

Training Your Child

Proverbs 22:6 NKJV-- "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

The word train means, to be *narrow*, figuratively to *initiate* or *discipline*: - dedicate, train up.

Keep in mind there is a saying that goes like this...."wide is the path that leads to destruction and narrow is the path to life."

Eph 6:4a "But bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". This is telling us that if we will do it the Lord's way it will produce life.

When we think about training in a military sense, we understand they have vision and purpose and they will get the job done at all cost and they will not let anyone detour them from that goal and that's the way we need to be with our children when we know what is right. You have all these young men with all different ideas and yet they are going to bring them to the place of unity to be able to defeat any enemy.

Our children see and hear many things, some good and some bad, and in their growing process it takes a strong father and mother to keep them on the right path.

When we know the vision, have purpose and destiny, we need to begin training them in the way they should go.

Our children need to be told what the vision is (what we expect from them) like....you will pick up your toys, you will clean your room, etc., so that they can receive the instruction they will need to accomplish that goal. This needs to be made clear by both parents. After all, that's what we are and there is no room for laziness.

The word 'train' also means to do over and over until the child gets it. The teacher in school goes over the abcs until they know the whole alphabet and they do it one step at a time and that's the way we are to teach our children. When the student gets it wrong the teacher immediately corrects them and they start over again. They do this as long as it takes for them to get it right. That's the way we as parents need to be. The teacher doesn't say "That's alright" and continue to let them make the same mistake over and over again.

The word 'child' here means from the age of infancy to adolescence, all the way to the time they leave your home. So we can see how important it is to start at an early age, and always remember that it is never too late! It will require more patience and a greater determination on your part, but the reward will be great.

This is not like "Try it and see if you like it", because there will be days you will not want to discipline them, but that's where commitment is tested.

We teach them the way they should go by what rules and boundaries we set, and by what the consequences are. We teach them by our attitudes and by our conversation....what we say not only to them, but to our spouse; by our manners, and by how we act.

For example, if I teach my child not to throw the ball in the house then I should never throw the ball in the house. If I teach my kids not to use foul language then it is not acceptable for me to use foul language at any time.

Children always like to imitate their parents because they want to be just like them and they want you to be proud of them.

Pastor Schelling