

## growing Godly children

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## growing Godly children

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.  
malachi 2:15 (nlt)

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## growing in spirit

So the child grew and became strong in spirit...  
luke 1:80a (nkjv)

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## we all start as children

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.<sup>2</sup>After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

john 3:1-7 (nlt)

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## we all start as children

<sup>4</sup>"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup>So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

john 3:1-7 (nlt)

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## six things God uses to grow our faith:

- a: Practical teaching
- b: Private disciplines
- c: Personal ministry
- d: Providential relationships
- e: Pivotal circumstances
- f: God moments

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### a: practical teaching

<sup>15</sup>You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

2 timothy 3:15 (nlt)

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### a: practical teaching

<sup>18</sup>“So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. <sup>19</sup>Teach them 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. <sup>20</sup>Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors.

deuteronomy 11:18-21 (nlt)

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### a: practical teaching

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

matthew 7:24 (nkjv)

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### **b: private disciplines**

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

proverbs 22:6 (nkjv)

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### **c: personal ministry**

<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

ephesians 2:10 (nkjv)

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### **d: providential relationships**

<sup>24</sup>Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup>And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

hebrews 10:24-25 (nlt)

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### e: pivotal circumstances

<sup>2</sup>All things come alike to all:  
One event happens to the righteous and the wicked;  
To the good, the clean, and the unclean;  
To him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice.  
As is the good, so is the sinner;  
He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath.  
ecclesiastes 9:2 (nkjv)

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### e: pivotal circumstances

<sup>17</sup>Though the fig tree may not blossom,  
Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labor of the olive may fail,  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,  
And there be no herd in the stalls—  
<sup>18</sup>Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
habbakuk 3:17-18 (nkjv)

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### f: God moments

<sup>10</sup>Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.  
genesis 28:10-17 (nkjv)

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## f: God moments

<sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. <sup>14</sup>Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

genesis 28:10-17 (nkjv)

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## f: God moments

<sup>15</sup>Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

genesis 28:10-17 (nkjv)

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