FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS OF CHILDREN
AGES 0–25



How to Raise Godly Children *Today*

Building faith that survives school, social media, and the streets — without losing your children in the process.

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WITH A 30-DAY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL AND BLESSING GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The Battle Is for Their Hearts

Behaviour management is not enough. We need heart transformation.

There is a moment every parent knows. You are driving home, or washing plates at ten o'clock at night, or scrolling through your phone before bed, and it hits you: the child you are raising is not being raised by you alone.

Between breakfast and bedtime, a thousand other voices have been talking to them. A teacher. A friend. A group chat. A video that autoplayed. A song with a hook so catchy they did not notice what it was saying. A classmate who has already decided that God is for old people, and church is for people who cannot think for themselves.

You cannot be with them every hour. You cannot filter every conversation. You cannot follow them into the school compound, the group chat, or the party. And if you try to parent by surveillance alone, you will produce a child who is excellent at hiding.

So what do you do?

You do the one thing that still works: you fight for their heart.

> You are not raising children for yesterday's world. You are raising them for the one they will actually live in.

The world your child is growing up in is not the world you grew up in. It is faster, louder, and more public. It has opinions about their body, their identity, their worth, and their future — and it offers those opinions with professional production values. The

old assumption that children will absorb the faith simply by being around it is no longer safe. Faith is not inherited by proximity. It is built on purpose.

BEHAVIOUR IS NOT THE GOAL

Many of us were raised with a simple model: good behaviour was rewarded, bad behaviour was punished, and godliness was whatever happened when you were not doing anything wrong. It was a model built around management. Keep the child in line. Keep the family looking right. Keep the church impressed.

But behaviour management can produce a child who is obedient for the wrong reasons. They learn to perform when watched and to disappear when not. They learn that God is a rulebook and that parents are the police. And then, somewhere around eighteen or twenty-two, when the surveillance lifts, the performance stops — not because they stopped believing, but because they never actually owned anything.

God is not after behaviour. He is after the heart.

> *"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."*
>
> PROVERBS 4:23

If the heart is right, behaviour follows — not perfectly, and not immediately, but genuinely. If the heart is wrong, behaviour is only a costume. And costumes come off.

That is why this book is not a list of rules for children. It is a conversation about the atmosphere, the example, and the intentionality of the home. Children do not become godly by

accident. They become godly through what they breathe, what they watch, and what they are taught on purpose.

> THE THESIS OF THIS BOOK
>
> **Atmosphere plus example plus intentionality. That is the ordinary, unglamorous, God-ordained way a child's faith is formed.**

A WORD ABOUT HOPE

Let me be honest with you before we go further, because I do not want to sell you a formula.

Proverbs 22:6 is a proverb, not a contract. It describes the ordinary way God works: children who are trained in the right way usually stay in it. But "usually" is not "always." Godly parents have watched children walk away. Parents who did everything right have carried grief they never expected. If you are that parent, this book is not here to accuse you. Chapter Nine was written with you in mind.

What this book offers is not a guarantee. It is a way to be faithful with what has been given to you — and to know, at the end of the day, that you did not hand the battle over to someone else.

You do not need to be a perfect parent. You need to be a present, intentional, prayerful one. God has a way of taking the small, imperfect obedience of ordinary parents and building something that lasts longer than we can see.

WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR

This book is for Christian parents of children from birth to about twenty-five. That includes:

- ☐ Young parents who feel like they are figuring it out as they go.
- ☐ Single parents carrying the weight of both presence and provision.
- ☐ Busy parents who love their children but are tired in a way they cannot explain.
- ☐ Pastors and church leaders who are strong in public and struggling at home.
- ☐ Parents of teenagers and adult children, wondering whether it is too late to start.

It is not too late. The shape of parenting changes with the age of the child, but it never stops being spiritual work. You can always build an altar. You can always become the kind of parent your child can talk to. You can always pray.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Read it slowly. Do not try to fix everything in one week. At the end of each chapter there is something to do — a conversation, a habit, a prayer, a boundary. Pick one. Do it badly if you must, but do it.

And read it with your Bible open. This is not a manual for perfect families. It is a set of signposts pointing back to the One who is the actual Builder of your home.

BEFORE YOU READ ON

One honest prayer

Before you turn the page, pray this slowly. Do not rush it. If you are carrying guilt about your parenting, name it. If you are carrying fear, name it. Then leave it here.

“Father, I come to You as a parent who is still learning. Thank You for the child You have placed in my care — not a project, but a person. Show me what I have been too busy to see. Teach me the atmosphere, the example, and the intention You want in this home. Give me wisdom for this child, not a generic wisdom for children in general. Make me a safe place and a true signpost. And where I have failed, give me the courage to repent, not to hide. In Jesus' name, amen.”

IF THIS HELPED YOU

Send it to the parent who needs it.

One conversation can change the direction of a home. If this book gave you language for something you could not name, pass it on — to a friend, a small group, or a parent who is carrying the weight alone.

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH · LAGOS

FREE PREVIEW · INTRODUCTION

The full book is 92 pages, with a Family Prayer & Blessing Guide and a 30-day family devotional.