fruit of the Kingdom to Him (Mt 21:43). The children who were dedicated to Him produced Rev 14:1-5. Heb 2:13 – Here I am, and all the children you have *dedicated*, given, to Me. What will the witness of His Kingdom, His rule and His reign in His people, be like, that it will bring about the end of this age and bring about His Kingdom on all the earth? What will be the manifestation of His rule in the hearts and lives of His elect race? What will be its characteristics? What will be its distinguishing quality? What characterizes His rule and reign in the Twelve Tribes in this age? Describe the character of it. What will be the mark of its distinctive quality? What will be its graphic symbol? What is the distinguishing feature spoken of in Mal 3:18?