

## Deuteronomy 6:7

*You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

Today's devotional is for those who have children who are not following the Lord. Or maybe you don't have children yet and are not even married. I'm sure this could apply to you as well in the future.

I know in our men's bible study group, there seems to be a lot of men who have wayward children. Even though they were raised in a Christian home, going to church every Sunday with mom and dad, still they have chosen not to follow after God and have chosen the ways of this world instead. I know I personally have two of my four children who have both decided to walk down very dark paths, and even a grandchild who has turned her back on the Lord as well. But I also have two sons and three grandsons who love the Lord.

But I was thinking about this today and praying for them, when the Lord reminded me that each child makes their own choice; and moms and dads, we can't beat ourselves up if they choose to go down that wrong path, if we did, or even if we didn't raise them in a godly home. Then I was reminded of Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham who was raised with one of the best know current evangelist, Billy Graham, yet his son, Franklin, for a time chose a wrong path even though he was raised in a godly home. Then there is pastor Raul Ries' (a well-known evangelist) son, Ryan Ries, who went down a very dark path. Then there is pastor Greg Laurie, who is also a very well-known evangelist (think Harvest Crusades) who had a son that went down a dark path. And there are many, many more pastors who have sons and daughters who have not followed after the things of God as they were raised to in a godly home.

But GOD (love those tow words) saved all of these men's sons, and some are pastors and evangelists themselves now. But may these be words of encouragement to us all, that it's not our fault if your children turn from God. Think of Noah, who had one (1) out of his three (3) sons, who rebelled and did not follow after God's ways, even though he served for over a year in the ark with his godly dad, Noah, and two brothers.

But remember, all these godly men I mentioned, and even more did not allow the enemy to keep them down or stop them from their ministries that God had given them to do. Yes they did pray often for their wayward children, but they knew they did all they could do to raise them the right way, and probably even failed at times, like we all do. But they love their children, and they love the Lord and knew they were in good hands, God's hands, and even though it broke their heart that their children did this, they persisted in praying for them, and in a lot of cases, the children came back to the Lord and serve the Lord.

So let's do the same things, keep praying for our wayward children, but keep walking the path that the Lord has called us all to walk on, doing what the Lord called us to do. Be encouraged in the Lord and the power of His might that He can save our wayward children.

† **Ephesians 6:10** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

† **Psalm 100:2** *Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*

† **Leviticus 10:11** *“and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”*

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