

Watch Me Grow!

Many people ask the question: What is **Baby Dedication**? THIS DEDICATION IN NO WAY IMPLIES THAT THE CHILD IS SAVED. The child, once he/she reaches the day of accountability, is responsible for their own salvation through faith in Christ. **It** is a ceremony in which believing parents make a commitment before the Lord to submit their child to God's will and purpose, and to raise/train their child/children according to God's Word and plan for their lives. Today ceremony is done in a public atmosphere with other brothers and sisters in Christ, to be a public statement by the parents unto God that they will make the sacrifice of their time and abilities to pour into their child spiritually all God has for their lives.

Parents... God chose you that you might teach your child/children in the ways of God and to become a disciple of Christ.

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

Here is an important point for all to consider were it says, "Train up a child" so yes there is a responsibility for the parent to be the first ones who start and continue the prayer and training process in the ways of the Lord as God's word reveals to use. But also it says "child" therefore the Church as the corporate body of believer's have a responsibility to provide prayer and training for our children as well!

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your **God commanded** to teach you, that ye might do *them* in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest **fear the LORD** thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, **which I command thee**, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to **do it;** that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one

LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **Deuteronomy 6:1-7 (KJV)**

Parent's, what you have done today from your hearts, by releasing them back to God. You are making a powerful statement to the Lord... you are saying...

Lord today we dedicate our child/children to you, will you allow us to keep him /her and prepare them for Your purpose in your Kingdom!

Parent's,

I charge you this day, to keep, to prepare, to teach, and lead your child by your example as loving and Godly parents from this day forward.

Do you all accept this charge this morning?

I also charge this church family, our teachers, our leaders, and every saint of God, to treat them as one of God's own, and to do your part in leading them closer to God!

By one loud Amen, will you accept that charge?

We have dedicated these precious children to the Lord this morning. This is a great day for our children, as well as their Parents, and our Church Family!

- **Me and Susan have been blessed with two children, Alan and Rachel, and know over 30 years later we have five Grandchildren, Cooper, Hudson, Ava Grace, Maddy, Harper, and little Bella!**

- **I can remember before we had any children...we had a few theories about raising kids...now we have 2 kids, and 6 Grandchildren, but no theories! I think you all know what I am talking about.**

This is such a special time, not only for the Parents and Church family, but also for the Lord. God loves these little children greatly. Look what Jesus says..

¹³ Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put *his* hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. ¹⁵ And he laid *his* hands on them, and departed thence. **Matthew 19:13-15**

Children are a gift from God!

³ Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. ⁴ As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. **Psalm 127:3-4 (KJV)**

Abraham is called the father of many Nation (Gen 17:5) and Friend of God (James 2:23) because he was the one which through His Covenant with God, all Nations would be blessed. (Gen 18:18)

God should be ultimately in charge of raising our children! They are His and He has blessed you to be a parent and chosen you to raise them in His ways!

¹⁹ For I know (**Chosen**) him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken (**promised**) of him. **Genesis 18:19 (KJV)**

*** God chose Abraham because he knew he would teach his children to live for God. Abraham was not perfect, and there were**

times that he tried to do it his way not God's way, thinking it was the best way. But when it came to humbling himself and coming back under the authority of God, Abraham's choice was God's will not his!

We learn by the readings of Genesis that God blessed Abraham and Sarah (which her womb was barren) with a son in their old age. (Isaac). Later (In Gen 22) God spoke to Abraham and told him to sacrifice Isaac on the altar before the Lord. Abraham obeyed the word of the Lord, but right before Abraham would have sacrificed Isaac on the altar, God stopped him and provided a ram instead.

Here is a powerful note... I believe that Abraham had such strong faith that he knew God would raise Isaac from the dead, because he new Issac was God's promise!

This is what was happening...God tested Abraham to see if he would give back the child that God had given him years earlier.

- Our children are a precious gift from God...it is a miracle of God that any of us have children this morning.
- You know what Abraham's story was really about...Dedication to God.
- This was the first dedication service in the History of the Bible!

The word dedicate in the original Hebrew means to keep and to prepare...God was saying to Abraham the parent...I want you to keep Issac, and I want you to prepare him to be a partaker of this covenant of promise.

God went on to tell Abraham that He was going to provide a way for the covenant to be fulfilled through his only son Isaac.

- God would provide the plan.
- God would provide the means.
- God would provide the way.

Abraham simply had to dedicate his son and his life to God!

Abraham went on to offer the ram as a sacrifice to God. Listen to what Abraham called this place...

14 And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovah-jireh**: as it is said to this day. **Gen 22:14** ...which means, **Lord our provider**.

When I think of this story now, it is so powerful...our children our precious gifts from God.

The Bible says that the earth is the Lords, the fullness thereof, and all that dwelleth therein. Psa 24:1 and 1Cor 10:26

Our children really do belong to the Lord, God can take them at any time...

- **Had Abraham refused to give Isaac back to God, he would have forfeited all God's promises and plans for Isaac.**
- **Isaac would have lived and died in obscurity—a drifter, and a nobody.**
- **No matter what we must allow God's perfect work, to work through us!**
- **Had Abraham refused to give Isaac back to God...Israel would never have become a nation...and there would not be a Christianity today.**

Therefore today, what type of Parent/Leader will you be as you have dedicated your child this morning? Because the tests are coming! Do you have a relationship with Christ?