



# NGJ

ministries

August 2011 eNGJ



“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” III John 4



# No Greater Joy

Welcome to the premiere edition of the digital-only NGJ Magazine. In an effort to better minister to you, we are now publishing a digital Magazine during the months between the regular Magazines. Many of the digital Magazine articles are on video and are also transcribed for those of you that prefer to read the articles. Let us know what you think and give us your ideas on how we can better serve you. Share us with your family and friends!



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Photo: Elizabeth Stewart

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# Biting Back

By Michael and Debi Pearl

## *What should a Mother do with a biting child?*

**Mike:** Hi, I'm Mike Pearl. I'm here to answer some of your questions that you have been emailing to us, and Tremaine is helping me today. He's going to read the questions for us. OK, so Tremaine, what's the first question?

**Tremaine:** A lady writes in and says, "I have a son that quit biting me a long while past, mostly while nursing a bit after age one but stopped for a long time. But now two months past his third birthday, he has started biting us again. When he would bite while nursing I used your advice and also took him off nursing for a moment and told him to stop. It worked beautifully. It would be a full day or more before he would try again, and

after a time he stopped completely. But now he has attempted biting us, his parents and his siblings, just about every day. I spank or swat him every time he does it and so does my husband and my daughter. But he keeps on trying it day after day, and sometimes more than once a day. What do I do?"

**Mike:** That's not related to the biting that he did when you were nursing him. This is an act of aggression. This is an assault on you, on his parents, and on his siblings. And it's a very effective tool. I go to prisons every week and deal with the men there. One of the things that men do when they get in a big fight, a big brawl, and get on the ground rolling around

and they can't punch each other anymore, they start biting. And believe me, that's a very destructive way to come at someone. It can create a lot of damage. He's being violent here. You need to recognize that.

There are a lot of other factors that you didn't tell us about, so we just have to go on what you said.

You need to treat the biting just like you would if he was hitting with a stick, or if he was kicking, or any other act of aggression or violence. He's being mean-spirited.

Now I would like to know, are the children provoking him? Are YOU provoking him? What is making him angry? Why does he want to hurt back? Why is he actively doing what normally would be retaliation for something? If you are provoking him somehow, the Bible says provoke not your children to wrath. So parents and siblings can provoke a child to wrath. Now that doesn't justify his actions, but at three years of age, you can't expect him to be mature and swallow his pride and be a martyr when people come at him aggressively. So if it's a response to other acts of aggression, it's still not acceptable but it makes a difference in the way you deal with him. You deal with him first of all by removing the provoking acts of aggression, and then you deal with his response.

Now let's just assume that the parents and the siblings are not frustrating him and he's just being a mean little brat. If that's the case, then he does need to be spanked. You

need to establish some rules. So what I would do, I would take a piece of paper, maybe on the refrigerator, and I would write on the refrigerator "Biting gets 10 licks." I'd show it to him. He can't read it but he knows what you are pointing to says "Biting gets 10 licks." And you put the paper up there. Then count off ten – one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Ten licks. Then take your switch or whatever you are using, a wooden spatula and hit your hand 10 times – 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10. Ten licks for biting. Then put your hand in his mouth and touch his teeth when you say that and get a hold of his jaw and say "Biting." In other words, you want to use some physical demonstration to enforce upon his mind the rule of law. So the mouth, the teeth, biting, 10 licks – judgment falls.

And then the very next time he bites, don't just swat him once or twice, but kind of draw it out. Make it a ceremony. "OK. Johnny bit. It's time for Johnny's spanking." Take him in and show him on the refrigerator "Ten licks for biting." Then get your little switch out, have him bend over the couch or something and then give him 10 licks on the back of his legs or on his buttocks. Make sure that it hurts enough that he remembers it. You don't leave marks or damage him in any way, give him a spanking to where he's going to remember that he got one. Now if you do that, he'll quickly learn that there are consequences for negative behavior.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.  
Luke 2:40



# Light in Nicaragua

Photos by Ms. Kelsey Lewis

## Taking Good and Evil to South America

Paul Karmin and myself recently bought a couple of cases of *Good and Evil* in Spanish to send with my son on a missions trip to Nicaragua. Attached are a few pictures. The group that went was the Baptist College Ministry from the University of South Carolina. I believe there were about 60 people divided into three teams. My son was on a team that hiked into the mountains near the Honduras border. The books were greatly appreciated! They people have access to few sources of materials so I expect a single copy will be read and passed through 10+ people!

Regards,  
Ray Lawson



*Click on image for more information.*



# Obedience

By Shalom Brand

*What do your children and God's children have in common?*

**S** **Shalom:** Hey, Gracie. Do you remember how sometimes Mama tells you to do things that you don't understand? Like, Mama would say, "Gracie, I need you to sit on the couch and not move for five minutes." And you'd say, "Why? Why do you want me to do that?" But there's always a reason why Mama wants you to do something. Did you know that in the

Bible that the Israelites were sent to a new land, and Joshua was with them?

God told Joshua to march around the city named

Jericho. It was a BIG, HUGE strong city with BIG, BIG tall walls. And God said, "Joshua, you tell all those people to march, all the Israelites, to march all the way around that big city for seven times; and when they are done marching, to scream really loud." Can you scream really loud?

And God said that when they did that, guess what would happen?

**Gracie:** What?

**Shalom:** The rock wall would fall to the ground! Can you believe that? Isn't that crazy? And do know what?

**Gracie:** What?

**Shalom:** Joshua believed God, even though he didn't understand why. He didn't know why God



wanted him to do that. He didn't know, "Well, how is marching around a building going to make the walls fall down? How are we going to be able to take away and fight against this huge wall and against the Jericho people? But you know what?

**Gracie:** What?

**Shalom:** They all marched! They marched, and marched and marched. And you know what? I bet it was really hot. And I bet they didn't have a lot of water. And I bet the kids were tired, and they probably whined and they cried; but they kept marching, because God told them to. They obeyed God! And at the end of seven days when

the wall came down, they saw why God wanted them to march. But they didn't know ahead of time. That's why sometimes Mama tells you to do something, and you need to obey me and do it, whether you know why or not. Because Mama usually knows what's best for you. OK? ☺

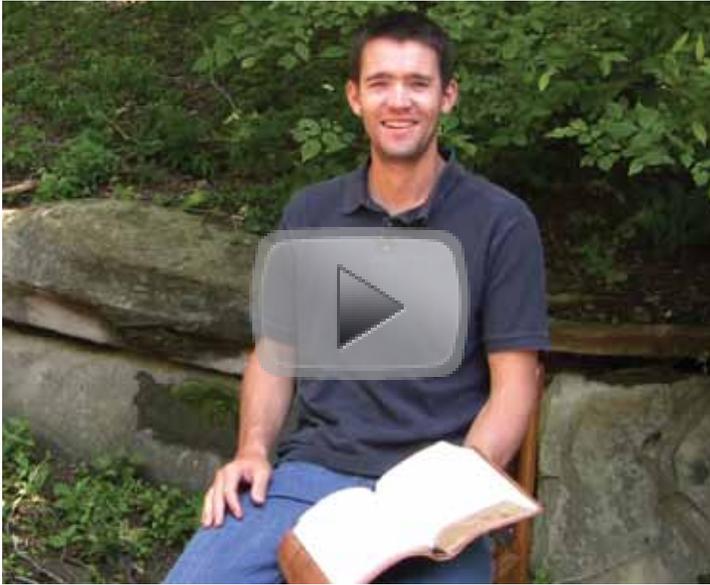


## From the Mailbox



to No Greater Joy,  
thank you for distributeing  
Bibiles to prisons.  
I rieceved 2 cd for playing  
vidlin for a meeting.  
and I want to give it  
Back to god.

DANIEL F. SMITH.



# On Marriage

By Nathan Pearl

*Nathan explains how the entire book of Ephesians is the blueprint for a great marriage.*

**W**e recently have had several young couples get married and we've been talking a lot about marriage. What makes a strong marriage, what makes a Godly marriage, what makes a wholesome marriage? And what we noticed is that when people start talking about marriage they usually want to start in Ephesians Chapter 5. They pick up and they go, okay, it says husbands, love your wives; wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands.

And we go, well, we're going to do this thing and suddenly we're going to have a good marriage. We're going to submit. We're going to love. And suddenly we'll open a new page, turn over a new leaf and we're going to have a good marriage. But the thing is, Ephesians starts before Chapter

5. If you do that right, then you will have a good marriage, but you don't, you're starting from a place that you shouldn't be in.

Ephesians starts over in Chapter 1 and it starts talking about salvation. A good marriage starts with your relationship with God. If you don't have a good relationship with God, then you won't have a godly relationship with your spouse.

Next it talks about how you would walk, how you would live. It talks about how you should pray. It talks about unity among the believers. If you are striving with the other believers, if you are fighting with other people all the time, you won't come in and have peace in your home. If you're ungodly, unhappy, disquieted,

then when you come home you are ungodly, unhappy and disquieted. And even if you try to say “I’m going to extend love towards my wife” but as a husband you’re upset and unhappy, then you’re going to be upset and unhappy in your home.

Then it talks about endeavoring to keep peace and unity. It talks about putting on the new man. And then you come down to the end of chapter 4 and it says, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” We’re talking about living in righteousness. If you want to have a good marriage, a good family, you need to not grieve the Holy Spirit. You need to walk uprightly.

And then we get over in Chapter 5 and it says walk as children of light. It says that you should “walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” So if you want to have a good marriage you need to walk in the light. Be filled with the spirit, it says. “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit.” If you want to come to marriage and have a good one, then you need to be filled with the spirit.

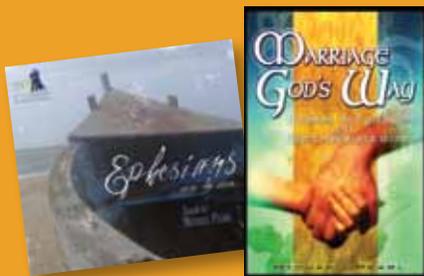
And then we get down to where it becomes famous. “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.” So often if you hear a problem and someone wants counsel in a relationship, the first thing they come and say, “My husband’s not who he ought to be.” Or “My wife is not who she ought to be.” And you go, No, no, no, that’s not where you start. You don’t start by straightening your spouse out. You start by straightening yourself out. You start by being who you’re supposed to be. You come into this relationship godly, happy, exuberant, and

walking in unity with the brethren. And all of a sudden it’s easy to love your wife the way you’re supposed to. It’s easy to love or submit yourself to your husband the way you’re supposed to.

And then you find that it keeps going. It doesn’t stop with that, with loving your wife or your spouse. It goes into putting on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. So often we hear people talk about overcoming, about getting out there and standing up to the devil and to what he has for you. Well, it starts by living godly. It starts by being in the word of God. It starts by walking in holiness. It starts by having the relationship that you’re supposed to have with your spouse and being committed to the spirit, putting on the whole armor of God and walking as an overcomer. And what happens from all that is that you end up praying and being an ambassador to God.

So don’t start your marriage in the middle of Ephesians Chapter 5. Start in Ephesians Chapter 1.

## Resources



- Ephesians MP3
- Marriage God’s Way DVD

# NGJKids

## The Pizza Problem

by Carly, a 10-year-old reader

**M** My name is Carly and I am 10. I love pizza. One night I was eating pizza for dinner. I love it so much that I



ate 6 pieces! I asked my Mom for 1 more piece. But soon I wasn't hungry anymore. When no one was looking I put my pizza under the table. That night my Dad found it. He asked who did it. I didn't say anything. Then he gave us all lots of spankings. After that I told on myself. My parents said lying's bad and that they didn't like it when I lied. They also said I made everyone else get spanked and that wasn't fair! I had to wash the dishes for a week for punishment. I learned never to lie!

Photo: istockphoto.com

## Craft

### Painted Rocks

Painting rocks is LOADS of summertime fun! First, find a table outside and cover it with several layers of newspaper or a piece of plastic. This can be messy, so wear old clothes! Hunt down some rounded rocks, paintbrushes in various sizes, glue and acrylic or oil paint\*. Rinse your rocks in water, then dry in the hot sun. Flat rocks work best for beginners. Try a ladybug, your name, or a scene. Use your creations as paperweights, doorstops or magnets (smaller ones--get some magnets and glue the final). Some kids sell their rocks or give them away as gifts. With larger rocks you can paint an entire scene. Look online for ideas and have fun creating!

\*If you use oil paint, make sure to clean your brush in turpentine! Use water to clean acrylic paint.



Photo: Elizabeth Stewart, AP-TURE sxc.hu

# Yell & Tell Art

Young Artists At Work!



Photo sent in by the Thomas Family

## My Recipes

### Easy Yummy Pizzas

- Whole Pita breads (whole wheat or white)
- Spagetti or pizza sauce - about 2 Tbsp. per pizza
- Fresh veggies chopped small
- Mozzarella cheese shredded
- Olive oil

*Place pita breads (whole) on a baking sheet and brush each one with olive oil. Spread sauce on top of the pita, add veggies, then top with cheese. Bake 5-8 minutes at 400° or until cheese melts and pizza edge turns toasty brown. Try cooking them on a grill to keep the heat out of the house. Yum!*





# Loquats For Your Health

By Hampton Harris

*I'm 14, and about eight years ago my parents planted this strange looking tree that we thought was just an ornamental tree until a year or two later. It was very tall, and we started getting little fruits on the tree.*

We looked the loquat up and saw that it was a fruit tree, so we ate it, just for the fun of it. I began planting the seeds and now have more than 50 trees in gallon containers. I wanted to know more about it this year, so I researched it. I knew so much about it my mom told me to write a research paper on the tree. Here is the sample of my paper.

## LOQUATS

Luscious, sweet, tangy, and magnificently delicious, loquat fruits are rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. The exclusive fruit, sometimes called the Japanese Plum, Japanese Medlar, or Maltese Plum, originates in the mountainous ever-

green rain forest of Japan, from which the loquat tree has been spread all across the world.

The loquat tree is an evergreen that reaches up to 25 feet and belongs to the family of Rosacea. It is botanically named *Eriobotrya Japonica* and is closely related to the apple tree. The flowers bloom by the end of winter and the fruit is ready to harvest by the end of spring. The delicious fruits are in clusters from 5 to 20 pieces and are about 1.5 inches long. The skin is fuzzy on the outside and is edible. There are also 1 to 5 brown seeds in the center of the fruit. The leaves are used as traditional medicine and make excellent and very healthy tea. The

fruit is eaten right from the tree or used to make jellies, pies, or sauces.

The loquat fruit and leaves are extremely nutritious. They contain vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, B12, B17, and C. These fruits are full of pectin, rich in fiber, potassium, amygdalin, iron, copper, calcium, magnesium, and other minerals.

The loquat fruit greatly enhances digestive health and heart health. The high pectin content reduces cholesterol by reducing the reuse of food in the colon. The fruit works as a bulk laxative and protects the mucous membrane by decreasing exposure to toxic substances as well as binding cancer causing chemicals in the colon. Because of the reduction of blood cholesterol, the heart's health is dramatically increased. Loquats also regulate heart rate and blood pressure.

B-17 laetrile, often called the anti-cancer vitamin, is found in large amounts in the fruit and the leaves of the loquats. Some people swallow the pits of the fruit (2 a day) to prevent or slow down cancer. The pits contain 1300 times more B-17 laetrile than the leaf, but there are small traces of cyanide which taken in large amounts is poisonous. Apples also contain cyanide in their seeds and are continued to be sold in the apple juices in which the seeds were crushed.

Teas made from the leaves of the loquat tree are known to reduce inflammation, form red blood cells, release anti-oxidants that neutralize harmful toxins, increase immunity, and prevent various diseases. The leaf tea also enhances the respiratory system in that it works as an expectorant, dissolving phlegm and assisting coughing.

This tea also fights a variety of viruses and colds, and lessens symp-



toms including nausea and vomiting. The leaf tea supports liver and pancreas health as well as combating diabetes. There is also evidence that it fights HIV.

Life expectancy and youthfulness are increased in all who eat this great tasting fruit and drink the tea. The large quantities of anti-oxidants and vitamins per fruit cannot be found in any other fruit available to man. Everyone should take part in making tea, pies, jams, jellies, or just eating the raw fruit right off the tree for optimum health.

This is one of the only fruit trees that does well on our land with no maintenance. The tree is very resilient. I've started around 60 trees from seed and hope by next year they will be large enough to sell. My parents paid \$50 for a 5 gallon tree and now a 5 gallon tree is about \$60.

For more information or to buy some leaves please e-mail [forrest\\_harris@bellsouth.net](mailto:forrest_harris@bellsouth.net).





# Small Flame

By Kirsten and Lizzy

*What the girls talk about when the guys aren't around.*

**K**irsten: Hi, I'm Kirsten and I'm here with Lizzy, and we're sitting here next to Cane Creek. There are lots of families here swimming and it's a nice warm day so we're just enjoy the summer. We're just going to be talking about some topics for the *Preparing To Be A Help Meet* website. I overheard you and Debi the other day at the office talking about a small flame. And I was just curious... what were you guys talking about?

Lizzy: Well, it is always interesting talking with Debi and we were talking about how as a young guy – 19-20 years old – he would be considered a small flame because he is not a street preacher or minister, yet he is still growing and maturing, and so he would be considered a small flame. Let's say our dads, or cousins, or Nathan who is 35 or our dads who

are in their 50s, would be considered a large flame, and are more mature. So we look at them and we're like "WOW... I want a guy like that." Where in reality they're not quite there yet. And that's okay because we're not there yet either! So we were talking about my brother Joe, and he is a small flame. He's been in college for the last seven months and he came home. Before he went, all the girls just kind of passed him by. He was just a small flame. He's a quieter guy, you know. And so when he came back all the girls were like "WHOA! Who is that!?" And so it was interesting to see, and he has become a bigger flame. And as time goes by they will mature and become a bigger flame. So it's just good to keep that in mind – that as guys grow older and more mature they become a bigger flame.

So that was very interesting.”

Kirsten: That is interesting. I know that a lot of girls do tend to... they don't look at the guys who are their age as much. They are looking a little older because those guys have more experience. They have been reading their Bible and they do have more wisdom, hopefully, as an older man. And so they are more attractive or more like: 'That is what I want to marry. Why can't the guys my age be like that?' Well, you can't expect guys who are younger to be like older guys. They haven't had all those years to mature yet and become that.

Lizzy: And we aren't the older women like our moms who are wiser and have it all down. We aren't them either, so we're not going to be mature in that area.

Kirsten: So we both have to grow and not like... A couple of days later you were talking about how some girls you know, how they don't respect the views of their friends in the area of the opposite sex or whatever view.

Lizzy: Yeah. That is true.

Kirsten: Remember that?

Lizzy: We were talking about how it's easy to let your friends influence your opinion. You have to be careful with that. There's good influence – like going to an elder or a couple that you respect and talking to them and saying, there's this guy and he seems to have good Godly character and he just seems like a good guy. So talk to them about that and get their wisdom about that. And then there are other times where I can come to you as a fellow girl and be like: "Oh Kirsten, there's this guy and he's just so cute and everything! You know, he's kind of a little bit of a nerd or whatever, but you know..." And if you saw him you were just like... "Oh My! He's shorter than you... and he's not

this and he's not that," like physical appearances. And so it's important to be careful with your opinions because what you marry and what I marry are going to be different. And you don't want to influence your friend's opinion. I had some friends and one girl had the opportunity to marry a good

*When you are having that girl time and you're talking about all the guys, you need to be encouraging and do it in a Godly manner.*

Godly guy and the guy came along and he was good, successful, Godly, had good character. And the older sister encouraged her sister not to go for him. She was just like "No, he's not this and he's not that," and just kind of tore him apart as a man. And so the younger sister didn't marry and as years went by, the older sister got married and is happily married, even now. And the younger sister still is not married, because she let her sister's opinion of the guy influence her. So you just need to be careful with that.

Kirsten: So that's a warning to all girls. When you are having that girl talk and that girl time and you're talking about all the guys, you need to be encouraging and do it in a Godly manner, seeking wisdom, gathering wisdom for yourselves, and even among your peers. You can go to older women but we need to be preparing ourselves to be older women and wise and have chaste conversations. Be a virtuous woman. So we need to be looking at these guys, not for physical appearance, or their nerdiness, but are they a Godly man? Are they a good example of Godly character? And what are they going to become when we look at them? So I'd like to encourage you

girls, as you are having your girl time or just sitting around talking about boys and guys and everything, I'd like to encourage you to have chaste conversation, to be wise in what you say, and not just look at the outside physical appearance, but whether they're of good Godly character, and what kind of man they will become. So just encourage your friends. Like

she mentioned you can go to older ladies and just get their opinions but it's good, as women now, to be preparing to have chaste conversation and be a virtuous woman and be encouraging your friends and decisions based upon wisdom, not just silly girly notions. So I just encourage you guys... you girls!...in that.



## Good and Evil Update

The Hindi translation of *Good and Evil* has been printed in India. It had arranged in advance for the entire printing of 12,000 copies to be delivered directly to missionaries and nationals that will freely distribute them. Each copy is a printed missionary of hope and freedom in Jesus Christ, from a life of bondage in their oppressive religion of hopeless works. It is also available for purchase in the US by print on demand (POD). Do you know an East Indian family and wonder how you might break the ice to witness? The *Good and Evil* Hindi provides you with the perfect opportunity. Order one (or more) today!

If you or someone you know is bilingual and willing to help with the *Good and Evil* Translation Project please send the contact information to NGJ at: [cjoyner@nogreaterjoy.org](mailto:cjoyner@nogreaterjoy.org).

# From the Mailbox



Dear Pearls,

I want to open this letter by thanking you for your ministry. We've trained our two children, 3 and 1, with **To Train Up A Child** and the results were unprecedented. It saddens me greatly when people ask what our secret is and then turn away in indignation and false righteousness when I begin to describe said secret. Their marriages remain bitter, their children reckless, their homes chaotic and unfriendly to those in it and those visiting. In the name of "love," by methods of popular psychology, they cling to "stages" and other excuses to give up on rearing their children. They embrace television as babysitter and junk food as nourishment. In doing so, they rob their children of the emotional security they claim to work toward! They could have a home of peace and joy if only they knocked on God's door and asked Him how to raise their children for eternity! Trust me, when my husband and I started our journey into parenthood, we had NO idea how to raise our children! We made many mistakes. But we were fervent in prayer for help, wisdom, discernment...and God was always faithful to answer. Through a close friend we witnessed a Pearl-led family of 7 children and were awed by not just how obedient the children were, NO, how HAPPY! How educated and social, though home-schooled. How secure in their mind, body, heart, and soul. (Of course we decided to home-school on the spot!) These children, ranging now from adolescent to teen, are already better equipped to deal with life than I am at 30! I am still dealing with the consequences of an indulgent childhood that lead to sin, misplaced anger, and impatience. How I "wish my parents had loved me enough to switch me!"

Praise God for a breakthrough in a stumbling block we were having with our 3-year-old! Normally getting compliance and love, my husband and I noticed that our son was growing indignant and rebellious all of a sudden. Increased spankings were not working. We prayed for concrete answers and then the NGJ magazine arrived and we read Mike's article, Angry Children. It hit me hard. It was a revelation to me how my anger was affecting our child. My issues with legalism were spilling over into my training. I was micro-managing everything in his life, expecting perfection. No wonder each time I stepped up the discipline, he responded with anger. I was punishing him for his mistakes and misdiagnosed his child's foolishness as rebellion. Your article said, "Spankings are reserved for rebellion and meanness." I relaxed myself and started spanking only for OUT-RIGHT rebellion against my authority.

My son grew more loving instantaneously. Putting him to bed had been a battle ground, but that night I told him how obedient he was today. I told him, "you are my boy," and he replied, "you are my girl" and went right to sleep. --Suzie



# Getting Started With Chickens

By Johnny Taylor

*Fun project for your family that pays back!*

Hi, I'm Farmer Johnny. I want to talk to you today a little bit about some chickens.

Chickens are one of the easiest things to do if you want to get into the farming thing a little bit. I just want to tell you a few ways that you can get started.

First thing you can do is you can buy some grown chickens already and that gets you started real quick.

Second thing you can do is you can go to just your local farm supply place, like a Tractor Supply or Co-op and buy baby chicks. They usually get

these in the springtime and you can usually just buy one or two or ten, however many you want. That's one of the easiest ways to do it.

The other thing that you can do is you can buy some chicks from a local farmer, somebody that's raising chicks already, and you can get started that way.

I would recommend if you have a place to do it, would be to start out and just buying some baby chicks from your local Farm Supply place and getting your feet wet, so to speak.

There's a few things you need to do to get ready for that. The first thing you need to do is get a place ready for your chicks before you bring them home. You need a little brooder place. Usually if you just have 10 chicks or less you can start them out in a cardboard box with a heat lamp. It's very easy to do. If you grownups have never done it, you'd enjoy it; but your kids will really enjoy it. You can just start out with a box and a lamp and you can buy your feed from your local Farm Supply place and start out with just raising a few baby chicks and enjoy that. And if you do everything right, if you're raising chicks for eggs, in about 5-6 months you can start getting your eggs. If you are raising some birds for meat, usually in about 2-3

months you can have some that are ready to eat. So that's an easy way to get started.

If you want to take a little bit route that's a little bit harder, you can actually buy an incubator and buy some eggs and incubate those for 21 days and start out in that way.

So there are several different ways that you can get started in the chicken business, and it's a fun thing and it's not very hard. Anybody can do it. As you can see behind me here this is just a little, small flock of Debi Pearl's; and they are just something she started with last year and she's had a lot of fun with. It doesn't take much time or effort to do it, so anybody can do it. So just get out there and get started. ☺

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**Welcome**

Hello Everyone,

My name is Farmer Johnny. I live on a small 10 acre farm in the hills of Tennessee with my wife, Terri and our 8 lively children. Our reasons for farming are many, including teaching responsibility and caring for something other than ourselves. We also want our children to be able to live off the land and not always depend on someone else. And it's rewarding to know what you're eating, what it's been fed and where it came from.

My enjoyment of farming began as a boy helping my Dad. I didn't farm as an adult until a few years ago, but always had the desire. Then about 5 years ago, the opportunity to purchase this piece of property we now call home came along. I couldn't wait to get animals on it. It came with laying hens already in place. Our next purchase was a sow, ready to have pigs, and she did, not long after getting her in the barn! That's what got the ball rolling. Now we keep around 100 laying hens, and raise about 100 hogs and 1000 pastured meat chickens each year. We also have a team of Belgian horses, a few milk cows, a bull, a couple of beef, and of course dogs and cats.

Well, these were just some tidbits for you to know a little bit of who I am. We are here to let you know you can farm too, and we want to help, providing information and resources. And who knows, you might teach us some things too. Please feel free to contact us by email, with your comments, questions, and ideas.

**About Farmer Johnny**

My name is Farmer Johnny. I live on a small 10-acre farm in the hills of Tennessee with my wife, Terri, and our 8 lively children. [more »](#)

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# Parenting Is An Art Form

By Michael Pearl

*Knowing the spirit of your child and letting him know yours.*

Parenting is an art form, a spiritual experience, rather than a science. It requires intuitive action as well as reason. Men value their reason above their feelings, and rightly so. Unfounded feelings are an untethered and unpiloted ship. But unfeeling reason is law without a soul. Raising children does not require less reason; it just requires a great deal more sensitivity and intuition. The father who fails to make his wife feel loved will likewise fail to impart to his children a sense of value and security.

I have been asked 10,000 questions concerning child training. A few

are standard, having a scripted answer that is suitable to all. But most questions cannot be definitively answered. The answer depends on your relationship to your child, the child's temperament, the circumstances preceding the event in question, how consistent you have been and how consistent you will be in the future, the strength of the child's will, his intelligence, your demeanor, and a hundred other things. I really couldn't tell you how to deal with a particular child in a particular situation unless I were a fly on the wall (a praying fly), observing for a long period of time, and then I would

find it necessary to tentatively experiment with solutions until I found the right approach to correcting actions and character in your child. In the main, I would rely upon my intuition to know the child, know myself, and act in love and law.

I cannot give you a rule that will make you compassionate or discerning. Paul listed the nine fruits of the Spirit and then said, “against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:23). That is to say, there is no law that can direct one to “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness” and “temperance.” Fruits of the spirit cannot result from willful obedience to the law or from applying principles.

How can one teach another to be spiritual or intuitive? Intuitiveness is the soul knowing—or sensing—that which cannot be seen or otherwise perceived. It is akin to innate knowledge. It is like a prior assumption or a first truth. The Apostle Paul said, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him” (1 Corinthians 2:11)? Even a primitive man like Job observed “But there is a spirit in man: And the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding” (Job 32:8). Putting it together, we observe that which we intuitively know: there is in all men, including the unregenerate, a God-given human spirit that is a source of understanding, enabling us to know God and fellow men on a spiritual level.

Raising children is a spiritual exercise because children are spiritual beings. If you neglect to feed that spirit you will neglect the training that matters. A child disciplined in body and mind will be faithful like a well trained dog is faithful, up to a point. But the time comes, usually around puberty, when the soul of the child becomes

autonomous and will begin to manifest its character. That is when the “proof is in the pudding” so to speak.

Even an atheist family must communicate on a spiritual level if their children are going to develop normally. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). But the Christian has a thousandfold advantage over the natural man, for upon regeneration he receives the Spirit of God to accompany his natural human spirit. “[H]e that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:17). So, concerning those who have been born again, “he that is spiritual judgeth all things...for we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:15-16).

The born again believer has been restored to the spiritual man God intended him to be, and therefore is capable of operating on a higher level than the unaided intellect. It is essential that a parent be sensitive to the spirit that is in him, for in so doing he is availing himself of the “mind of Christ.” Where the natural man’s intuitive actions can be spiritual on a human level, those of us who possess God’s Spirit can be intuitive on a divine level.

The question must be posed, “If believers have the mind of Christ and operate on a divine plane, why do they fail so, and why must they be instructed to right action and sensibility; shouldn’t it be automatic?” The truly born again individuals still possess their corrupted human flesh and spirit, though their human spirit is now joined by the Holy Spirit. The two spirits function as one and may reflect the character of either. If we do not walk after the Spirit of God, our corrupted human spirit will be the default

resource for all our actions. But if we are “filled” with the Spirit of God, and “walk after” the Spirit of God (Romans 8), we will reflect the “mind of Christ” and “will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” [See audio messages on Romans 8. It is free online or you can order the entire series.]

So what encouragement do I have for those of us trying to train up children in the way they should go? Cultivate your discernment in training your children. A spanking or stern rebuke is not the answer to every issue. Connect with the spirit of your child. Commune on a spiritual level with the little ones. Share souls with them. Let them know you as you get to know them. You must at all times feel the beat of their spiritual hearts. I am not talking mush here—unless they are two years old. This oneness of spirit is shared among men in battle. Men who work together and share their thoughts and feelings sometimes develop a closer bond than with their wives. Nothing kinky here. Jesus and the twelve disciples had this

kind of relationship. They knew each other in the spirit.

If you walk in fellowship with your child, he or she will want to please you in all things. Just as believers know the things of God by the spirit that he has given us, so children will know their parents by that human spirit that they share. As you walk after God’s spirit, they will walk after yours. When I was a child I was led by my daddy’s spirit when he was not present. Even today, he having been dead for 40 years, I still find myself walking after his spirit, honoring his heart.

Do your children know that you know them? Do they know how you care? Do they care how you feel? Do they want to please you, not out of fear but out of a desire to live in the light of your countenance? If not, I suggest you begin to walk after the Spirit of God, and that Spirit will bring you discernment, enriching your intuition and giving you inspiration and discernment that is not your own.

## Resources

- Read: No Greater Joy volumes 1, 2 and 3
- Watch: Teaching Responsibility
- Listen: Alabama Seminar



Look for our next eMag edition  
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