



Raising Christian Children Devotion

“Mama, you are going to be so mad at me. I set the house on fire!” How do you react to a statement like that from a four-year-old little boy who has just run into the house?

Certainly you are startled, but how you respond is important. You can shake the child and yell at him. You can wring your hands in despair. Or you can calmly respond to his trust by saying, “Show me. Show me.”

How you respond makes all the difference for the future behavior of a child. Allowing him the opportunity to share more information and trust your response builds confidence so that he can share any kind of information and trust you to always be truthful.

Our Lord Jesus gives us the same opportunity to come to Him with our burdens. We may try to hide our problems from those around us, but truthfully sharing our problems with the Lord helps us to rid our souls from the guilt that we feel. He responds with forgiveness and direction. Our trust is not displaced just as the trust of a child in a parent should not be displaced by fear.

David stated this promise clearly in Psalm 68:19-20a, *Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation.* Peter also says it another way in 1 Peter 5:7, *Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

We can be wonderful examples to our children. They look to us to provide the guidance in their lives when things happen that they cannot handle. Just as our Lord has kept His promise to hear us and care for us, we can lay the foundation of trust for our children. If we build trust with our children, they will come to us and we often may have to rescue them. This our Savior Jesus Christ does for us. *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins* (Col. 1:13–14). The Lord Jesus Christ has given us His promise as proclaimed by Paul in Ephesians 2:8a, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

We and they can move forward in our lives living with confidence that we are forgiven. We and they will have a place with our Lord. We and they will be helped to do better in our lives through grace and love, rather than living in fear of punishment.

Prayer: Dear Savior, it is with joy that we raise our children as special gifts in our lives. Help us to guide and nurture them in the love and trust that You share so readily with us. You have given us the perfect example and model of love and trust. May we emulate and follow Your example. Amen.

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Published by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2013
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