

**ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS PART III:  
WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM OUR FAMILY?**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. There are many messages addressed to the family from all kinds of thought currents but the Creator and designer of the family has the answer to this fundamental question. The highest goal for the family according to what God said through the prophet Malachi is to raise children who live for Him.

***Mal. 2:15 "Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth."***

- B. Our children are not born Christians; nor do they automatically become Christians because they come with us to the church. To be a Christian, a conscious decision must be made to turn away from your sins, that is repentance, and by faith to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who loved us, paid the price of our sins by shedding His blood and dying on the cross. of Calvary, resurrecting on the third day; it is there where the new birth is operated by the Holy Spirit (**John 3:3; Tit. 3:5**), which leads us to trust wholeheartedly in Jesus Christ and seek to obey him; denying ourselves; that is, denying our sinful nature. In fact, the demonstration that someone really is a Christian is obedience to God.

***1 Jn. 2:3-4 "And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. 4 If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth."***

***Mat. 16:24 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."***

- C. Being a follower of Jesus is a very active search. However, before someone is an active disciple, that person is a sinner by nature. That is, the action begins with the work of Jesus in the human heart, first He calls us; then He justifies us by becoming a new person who decides to deny himself because what Jesus offers is far superior to our own desires. Following Jesus means putting aside all immorality and striving to obey God grateful for our salvation.

**II. HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE WHAT GOD WANTS FOR OUR FAMILY?**

- A. With the great challenges we live every day in today's culture it would seem impossible to achieve this purpose; but we must know that God gives us His grace and multiple answers in His Word. Many parents may feel hopeless with so many things that are competing to win their children's hearts in addition to their own problems, to the point that it seems like a losing battle; but the Father has the answer and gives us a process that is very effective and is available to all.

***Salmo 78:1-8 "My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. 2 ...I will utter hidden things... 3 things we have heard and***

**known, things our ancestors have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. 8 They would not be like their ancestors— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.**

B. **“My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.”** God wants us to pay attention to His laws and what He has to say, because if we are going to raise a generation for Him we need to listen carefully to the method He set. There are too many voices every day sending all kinds of messages but He is always right.

C. **“We will not hide them from their descendants”** These things that God says, have to be heard by our children; It is something we should not hide. Now, no one would intentionally cover up what it is for the good of our children; However, our busy and stressed lives can take us to that place where this message is completely unnoticed for them. One thing that God loved from Abraham was that he taught his children to obey God.

**Gen. 18:19 “[God said about Abraham] For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”**

D. **“we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done”** There are at least three things that every father and mother can and should tell their children: The praises of the Lord (His glorious works); His power (how powerful is God); and the mighty wonders He has done (both in ancient times and in the present). For an effective impact to occur in the next generation: **God must be the hero of our children but for this to happen first the Father and the Son must be the ones we most admire;** otherwise our Christianity will seem to our children a boring religion that makes no sense.

E. **“He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children”** God issued laws and teachings and commanded His people to teach them to their children, but they failed and that was the crisis of the nation of Israel at various times in its history.

**Judg. 2:10 “After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.”**

F. Who God is and what He has said must have a weight in our lives and in the lives of our children other way what the culture extols will have more importance in their lives.

- G. **“so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children”** God wants a continuous generational transfer; from parents to children, to grandchildren; until the third and fourth generation. **The most suitable for effectively imparting what God has said and taught are the parents who live the truth of the gospel in their homes by joining with the community of faith that supports the leadership and values of the parents.** It is said that at least five adults should be involved in order to affirm a youth in his/her faith.
- H. **“Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands,”** The result of presenting to our children the greatness and glory of God is that they will be able to trust him, which will lead them to obey Him. In this way we can meet the maximum goal of our fatherhood. **Real obedience is not achieved by imposition but by the trust we have in the authority and love of God.** We obey Him because He loves us and is the best for us and that must be the feeling of our children.
- I. **“They would not be like their ancestors— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him”** This is where the generational curses are cut. God does not want children to repeat parents' mistakes. In the case of the people of Israel, the generation of the parents had been a generation that was not docile to God, resisted His authority and therefore were not constant in their walk with Him. So if the parents did not effectively transmit the great which is God, then the children will not put their trust in Him; they will forget His works and therefore will not keep his commandments and as a result they will repeat the mistakes of the generation that failed in their role.
- J. On the other hand, children should also lend themselves to listen to what their parents show them and talk about God, giving room to trust the Lord and therefore obey Him. One of the most reliable voices for our children should be the voice of their parents.
- Prov. 1:8 “My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction.”**
- K. A principle that is clear in the process of raising our children is the following: **What is in our heart, that is, what excites us and what we most admire, is what will reproduce in our children, as a species of inevitable spiritual genetics.** For parents, the only way in which this desire of God can be fulfilled is to become passionate about God and His Word, to the point that it is what overflows from our hearts. This was God's command since ancient times.
- Deut. 6:4-7 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. <sup>5</sup> And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. <sup>6</sup> And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”**
- L. In order for us to more effectively impact the generation that comes behind us, we need to love God with all our heart and this will only come from

knowing Him in His word; because in reality, loving and worshiping God is a response to the knowledge and revelation we have of Him. The problem is that we dislike reading the Bible and much less like to delight in it, therefore **we are not giving our children what the only thing that can free them from being shaped by the prevailing culture.**

- M. This principle is also for singles because with the decisions they make during this stage they are defining how their offspring will be, they will repeat the mistakes or virtues they cultivate during their life; so they also have a great responsibility; They are also called to be older brothers or spiritual fathers and mothers of those who do not have a godly authority figure.

### III. WE KEEP CRYING OUT FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

- A. God's weapons for the time before the Lord's return are fathers and mothers who unite with their children and receive the best from each other. For that we need an intervention of God pouring out His Holy Spirit on all of us and that is why we must continue crying out to God in these 40 days of prayer and fasting. God has given us precious promises that we need to claim.

**Mal. 4:5-6 "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives. 6 His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse"** (NLT)

**Lk. 1:17 "He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."** (NLT)

**Joel 2:28 "I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.."** (NLT)

### IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Briefly describe what the process is for the next generation to obey God.
2. What do you think is your part for the next generation to put their trust in the Lord?
3. According to this passage, what is the process for children not to repeat their parents' mistakes?