

Training and Raising Children

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References: 1 Samuel 1, Matthew 7:7; 1 Samuel 1:2-8; 1 Samuel 1:9-11; 1 Samuel 1:12; 1 Samuel 1:15; 1 Samuel 1:17-22; 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 1:28; 1 Samuel 2:11; 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Titus 2:4-5; Isaiah 5:20

Good to see each one of you this morning. And the title of this time is Raising, Training and Raising Children. And being mothers and fathers, being Sunday school teachers, being aunts and uncles, grandmas, whatever it may be, when we work with children. I think the things we'll be looking at is just simply that kind of idea: working with children. What can we learn from the Word of God? And what we're going to do all this whole day is we're going to look at principles. We're going to look at what the Word of God has to say about this whole subject of raising of children, imparting to children, and allowing God to work in their lives in such a way they come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

And by the way, there's a handout. I hope everyone has the handout. So Mr. Power will hand that out. We have a handout for every session. So there's four handouts. We hand them out so you can see some of the verses. We may not touch on every verse on every aspect you see on the sheet, but you can take it home and you can look at it and you can look up the verses and so forth. So we want to do that. And this morning in this session, it's an introductory session, but it's about prayer—praying for our children. And it's such a very, very important thing that we pray a lifelong time of prayer.

And so, we want to pray for our children. And so we'll look at that and some other principles in our first session. But the way we want to arrange this day is we have an hour for each session. I am going to speak and we're going to look at Scripture and look at principles in Scripture for a half an hour, and then questions. And we encourage you to ask questions. No question is a bad question. All questions are good questions. And as we record these sessions, there'll be people that will have the same questions that you have. And so please be willing to ask questions. Women can ask questions. Men can ask questions. And so we hope to have good discussions about principles. It may not even be in the area that we're looking at in this session. But if you have a question that's on your heart, please, please, we encourage you to ask questions.

God's Heart for Children and Families

I'm going to ask you to take your Bibles and turn to chapter 1 of 1 Samuel. And everything that we look at today, I hope everything we look at will be a Bible-based understanding of what the Word of God says about children. You know, 4,000 times in the Bible, we have the words, "And the LORD said," or "God saith," God or the LORD said. And we have a tremendous amount of Scripture about children.

And I'm going to ask you the question, not that you have to answer it, but why does God mention so often little children, babies, so often? He mentions Moses as a baby. He mentions Samuel as a young child and how he was born and his mother and how she prayed. He mentioned John the Baptist as a baby coming into the world. He mentioned Jesus, of course. He mentioned Samson coming into the world and his parents raising him. We read about Jeremiah before he was even born, what God had to say about the coming into the world of Jeremiah. Josiah as a young man becoming a king of Judah at age eight years old. We read about Isaac and Jacob and Esau and all these accounts of little children. And then, of course, we read about so many children and so many families that I haven't mentioned here this morning. The Bible is filled with them.

And I am not sure about other religions of the world, but I know about the Bible. And the Bible speaks in great terms about children that come into the world and about the parents who raise them and the need that we have to raise these children. And when we read about Moses or Samuel or whoever it is, it speaks about their mothers and their fathers. And so we want to think about that.

Now, you know, one thing about children, and why God is so concerned about them, is because they come into the world, they're helpless. They need a mother and father. God has given every child a mother and a father. And we have a great responsibility, and we have the responsibility of raising those children. We'll see it in 1 Samuel chapter 1 about Hannah and Samuel being born. She sees this great responsibility of raising this child. We have this great responsibility. We have a life, and what we impart into that life for possibly twenty years, but we keep on imparting. We may be a mother and father for children who are young, but we continue to be a mother and father the rest of our lives. They're always our children, and we try to impart everything we can to them for the rest of their lives. They may be a distance away. They have moved away, but we're still their mothers and fathers. God has given children mothers and fathers because they need guidance and they need direction.

And we'll be looking at a lot of subjects, a number of subjects, about how we raise children for the Lord Jesus Christ. And one thing about children, I think this is one of the reasons

maybe God gave children to us, is we raise children, but children so often change us, don't they? Children come into our lives and they ask questions and they bring up subjects and they have interests, and they change our lives and sometimes our way of thinking. I know unsaved parents who've had a child and they begin to think to themselves, How do I raise this child? What is the basis that I have? How do I raise them? And pretty soon they begin to think about the Bible and begin to think about what does the Bible say? And pretty soon they then come to the Lord Jesus Christ and then begin to raise, those parents begin to raise their children the way they should.

Hannah's Burden and Persistent Prayer

So we're in chapter 1, chapter 1 of the book of 1 Samuel. And in this chapter 1, we read a number of people. We read about Peninnah. We read about Elkanah. And we read about Hannah. And we're going to look a little bit at what God has to say about the raising of children and the prayer, the prayer for children.

You know, I have in your handout, and I want to make a correction: in Matthew 7, I have verse 11; it's verses 7 through 11. But verse 7, it says:

[Matthew 7:7 NKJV]

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

These are the words of the Lord. We are encouraged to come before the Lord and bring our petitions and our prayers before the Lord. So this is what Hannah does in this chapter. And Hannah, it says in this chapter, Hannah was barren. She was unable to have a child. So let's start with verse 2 of chapter 1 of 1 Samuel:

[1 Samuel 1:2-8 NKJV]

² And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. ⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed

her womb. ⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. ⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

Now this is something that a husband should never say to his wife. I know it's in the Word of God, but it's probably not something that you say when she's grieving about not having children or grieving about some area of life. He says, Elkanah says to Hannah, "Am I not better to you than ten sons?" That probably was not the most encouraging thing. She didn't want to hear that at that moment of time. Now, he was good to her, but she was grieving. She wanted to have a son or a child, but especially a son.

[1 Samuel 1:9-11 NKJV]

⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. ¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Now, how near you come to a point where she begins to pray? Now, I want to look at this prayer, some of the principles of the prayer of Hannah. Now, we have Hannah praying, the act of praying in chapter 1, and then we have the actual prayer of Hannah—one of the prayers of Hannah, which took place at this time. And it says in verse 9, she is there in Shiloh, and Eli was there in verse 10. And she was in bitterness of soul, and she prayed unto the LORD, and she wept bitterly.

You know, I think there's something very important concerning her. She's praying about her children. She's praying the fact that she doesn't have a child. And you're going to see in a second, she's going to pray for a child—not just for a child, she's going to pray for a male child. She's going to pray for a son, that God will give her a son. She's going to pray specifically. She's going to pray from her heart for this future son that she will have, that she will have a son. And I think that's something we can do too: pray from our hearts, pray from

our souls, pray that the Lord would work in this area. So I think it's something in our area, the area of our children: we pray passionately. We pray in a sense of burden that God would work. And here she's asking for a child, and she's praying unto the LORD.

In verse 11 it says, and she vowed a vow. She says, "I will give him to the LORD. I will dedicate him to the LORD. I will give him to the LORD for the rest of his days, the rest of the days of his life. And there should be no razor come to his head." This is an allusion to the Nazirite vow, where certain people of the Old Testament were devoted to the Lord, to the service of the Lord. And that's what Hannah is saying: "I want this child. I long for a child, but I'm going to give him to You. What pleases me more than anything else is that this young man can grow up to know the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, can come to know the Lord as his Savior, and that he can come and his life can be a life of service to the LORD."

You know, that's what our burden is, isn't it? That's our burden when we have children. We want them to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. We want to see them grow and have spiritual commitments and spiritual life, a committed spiritual life to the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't want them just to pray a prayer of salvation. We don't want them just to raise a hand in a meeting. We want them to be real Christians for the Lord Jesus Christ. We want them to love the Lord Jesus with all their heart, soul, and mind. We want them to serve Him. We want them to be devoted to Him. And that's what she wanted. That's what she wanted, and that's what every Christian should want for their children.

And that's why we have this time this morning, this afternoon, that we would look at some principles where we can impart into our children these kinds of principles: the gospel and principles that they can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. So she says, "I want this male child. I want this male child to grow up and be devoted to the LORD, be committed to the God of the Old Testament."

[1 Samuel 1:12 NKJV]

And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

Eli observed her mouth, and he begins to think—there's a section in this chapter, we're going to skip over it—he thinks she's drunk because she's praying, and her lips are moving, and her eyes are closed.

[1 Samuel 1:15 NKJV]

But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

"In the abundance of my complaint, my grief, have I been praying to the LORD? Have I been speaking unto the LORD?" Look at verse 17:

[1 Samuel 1:17-22 NKJV]

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." ¹⁸ And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. ¹⁹ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD." ²¹ Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

Eli was the priest, and he sees her praying. He doesn't even know what she's praying about exactly, but he says to her in verse 17, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." And so the woman went her way and ate, and her countenance was no longer sad. In verse 19, she rises up and she worships before the LORD and returns back. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her, and she conceived and bore a son. Verses 19 and 20: and she called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD." And the man Elkanah and all the house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice. And Hannah did not go up until she had weaned the child.

Now, how old would the child be? Because we'll see that she doesn't go up; she's weaning the child, she's nursing the child, she's caring for the child. It says also she didn't go up for a number of other years because she was nursing the child. And then it says in verse 24, when

she had weaned him—maybe he was five years old or six years old, maybe even seven years old, about five or six years old—when she had weaned him:

[1 Samuel 1:24-28 NKJV]

²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Dedication, Modeling, and Ministry

Now turn with me over to chapter 3, chapter 3 of 1 Samuel. So now as a young boy, Samuel is serving, ministering in the house of the LORD as an understudy to Eli. Eli's an older man now. His hearing is not what it should be. His eyesight is not what it should be.

[1 Samuel 3:1-10 NKJV]

¹ Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. ² And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, ³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, ⁴ that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" ⁵ So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. ⁶ Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.) ⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay

down in his place. ¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

So here you have the story of Elkanah. Here you have the story of Peninnah. Here you have the story of Hannah. And you have Hannah praying for a child.

And the reason we're looking at this this morning is because it's so necessary to pray for our children. And it's interesting in this chapter: she's asking for a child; when she has the child, we have her prayer in chapter 2. We have her prayer in chapter 2 from verses 1 to 11—a beautiful prayer of Hannah. And I encourage you to go back and look at it. And you see a spiritual character. She has tremendous spiritual character in Hannah. You see the way she prays. You see the kinds of things she prays for. God has given to her this beautiful son, and she's raising that son up.

And in chapter 1 and in chapter 2, she never asked this question: "How do I raise this son? What are the principles You want me to have to raise this son?" And there are principles, and we're going to look at them. There are principles, but the first principle I think that is so, so important is not so much the principles of how we go about with techniques and information about how we raise our children. There are some good books that are out there that give some information about that, but one of the main things is that we as parents become **godly parents**, that our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is strong, we have a knowledge of the Scriptures, that we are models and examples to our children.

As we go through Scripture, we see a lot of mothers. We see Lois and Eunice. We see Jochebed, the mother of Moses. We see mothers mentioned all over. We see fathers mentioned all through Scripture. But I think one of the most important things about them: they have a deep walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, a deep understanding of the Scriptures, that our lives have to be examples—examples to our children. I don't remember—well, I remember a number of things my father taught me, a number of things my mother taught me, but I think the most important thing that I remember in my mother and my father were the example that they were: their godliness and their faithfulness and their love for the Lord Jesus Christ. These were important, important things.

Now, she pours her life into her child. It seems that she has five years that she is pouring her life into this young Samuel. Now, Samuel becomes Samuel the prophet and arguably one of the greatest figures of the Old Testament. Now, Peninnah, we don't have any idea of who her children were. She may have had a number of children and many children. But God gave Hannah one child, and that child influenced thousands, thousands upon thousands in Old

Testament history. Samuel was the one who anointed David as king. Samuel was a great man of God and influenced so, so many for God. You can pour your life into one person.

You know, John Wesley's mother had nineteen children. But she had two special children: John Wesley and Charles Wesley. She poured her life into the lives of John and Charles Wesley. God can give you a son or a daughter, whoever it may be. Someone was Billy Graham's mother and father. Someone was Elisabeth Elliot's mother and father. These great figures of Scripture, their mothers have the greatest influence on their lives more than anything else. Their mothers and fathers have the greatest influence. No matter who their Bible teachers are, no matter who their Sunday school teachers are, no matter where they go to college and go to university, wherever they go and have Christian teaching and training, the mother and their fathers have the greatest influence. You as a mother or father, you as a grandmother, you have the greatest influence that I think anyone can have in a child's life, even if you have them for a short period of time.

Now notice something about the life of Hannah. So she raises this child for five years, five or six years. We see something about this child. Look at the very end of chapter 1, verse 28:

[1 Samuel 1:28 NKJV]

Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

Now, he's five years old. Okay, maybe six, maybe seven. We'll say between five and seven years old. She brings him to the tabernacle. Look at the first thing that he does: "And he worshiped the LORD there." Samuel—it's not Hannah, it's not Elkanah—Samuel! "And he worshiped the LORD there." You say to yourself, Well, how did that happen? How does a five, six, seven-year-old have the desire to worship the LORD? I think it's because of what the mother and father poured into that child.

Now turn to the next chapter. We look at chapter 2 and verse 11:

[1 Samuel 2:11 NKJV]

Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

And Elkanah went to Ramah, to his house, and then Samuel was left with Eli. And it says, "And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest." Does it mean teaching? Does it mean worshiping? Does it mean service? All those things are included in ministry. Here you have a young child God using in a tremendous way.

Then chapter 3, we looked at it already. Eli says to Samuel, "If you hear that voice again, say to the LORD, 'Speak, for Your servant hears.'" I love those three things: he was a **listening** young child, he was a **worshiping** young child, and he was a **serving** young child. And how did that happen? That happened because of what Hannah and Elkanah poured into his life and because of a prayer life.

Five Things to Pray for Your Children

Now, our time is about finished for what we want to do, but we want to look at these last five things on your handout that I want to encourage you as parents:

1. **Pray for the salvation of your child.** Those that you influence for the Lord, pray for the salvation of your children. There is no greater thing that can happen, no greater event in a child's life, than for them to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not just to come and have their sins forgiven—I think it's more than that: they go on and live for the Lord Jesus; they have a heart for the Lord Jesus; they desire to serve and to worship and to listen to the Lord and follow the Lord. So pray for your child's salvation.
2. **Pray for your child's protection.** You know, mothers and fathers, we are gatekeepers to our homes. We stop certain things from coming into our homes. Now I want to turn for a moment over to the book of Titus, in chapter 2:

[Titus 2:4-5 NKJV]

⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

If you have a pen, you can jot this reference: chapter 2, verses 4 and 5. Now it says of women in this section, that they teach young women to be sober-minded, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, be chaste, and then it says this: to be "keepers at home" or homemakers. Now a lot of times that reference is thought to be, you know, the dusting and the vacuuming and the washing of dishes and the caring of children.

But it's interesting that word keeper is the same root word you would have for a keeper of a jail—a guardian.

One day years ago, when my son was young, he had a friend across the street. He wasn't a good friend, but he was just a little older, and they were an unsaved family. And I remember our son came back and he said that this boy had shown him some pornography. And he was very upset about it, and he spoke about the fact he couldn't get the images out of his mind. You have to be guardians. Now, sometimes it's very hard to do that, but we have to work at that. We've got to raise our children in such a way that we protect them. We're protectors of our children.

1. **Pray for the friends of our children.** One of the greatest things we can do is pray for who our children will become friends with. We should surround them—I think it's one of the reasons we have Vacation Bible School here, and Kids Club, and youth group, and all the youth events and camps, and all the things we have for young people—because we want to surround our young people with other very seriously minded, godly young people. We encourage a lot of young people from our local church to go and work at camp because we think working at camp is probably one of the better things than even going to camp. Working at camp surrounds you with good, solid young people who can continue to be friends and continue to go to events together, having good, solid friendships with good, godly families and young people. Godly friends will build up your child, and sometimes those relationships will last their lifelong.
2. **Pray for the spiritual walk of your child.** Pray for your children and your Sunday school kids and all those that you come in contact with. We try as often as we can, when we have our prayer meetings, to pray for our families, pray for the families within our church, pray for the children within our church.
3. **Pray for your children's character.** What kind of character do they have? Their moral lives.

So these are things we need to pray for concerning our children. We'll look at some other things as we go forward. We're going to stop now, and I'm going to open the time for some questions. Roy's going to come up and help us with some translation if we need it. So we're going to take some questions. We'll just have a time to just raise your hand, and we'll take questions you might have.

Question & Answer Session

Question:

If you have any questions, please raise your hand. I will translate for you. And remember, it doesn't have to be anything that we've talked about in this chapter about prayer, but anything that's on your heart, on your mind, questions you heard someone else ask you, whatever it may be.

Audience Member:

Would you be able to just address the transgender issues that are presently happening to our kids in school, as we're facing this with some of the children in our church? Just give a little...

David D.:

Well, it's an issue in the United States. Of course, it's an issue throughout the world. Of course, it's an issue in Canada.

[Isaiah 5:20 NKJV]

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

So I've seen in my life that this issue—and first the homosexual issue—that we're to overlook evil, and then we're to permit evil, and then we're going to legalize evil, and then we're going to promote evil.

Roy (Translation):

In our time, we allow evil to happen, and we try to put evil into the law, and it will cause more evil.

David D.:

Then we celebrate evil, and then we persecute those who call it evil. So we're in the last stage: the last stage where we are promoting that which is evil and persecuting those who oppose it.

Roy (Translation):

虽然我们也是最后一个死者，但是我们也会受到迫害。

David D.:

I think from the example of Hannah, we've got to pour our lives into our children: pour ourselves and biblical principles and gospel teaching, and being around other godly children and good teachers and godly leaders. I think it's something that the world—and I know in the public schools—sometimes they try to transition kids who are just a little confused, but they try to begin to transition them into being transgender. And this is a sad, horrible thing, but I think it's a very important thing: the mutilation in some cases of children's bodies.

Sometimes we have to take a stand. We have to speak out, especially in our own families and in different situations. But mostly we are responsible for our circle, whatever it may be. And in that circle of influence that we have, we have to pour our lives, our life of prayer, of teaching, of loving our children with all our hearts and minds and souls, and seek to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Roy (Translation):

In this passage, he says that sometimes we have to stand up and speak. But he says that especially in our own circle, we have to have influence. Just like we have to pray a lot, we have to give them a lot of love, we have to do a lot of spiritual teaching, and then influence the child—just like how Hannah put her life on her child.

Audience Member:

Could you talk about the balance between protecting children and also helping them to develop as witnesses for the Lord?

David D.:

I think that's a good question. I think as you raise your own children, when they're young, you instill in them respect: respect for parents, respect for God, get them to know verses and begin to understand the Word of God. And in each phase of their lives, you begin to pour into them principles and teaching and examples and lessons, and surrounding them with good young people.

But then as they get older—and I think maybe fifteen years old—they become independent, and you want them to become independent and kind of leave the nest a little bit, and to take those principles with them into relationships and live them out themselves as they get into different settings and circumstances. I think there's a balance between protecting and pouring your life into them, and there's a time where they have to take those with them and they've got to make those principles their own.

Roy (Translation):

When the child grows up, especially after fifteen years old, you have to let him be

independent. He trained himself to be independent, and then he used the principles and knowledge of the Bible in his own way. So he said, how do you protect your child? How do you take care of yourself and live with your child? And then the balance between these two is mainly how you train your child.

David D.:

I met a young man this summer just a few weeks ago. I think he's a freshman in college, first year, maybe second year. He has a Bible study in his school somewhere, in a room. He's leading a Bible study, and he came in talking to me about some Bible questions. I think that you instill these principles in a young person, then they go out and they live them out, and they have a passion and encouragement to take the Word of God to their generation.

Roy (Translation):

He said he met a person who was in the first or second year of college. He was leading a Bible study. He came to ask him some questions. He said that the principles and truths you learned from the Bible, you have to live them out. Then you will have the enthusiasm to do something and to teach others.

David D.:

Well, it's an excellent question, and it's a real challenge. I think what you share is a real challenge to be able to do that. We train up our children. There's a point where they begin to act independently, but hopefully taking those things we've taught them and beginning to use them themselves.

Roy (Translation):

This is a huge challenge for us. First, you have to train your children, and then when they grow up, they can use the principles you taught them and make them their own. This is very important.

Audience Member:

Maybe one more follow-up question from Joanna's question. Given the fact that many public schools in British Columbia are following very directly into the LGBT system and promote it actively, and some Christian schools, unfortunately, following to a lesser extent, but nevertheless doing that as well, what counsel do you have for parents?

David D.:

Well, you know, you're battling—and we in the United States, we're not that far behind you—we're battling a world that is in opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the last fortresses of truth is the family and is the church. And we have to be strong as a family. It used to be you could just send your kids to Sunday school. You didn't have to do too much in your home.

Send them to Sunday school, and that would be enough. And that stopped being that way. It's not that way anymore.

You have to really be very active in promoting truth and combating so much of what's happening in the world. You've got to combat that in the church, and you've got to combat that especially, especially in the home. Home is the most important place. You know, the world, or Satan, has 168 hours a week. Basically 168 hours a week that has the ear of our children, whether it be in school, whether it be wherever they are. And the church has one hour or two hours or three hours, and the world has, Satan has, 168 hours.

So we've got to do our real work to promote teaching with our families and with our local churches. And some churches are doing a great job. In some churches, I see a lot of young people who are on fire for the Lord and they're living for the Lord. And I see this in a number of places. But a lot of places, the church is not doing that. And as you said, a lot of Christian schools are beginning to yield to some of that pressure. And I hope it's not so; I hope it's not true in a lot of places. But there is that pressure to do that. And I hope that we can be strong as our families.

The only thing we can do to combat some of those things is be strong families and strong churches. You can't expect anything else. We can't expect the man across the street to pray for us if he's unsaved. We can't expect that. We have to be the ones who are doing the work. We have to be the ones who are fighting the fight and fighting the battle. We could provide literature, we could provide everything you want to have—videos or whatever—to provide our families. But that's the vanguard. That is the front lines for us: our families, and our camps, and our churches, and our ministries that we might have. That's what we have. And that's why we probably have this kind of morning and afternoon, because we need to be stronger in our families and in raising our children.

Roy (Translation):

He said he felt that he had not gone that far in America. We are facing a society that is against Jesus Christ. So our church and our family must be the last fortress. So we must keep this. In fact, we have to insist on this in our home, in our church. But especially in our home. He said that the whole society works on our children for 168 hours a week. But the main time of our church is only about an hour. So this is very important in our own homes and in our churches. You can't always expect others to pray for you. You have to stick to this. Because we are at home, you are at the forefront. So he said, this is why we have such a conference today to learn. This is to make us stronger and stronger, so we can stand on the front line and fight for our children.

David D.:

One last comment is that our world needs revival. Our nations need revival. In the United States, we need revival. And we need God to begin to do a great, great work.

I want to maybe promote: there's a video that's out. It's actually on Prime, on Amazon if you are an Amazon member. It's called Great Awakening. And it talks about England as a nation that was corrupt, a nation that was godless in the 1700s. And George Whitefield was raised up from an ungodly family. And this is a worthy movie because the preaching of George Whitefield is powerful in this movie, just very powerful. They took some of the words that he would preach, and I would say it's a very powerful, very convicting, and a very encouraging movie. And revival came through the preaching of George Whitefield in the United States and in England and others at the same time. So God could do a revival. God could work and change our land. And so that's one of the things we could say as well.

Roy (Translation):

He said that the world needs to be renewed. The United States needs to be renewed. China needs to be renewed. He said that if you are a member of Amazon, there is a movie on Amazon called George Whitefield. He was in the UK at that time. The UK was a chaotic society at that time. If you watch this movie, he talks about many issues and is very convincing.

David D.:

Well, we'll take a break, I think. We'll close in prayer for this session. We'll take a little break, go to the bathroom, whatever you need to do. We'll begin whenever Harold comes up here and leads us in the next session.