

The one thing needful is that parents should know and believe what He has undertaken to be and to do as the God of their seed. They will find that the lesson they learned in entering into a life of entire consecration is just what is needed here again. There all was comprehended in the one word *surrender*—the surrender of faith and obedience. They surrendered themselves to expect and accept all God had promised and to do all that He commanded.

This surrender of faith must definitely take place with regard to the family. As a parent I put myself and my children into God's hands, believing that He will fulfill His promise—that He does at once accept and take charge. I confess the sins by which I have prevented God from working through me as He wants to in my home. I yield myself to be His humble, holy witness, His loving, obedient servant; and humbly but trustingly I say, "Oh, when wilt Thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."

A parent's faith needs just what the faith of every believer needs—to understand, to get an insight into, what God has undertaken to do. "By faith we understand"; when faith has seen God planning and undertaking, it is a simple thing for it to rest and trust, to praise and act.

I trust that this book may help believing parents to meditate on God's purpose for the family, and to see what abundant ground there is for expecting Him to fulfill their desire to have their house holy to the Lord. It is as we get into the mind and plan of God that faith will grow, and its power will be manifest both in ourselves and those for whom we are believing.

I send this book forth with the prayer that it may be blessed to make our glorious God better known as the God of the families of Israel, and that this knowledge may strengthen many a parent's heart to a larger faith and a more entire consecration of home life to their God.

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Principles of Training

It may be helpful to parents, to young mothers especially, to give a short summary of the principles on which all training rests. Let them meditate carefully and prayerfully on what it implies: they will find that it is a work that cannot be performed without careful thought and earnest purpose. It is only as reflection opens up to them the infinite significance of the holy work of *molding*, of really *forming* and giving shape to an immortal spirit, that they will feel urged with due fervor and faith to plead the promise: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally . . . and it shall be given him."

1. *Training is more than teaching.* Teaching makes a child know and understand what he is to do; training influences him and sees that he does it. Teaching deals with his mind; training, with his will.

2. *Prevention is better than cure.* Not to watch and correct mistakes, but to watch and *prevent mistakes*, is true training. To lead the child to know that he *can* obey and do right, that he can do it easily and successfully, and to delight in doing it, is the highest aim of true training.

3. *Habits must precede principles.* Habits influence the person by giving a certain bent and direction, by making the performance of certain acts easy and natural, and thus preparing the way for obedience from principle.