
FELLOWSHIP
Parents Raising Their Children According to
the Up-To-Date Vision in the Lord's Recovery

On November 18, 2007, this special fellowship was given to the saints at the Church in Santa Clara. The primary burden of this fellowship was titled: **The Vision and Importance of the Next Generation**. This will be the third of five portions.

It Is the Parents' Responsibility to Ensure That Their Children Turn Out the Right Way

The Lord has entrusted a child to you. You cannot go to Him and say, "You have entrusted five children to me, and I have lost three." The church cannot go on if parents do not have a sense of being entrusted. Suppose we beget children, lose them to the world, and then try to rescue them back. If we allow this to happen, the gospel will never be preached to the uttermost part of the earth. Our children have been taught many teachings. At least these children should be brought to the Lord. We are wrong if we do not take care of our children. Please remember that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children turn out the right way.

The children are young and they are in your hands. If you are loose with yourself, you will also be loose with them. God has committed a human body, along with his soul, into our hands. If we do not exercise self-control and give up our freedom, we will have a difficult time answering to our God in the future. (*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, Volume 49, pp. 522-523)

The Parents Should Not Depend Upon Others or the Church to Build Up Their Children

To depend on any kind of Sunday school or other kind of meeting to build up your children is altogether not healthy. From the beginning we have torn down this concept...The church is not going to build up your children...No meeting or work is going to build up your children. As a parent you must bear the burden to build up the children yourself. You have to discipline yourself for this work. It is a wrong concept to depend upon the church to have certain kinds of meetings to build up your children. You have to drop this thought. (*Lessons on the God-ordained Way*, p. 206)

How the Children Develop Depends on God's Selection and Mercy

Even among us there are many good saints who love the Lord very much and pray for their children nearly every day, even though their children do not believe. On the other hand, some parents are not so devoted, yet their children love the Lord. Eventually, I have bowed down before the Lord. The Lord's word is true. We should raise up our children according to the Lord's teaching. This is our duty and we should do it, but eventually their salvation and seeking of the Lord depend upon God's eternal choosing and predestination. If our raising of our children could decide their spiritual future, this would be against God's predestination...It is difficult to say who is chosen. We simply must do our duty to raise up our children according to the teaching of the Lord. Whether or not they have been chosen is not up to us. Some may say, "Because it is not up

to us, we need not do much.” However, this also is wrong. (*A Word of Love to the Co-Workers, Elders and Loving Seekers of the Lord*, pp.12-13)

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