

## “I Would Do Anything...”

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by Bill Crews

There are many parents, perhaps nearly all parents, who would “do anything’ for their children. At least that’s what they say — “I would do anything for my children.”

Of course, the key to that statement should be the little word **“for.”** What is done should really be something that is **“for”** the children, something that benefits them. It should not be a matter of satisfying every little whim of theirs. Many things done **“for”** them prove detrimental and harmful. Children, because they are children, do not know what is best for themselves.

Perhaps, also, the word **“do”** should be underscored. What children need from their parents requires precious time and serious effort. It is often easier to give them something they want or that we want them to have or to provide something for them than to do what we ought to do for them. Day nurseries, public schools, even Bible classes cannot function for parents, that is, they cannot do for the children what the parents must do for them.

Certainly **“anything”** should be limited, modified and tempered. It should be limited by what is legally, morally, and spiritually right. It should be modified by what parents can afford. And it should be tempered by what will develop the children physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

Surely you would die for your children (like David would have for Absalom, 2 Samuel 18:33), but would you live for them?

Would you provide preventive discipline early on and administer corrective discipline when it is called for? (See Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; Hebrews 12:11.)

Would you diligently teach them right from wrong, and especially would you teach them the word of God personally? (See Ephesians 6:4; compare Deuteronomy 6:6-7.)

Would you set for them the right example in all things? (See 2 Timothy 1:5; Luke 1:5-6.)

Would you bring them to Bible classes and worship assemblies? (And that’s not bring them and leave.)

Would you see to it that they prepare their Bible lessons and that they behave themselves (before, during and after)? (See Ephesians 6:1; Luke 2:40, 51-52; 1 Timothy 3:15.)

Would you tell them and show them that assembling with fellow-Christians is more important than going to work or attending school? (See Hebrews 10:25; John 6:27; Matthew 6:33.)

Will you impress upon them by your speech and conduct that spiritual things are of far greater importance than material things? (See Matthew 4:4; Colossians 3:1-2.)

Will you teach them to have reverence and respect for the Bible and to read it often and to pray daily unto God? (See 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16.)

Remember that most children who go wrong have parents who profess to be something religiously, but profession without practice is worthless. Remember, too, that none is so blind as the parent who remarks, when his/her child goes wrong, **“I don’t understand it. I gave him/her everything!”**

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