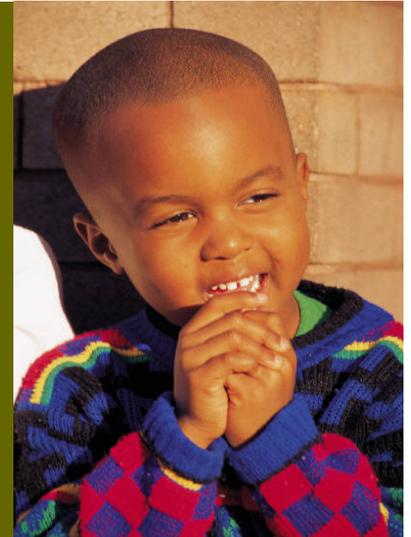


PRAYING FOR A CHRIST-AWAKENING

Children as Gifts



**DR. FREDRICK J. C.
PRICE**

SCRIPTURE STUDY

DEUTERONOMY 32:46

JOEL 1:3

PSALM 127:3

PROVERBS 29:17

1 TIMOTHY 5:8

LAMENTATIONS 2:19

PROVERBS 22:6

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
Help me to see the incredible
value of the precious children you
have placed in my life.
In Jesus' Name,
Amen

“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.”

(Ps. 127:3)

The expansion of abortion rights is enough all by itself to demonstrate the unsafe, unwanted place that many people have for children in today's society. Add to this the children who are being neglected and abused, their minds polluted and stripped of opportunity, and we have many God-sized problems to address. But still we see many encouraging signs in regard to the next generation—signs that a Christ Awakening is brewing beneath the surface. Among these is the increased practice and awareness of adoption, especially international adoption. Christ-followers aren't the only ones engaged in this deliberate effort, of course. And that's good. For whenever boys and girls are seen as valued and desired, we know they are that much more open to one day understanding and receiving the love of their heavenly Father.

Much is riding on the children being raised in today's America, children who could grow to become a mighty generation of Christian stalwarts. That's why we know we are praying for a Christ Awakening when we pray for and advocate . . .

Increased care for children as “gifts from the Lord” as the gospel addresses abortion, adoption, foster care, and child well-being.

Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.

(Deut. 32:46)

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation. (Joel 1:3)

The whole plan of God for mankind is centered on the family structure. Remove it, and you remove the basic foundation ingredient of the purpose of God for establishing the human race. The family is the channel through which God works in the natural realm, and marriage is the center of the fam-

ily relationship. God established the home, He established the family, He established marriage, and His power works best through the relationship that is functioning the closest to the terms on which He designed it to function.

Be a Christian Family

The Christian family is very important. As we talk about the family, that is an inclusive term. It means the husband, the wife, and the children. It means the parents, the singles, and the divorced persons. “The Christian family” means everyone who is a Christian within the framework of the family relationship. Whether you are male or female, young or old does not make any difference. You are a part of the family. The family is the cornerstone of God’s creation. The family is Satan’s targeted area. Since the Garden of Eden, Satan and his demonic forces have made a concerted effort to destroy the sanctity of family life. If he could do away with the family, then he would pretty much have society in the palm of his hand.

Be a Parent

Whether we realize it or not, the greatest single occupation that a human can have is to be a parent. That is more important than being president or prime minister. It is more important than being an earthly king. It is a high and exalted position and carries with it awesome responsibilities. God is the great Father figure, and one can place no estimate on the value of a mother and a father. I believe it to be the highest privilege a person can have: to be the guardian of another human life from conception to adulthood.

Thousands of years ago, the Lord laid down His child-raising principles, which have never changed. However, you cannot teach His principles if you do not have them in your heart. Parents cannot teach what they do not know or what they do not believe. The things being taught to children have to be in the parents’ behavior as well as in their mouths. During the early years of their lives, children absorb into their own personalities the behavior learned in the home. Everything we do should have a lesson in it for our children. In fact, everything we do does have a lesson in it, and they learn those lessons.

If we followed God’s plan in everything, His best, this would be a much more peaceful world. We would live in a sane society. But raising children by man’s methodology is what most Christians try to do, and that is playing Russian roulette. And if you lose in child raising, it means the death or crippling of a life entrusted to your care.

Embrace Parental Duties

Duty means “responsibility,” and the first responsibility of parents is to love their children. The thing most people do not fully understand is that everyone has to be taught to love. We think of love as some sort of emotion that happens spontaneously, a feeling that comes out of nowhere like lightning and strikes you, but that is absolutely untrue. Love is demonstrated in giving. It is not only a condition but an action. And we are supposed to teach our children how to love. Encourage the children. You should provide for your children an environment in which they feel accepted and can develop a sense of self-worth. Are you creating an environment in which your child can grow up and be an asset to society? We ought to provide security, love, and a safe haven where they can express themselves and still be accepted—not a place to express rebellion but a forum where their ideas and creative thoughts can be spoken forth without ridicule. Provide that listening ear and that understanding heart.

You ought to let your child know he is worth exactly what you are worth to God. That child should know he is valuable and precious to you. You can tell him that, but you can show it in many ways. Love must be expressed through actions. Children can tell from the atmosphere of the home whether they are loved and whether their parents are truly concerned about them. When they have no doubt about this, no one out there in the world can ever shake their sense of self-worth.

PRAYERS TO OFFER

Thanksgiving

Thank You, Lord, that the gospel addresses abortion, adoption, foster care, and child well-being, as Jesus “took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them” (Mark 10:16).

Jesus, we are grateful that we can increase care for our children and not “exasperate” them; instead, “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Dear God, we celebrate Your heart toward the “forsaken” children: “Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me” (Ps. 27:10).

Confession

We often do not know how to be a Christian family. Cleanse us, God, of worldly attitudes and actions. Often we do not wish to be a parent or view parenthood as the highest privilege. Change us, dear God. Sometimes we do not embrace parental duties. We regret not loving, teaching, and training our children well.

Petition

Lord, may we have the courage to face the abortion issue, having an attitude toward children similar to that of Leah: “Leah said, ‘God has presented me with a precious gift’” (Gen. 30:20). Dear God, might we approach issues of adoption and foster care as Mordecai did: “This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died” (Esth. 2:7). Jesus, help us to view our children as Jacob did: “Jacob answered, ‘they are the children God has graciously given your servant’” (Gen. 33:5).

Promises to Claim

Be a Christian Family

Dear God, may we value the framework of family relationships and seek to provide for appropriate needs, addressing abortion, adoption, foster care, and child well-being: “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Tim. 5:8).

Be a Parent

Dear God, might You increase our compassion for children: “Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street” (Lam. 2:19).

Embrace Parental Duties

Jesus, might we have the courage to train our children: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Prov. 22:6). Give us faith to discipline them as well: “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul” (Prov. 29:17).

Dr. Price is the author of some fifty books on faith, healing, prosperity, and the Holy Spirit. How Faith Works is a classic book on the operation of faith and its life-changing principles. He has sold more than 2.1 million books since 1976.

His most recent book projects include Race, Religion & Racism, Volume 1: A Bold Encounter with Racism in the Church, Race, Religion & Racism, Volume 2: Perverting the Gospel to Subjugate a People, and Race, Religion & Racism: Volume 3: Jesus, Christianity and Islam. For more information, visit www.faithdome.org. Frederick K. C. Price, The Christian Family: Practical Insight for Family Living (Los Angeles, CA. Faith One Publishing, 1996), used by permission.