

## Make Time to Think About It

As mothers we think and work out ways to provide and care for our children. The beginning of a new year may cause us to think on the importance of spending more time with our families. This is a new opportunity, a new beginning for us to appraise ourselves as mothers and wives. We realize the influence we have over those we love. We care for them in many ways. We think and ponder over how to cloth them, feed them, have a safe, healthy environment for them to dwell and how to educate them. All of these are very important, necessary things.

How much thought are we giving to training them spiritually? I don't mean just taking them to Bible class. This is important but should not the training of that precious soul given to us from GOD be considered more often than just during Bible class times? How often do we consider and ponder over their obedience to GOD; the salvation of their souls? It is true that as a young child they are safe spiritually. But is it not important to train them while they are young children to make the right choices as they become young adults? There are few, if any, thing that can cause a Christian mother the pain that seeing your child grow to the age of accountability and into adulthood without following a path that will lead them to the LORD and keep them there. If we must train to be doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, pilots, etc. before we get to practice as one why then should there not be training for the most important decision they will ever make? It is the only decision that will last through eternity. Sisters it is vital that we meditate on the things that will bring our children to the LORD.

Paul attending to his 'son in the faith', Timothy, says in 1 Timothy 4:12-15: "*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*" Paul realized the need for spiritual meditation in order for Timothy to grow. Look at the list of things in which Paul deems it important for Timothy to be an example. Are we stressing these types of areas of growth for our children? Surely, reading, writing, sports, video games and television are not the only things in which our children should be proficient. What of their souls?

One of the reasons for meditation is our own salvation. In Joshua 1:8, God told the people, "*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein...*" When we meditate on the word, it means the word is working its way deeper into our thinking. It is part of the 'hiding' process of which David spoke in Psalm 119:11: "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*" The psalmist also said of the righteous man, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night*" (Psalm 1:1-2). We can not give to our children things we do not possess ourselves. We must consider, think, ponder, mediate on the things that will help us grow and help us train our children to grow in the LORD.

Deep and frequent meditation will humble us before God as all that He is and has done for us awes us. Psalm 4:4: "*Stand in awe and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.*" As we contemplate God, His word, His creation and ourselves, we cannot help but bow in reverence before him and be silent. The silence gives our hearts and minds space to meditate on the word of the Almighty. Do our children need to learn more 'silence'?

Honest meditation causes us to see ourselves as we really are. David said in Psalm 119:59 "*I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.*" In the holy event of gathering around the LORD's table, we are to engage in such meditation, "*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) This is an opportunity to truthfully consider where we are with the LORD. What does He really mean to our

lives and the lives of our family? Are we training our children to have respect for this important time during our worship services? Do they know what it is about?

Sisters, we cannot grow or even see our need to grow by only thinking occasionally about our relationship to God and His commands. We need wisdom to know how to train our children to follow the LORD's way. Wisdom comes with meditation. Self-awareness comes with meditation. Humility comes with meditation. Can salvation come without meditation? The apostle Paul has given us a list we can use to start with in Philippians 4:8. May I suggest that we make time to "meditate on these things"?