

A Father's Greatest Legacy

by Wayne Goff

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

The greatest legacy a father can leave his children is a *spiritual upbringing*. If a father brings up his children in the “*training and admonition of the Lord*,” then he has done the best he can to secure their eternal well-being. “*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (**Matthew 16:26**).

Too many fathers neglect their children. They do not sit down with them and read Bible stories about the great men and women of faith — Abel, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Joshua, Ruth & Naomi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, King David, Jeremiah the weeping prophet, Ezekiel the priest and author, Daniel, and all the others. Each of these names conjures up in my mind a thrilling Bible story which I can recall learning from an early age. My parents bought and read to us children from a Bible story book like *Hurlbut's Bible Stories* or *Egermeier's Bible Storybook for Beginners*. Such began my religious education. As my mind progressed, I was introduced to and memorized from **the King James Version** of the Bible. It is still my favorite translation, and my father thought it was the *only* worthwhile English translation. By the time I was nine years old, I came to understand much of the Bible teaching on the plan of salvation, the Lord's church, as well as those wonderful Bible stories retold by my Bible class teachers.

My father was a gospel preacher. But before that he was a Christian, and lived the Christian life. His love for the truth, his hatred for religious error and men's hypocrisy, and his desire for people to study the Bible and obey it so that they might go to heaven all made a profound effect on me. I thanked my father many, many times for this training and upbringing. It is invaluable. Yes, I followed in my father's footsteps — first becoming a Christian, and then a gospel preacher. But I did it because I came to love God, Jesus Christ and His sacrifice, and the souls of men.

Fathers, are you training your children right?

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