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# The Writer's Inkhorn

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Continuing Reflections on the Word for Your Personal Growth in Christ

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Mother's Day Message 2018, Freedom Temple

## How Far Can They Go with What You've Given Them?



*Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman watches in vain. (Psalm 127:1)*  
*Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is His reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. (Psalm 127:3-4)*  
*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. (Isaiah 54:12)*

This is Mother's Day, and you are a mother precisely because you have borne children. I was not blessed to be a biological mother, but I have nurtured many children and adults over the years, and I have some who call and respect me as mother, and I thank God for that. And there are others of you like me who **have** desired or **still** desire children, but have not been blessed to have them yet. Even if it's late and you know that it's not likely at this point that **you** will bear any, I encourage you to pour into the lives of **other** people's children. Don't allow yourself to become selfish or bitter. God sees you and knows how you feel. So, what **about** the children?

There are **so** many ways you can help nurture other people's children, and Lord knows, parents need all of the help they can get. I have spent **my** life pouring into the lives of my **cousins'** children and others **outside** of my own family. I believe it is what God expects of us. It is what I saw my mother do. I've done what I could. And, there are some other people within our church, now, with and without children, who are **always** pouring into the lives of other people's children as well. The young people here at Freedom Temple are blessed

beyond measure, and for all of you parents who don't take advantage of the opportunities being offered here for your children, you need to do better. It may not always *be* this way. We need to love and respect and appreciate the people who extend love to us and our children, **whoever** they may be.

There is a serious responsibility that comes with **parenthood** in any form, but don't worry; this is not going to be a message that leaves you feeling guilt-laden and bowed down. Rather, it is one God has given **me** to inspire **you** to **do** more, **be** more and **provide** more for your children so that you can launch them farther from where **you** are now standing, so-to-speak. That is why I have chosen this subject: "**How Far Can They Go with What You've Given Them?**" There is an image I want you to get in your mind from this Scripture, and particularly from the second verse:

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is His reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. (Psalm 127:3-4)*

As I thought about this text, I kept imagining my pastor as a mighty warrior, strong and youthful, sending his young sons forth into the future. While meditating on the text and preparing the message, I saw from Sister Sarah Byrd about some young praise dancers she was working with, and it confirmed for me that I was right where God wanted me to be in sharing this message. She said: **I DECLARE THEM TO BE FLYING FIERY ARROWS GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PROPELLED BY THEIR PARENTS** (05.03.18). This is a great declaration for **all** of our children.

The bow and arrow are symbols of strength, just as bearing children during your youth is also a symbol of strength. Children generally come when

you are young and have the strength and energy to keep up with them. (I promise you that none of us mothers on the Mother's Board are trying to be like Abraham's Sarah, giving birth at 90! Amen?!) And so as you think about this tremendous responsibility you have as parents, here are some things the Lord gave me to share with you to give your children so that they can go far and hit the targets God has destined for them in the kingdom. Yes, we are **all** purposed, including our children, and none of us should want to leave here without fulfilling our purpose.

The **first** thing the Lord said to me was He wants you to give your children an **abundance mindset**. Notice, I did not say a *prosperity* mindset, but rather an **abundance** mindset, to defeat a poverty or scarcity mindset. Here is the reason why. Some of us **grew up in poverty** and in many ways we still have a **poverty or scarcity** mindset. If that is not your testimony, that's okay, but keep reading, because I declare God wants you to know this, too.

The only way to have real and lasting change in your life is by changing your mindset. Paul says we are to be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. You can be poor in your pocketbook, and still not have a poverty mindset, because you know that not having much money is just a temporary condition. My mother never said we were poor. She just said, "You know, I don't have much money." Yet, she found a way to buy quality furniture like a solid wood bedroom set that she made payments on until she paid it out. She passed that set on to me when I was 30 years old and moved out of her house. So I learned that I didn't have to let the size of my mom's pocketbook determine the size of my dreams and goals and the vision for my life.

**But**, when you have a **poverty** or *scarcity* mindset, you are always **living life on the cheap**. You are buying cheap food that is bad for your health; you are buying cheap furniture that your children are tearing up, then you have to replace it every two or three years, and so on. I am **not** talking about extravagance, nor am I talking about living above your means. You can shop quality even on a budget if you take the time to do so. To have an **abundance** mindset is to recognize that there is more than enough for all of us to have what we need to accomplish what we want to

achieve in life. We are **fully resourced** and there are many scriptures that bear this out:

**Mt 6:8**.....*your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

**Ps 34:10**.....*those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.*

**Ps 24:1**.....*The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,...*

**Ps 50:10**.....*the cattle on a thousand hills are His.*

**Rom 8:32**.....*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us all things?*

**Eph 3:20**.....*[God] is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...*

**We ARE fully resourced**, and when we use our resources wisely, our children will have what they need as well. When I desired to go to college as a young teenager to become a teacher, my mother said to me, "You know that I don't have the money to send you to college, but **God** can make a way." She didn't have the **financial** resources I needed, but what resource did she have? Yes, her **faith**. Do not underestimate the power of faith in your life and in the lives of your children. This is the most powerful resource you can have and give them.

When the late Elder Hutton of Chicago Hts. was running revival at our church, Mom encouraged me to get in the prayer line. I told him my request, and he prayed for me. God blessed me to get grants and scholarships and when I graduated, I owed less than \$2000 in loan debt, after attending a small, expensive Christian college for all four years. She **told me** that God **could** make a way and **He did**. And He did it again when I got that Master's degree, and again when I got that Ph.D. God **did** provide! Paul said in Philippians 4:19, "*And my God shall supply **all** your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*"

The Lord told me, after we lost all of the seniors in our family in 4½ years, "Do not neglect your generational faith." That was a distinct mark left upon us by our elders, and I have been passing

it on in the family. And this leads me to the **second** thing that God wants you to give your children: the **faith to believe God** for their dreams and ambitions. Everybody is not going to be preachers and missionaries in the ecclesiastical sense, nor do we need them to be. We need people who live righteously in every sphere of society. People of integrity are needed from the boardroom to the bathrooms; from the art and music therapy rooms to the kindergarten classroom; from the White House to the jailhouse; and in the hospitals, clinics and nursing homes. Every place in society needs someone who is serving Jesus for real.

Some of your children may choose careers or occupations that you think are very difficult to learn or challenging to get into, but if you have taught them **faith** through the Scriptures and through living a **life of faith** in front of them, then encourage them to give it a try. Don't try to talk **them** out of becoming an engineer because **you** struggled in math. **That** struggle is not hereditary. Teach them what the word of God says:

**Phil 4:6**.....*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...*

**Mt 7:7**.....*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

**Ps 37:5** .....*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.*

**Jer 32:27** ... Hear what the Lord said to and asked Jeremiah? *Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"*

You, trust and believe God with them. **Give** them the faith to believe God for their dreams.

The **third** thing God wants is for you to teach them to be **givers**. You **cannot** separate the giving from the receiving. This is one of God's universal laws. How can you think it is okay to want *everything* that God has promised you **in** His word when you are not willing to align yourself **with** His word? Why are you singing "It's my winning season" and "everything attached to me wins" when you have not positioned yourself in your giving to receive in your spirit that word. Change

the words and change your actions, first. Sing, "It's my giving season; it's my giving season." Sowing and reaping go hand in hand. Get this word in your spirit that the Lord has given me to share with His people in every **Introduction to the Bible class** that I teach. It is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8:

*<sup>6</sup> But this I say, He who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

**You and they** must be givers. Teach them to pay tithes from whatever they receive. Tithes were *not* abolished in the New Testament era after Jesus came. Stop **speaking** that. Stop being **stingy** with God! He **gave** you whatever you have!

**Luke 6:38**.....*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.*

**2 Cor. 9:10**.....*may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness*

Give and teach your children to give also. Children do what they see you do. And if they do not do it voluntarily, then teach them that they must give something to the Lord's work – to the church. God gave this promise to me for you many classes ago: If **YOU** determine to always give something, **GOD** will see to it that you always have something **TO** give. Did you know you can give your way out of poverty, rather than spending your way into more debt. **TRY GOD** out and see.

The **fourth** and final thing He wants me to share today is for you to create the space and give your children **the tools to use their imagination**. Let your children play and learn in old-fashioned,

creative ways. Do you know that **the** most powerful intellectual faculty that we have is that of our imagination? Think of the power of imagination: where did all of the amazing variety in creation come from? The variety of trees and flowers, animals and people, fruits and vegetables, stars and galaxies and planets, and so on, all came from the **imagination** of our great Creator-God.

Where did every advancement in civilization across all of these centuries come from? They came **from God through** the imagination of men *who were created in the image of God*. If you saw the movie, Black Panther, did you pay attention to the technology? That was a showcase of **the power of the human imagination**. People **imagined** all of that, and then put it in a movie so that you can sit and watch it as if it is really happening in real time. **THIS** is the essence of what it means to be created in the image of GOD! We keep missing it. We're thinking too small. We're doing too little. We are stifling the creative imagination in our children and ourselves! What are **you** creating? What are **they** building? What are **they** experimenting with? What positive things are **you** imagining? What world problems or societal issues do **they** see and do you talk about in your house? Encourage them to begin to think of ways to solve them. What business ideas have **you** imagined, but are hesitant about acting upon? Good **imaginings** are the good and perfect gifts that come from above.

Listen to what God said about us – humankind – way back in Genesis when those people were building the tower of Babel: *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do* (Genesis 11:6). No-thing!

The human brain is the most complex and remarkable structure in the **entire** universe. This little odd-shaped three-pound soft organ inside your head, contains all of the mysteries that control and regulate every other organ, tissue, cell, muscle movement, nerve, system in your body, thoughts and reasoning and memory – the physical and mental processes. Physical movement *and* thought -- this is beyond amazing and astounding and mind-boggling. GOD designed us that way and He wants you to know you are / we are *fearfully and wonderfully made*;

(Ps. 139:14). *Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

Don't let this incredible organ waste away because you are not using it enough. We **have** the brains to do far more than we can ever imagine. We are **filled** with infinite possibilities within our finite bodies. Even **that** is amazing. Think about it this way spiritually as well: the Holy Spirit is infinite and He is part of the Godhead – yet He dwells within our finite bodies. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are filled with infinite potential and capacity. He, too, was at work in the creation of the universe and all things contained therein, including humankind. All 7.6 billion people who now occupy this planet can be completely filled with Him at the same time, and yet not contain Him, because He is so much more. This, too, is **beyond** amazing.

Too often we separate other gifts and talents that we do not see as “spiritual gifts and callings” from the Spirit of God being at work *in* them. That is why I love to go back to Exodus 35:30-35 to show that the Spirit of God is at work in endowing us with whatever talents He has entrusted into our hands. We **and** our children are purposed for different fields in the kingdom and we need the Spirit of God in **all** of our work to be the most effective and the best at whatever we choose, career-wise. We are to be the head, and not the tail; to be above only and not beneath. Our goal to be the best at whatever we do is so that we bring glory and honor to God in it.

So, how far will **you** go with what **God** has given **you**? And how far can your children go with what **you've** given **them**? There is no greater example than parents in the home who are growing and expanding *their* minds so that God can expand their territories. We can ask God for a whole lot of things, but what are you doing with what He has already given you? He has put something into the hands of every one of us to be used for HIS glory! So let us all get busy, or more busy, fulfilling our purpose and reaching our destiny.

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