



NGJ

ministries



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

No Greater Joy

Well, Mike is at it again. He's writing his THIRD new book, *Traditional Child Training Made Easy*. 75% of all parents believe in traditional child training, but what the media will try to make the world believe is that Mike is on the fringe as one who teaches spanking. Not so!



Contents



| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|
| | Family |
| 3 | Corn Fest |
| 6 | Questions on the Preparing Site |
| 8 | Created To NEED A Help Meet |
| 10 | NGJ Kids |
| 12 | Starting Your Own Preparing Bible Study |
| 15 | Taming The Tyrant |

Photo: Skyler Wise

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Corn Fest

By Michael Pearl

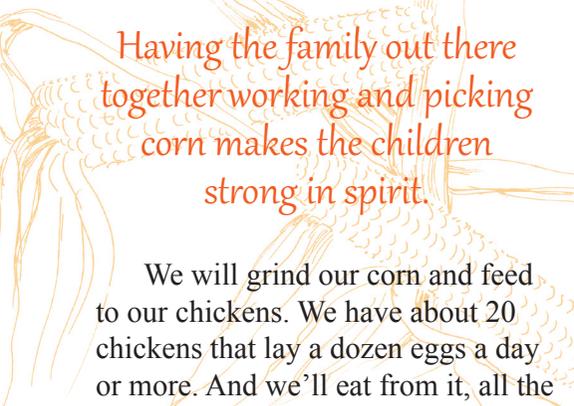
Such fellowship! Mama and Daddy together, and all the kids playing and picking corn. I just wish everyone could have a day of Corn Fest like we had.

We celebrated our Corn Fest the other day, when all the kids got together and helped me pick the corn. I figured it out and we probably picked about 4,000 pounds of corn on a third of an acre. We're going to be shelling this out over the year and feeding it to the chickens, as well as eating it ourselves. I figured out the other day if a family were to depend on corn, say hard times came and you had to survive on corn, maybe get a few wild plants to throw in for soup, maybe a little piece of meat or fish here and there, 15 families could live off this third of an acre all year long, eating corn three times a day.

It's amazing the different things you can do with corn. Just this morning my daughter came by and got some, she got some hardwood ashes out of my stove, and she is going to shell this out and then put the whole kernels into a five gallon bucket with about two gallons of water and a couple cups of hardwood ash. In about two days that will blow up and make what is called hominy. Then you can take that hominy and make chili with it, or you can eat it just as it is with some salt and pepper and maybe a little butter. Or you can mush the hominy up and you end up with what is called masa,

which is like the flour you use to make tortillas.

We have cornbread almost every day. I eat cornbread for breakfast made out of this non-genetically altered heirloom seed corn. What kind, you ask? It doesn't matter as long as Monsanto hasn't gotten a hold of it and perverted it into something other than what God made for us to eat.



Having the family out there together working and picking corn makes the children strong in spirit.

We will grind our corn and feed to our chickens. We have about 20 chickens that lay a dozen eggs a day or more. And we'll eat from it, all the family and all the kids. Neighbors will eat from it. This could feed nearly the whole community and my chickens all year round. I've got the rest of the corn in burlap sacks on a pallet, but I'm going to be hanging some of them from the ceiling. The mice will get into the sacks a little bit. They won't eat too much, but stuff we're going to eat we'll keep up away from the mice.

The other day we were out in that field and there were about 35 kids running around, from two-year-olds to teenagers. Some of them had never even pulled a dry ear of corn off of a cornstalk. One fellow who was about 60 years old walked up and pulled one off and said, "You know, that was the first time I've ever done that. I've never seen corn up close like that."

Having the family out there together working and picking corn makes the children strong in spirit.

Picture all these cornstalks knocked down in a big pile, really difficult for even an adult to climb through. Some of the little guys would climb through it dragging a sack with a dozen ears of corn in it to deposit it on the four-wheeler. They would fall down and then look around for sympathy, but with everyone busy picking corn, there was no one standing around to give them sympathy so they'd get up and dust themselves off and keep on plowing. Sometimes they would step on thorns, and sometimes somebody knocking over a cornstalk would hit them on the head. They just learn to be tough like that.

Such fellowship! Mama and Daddy together, and all the kids playing and picking corn. I wish everyone could have a Corn Fest like what we had. That's really what child training is about. It's not about sitting around a house with stern principles. It's about imparting your spirit, your joy of life, and your goodness to them. It's done with a smile. It's done in the process of working. It's not done in serious sober moments when you sit down and lecture them. It's done in the play-work time that you do together.

None of those children wanted to go home and play video games or watch television. If you had asked any one of them "Would you like to leave and go home and watch a video?" none of them would have gone. They were all having the time of their lives out there in the corn patch.

Get my new book. It's called *Training Children to be Strong in Spirit*. It's full of fun stories about kids and parents doing things together. *

Family Resources

- Training Children: Get Mike's new book, **Training Children to be Strong in Spirit**. Reg. \$9.95
Limited time offer **Now \$7.46**
- Self-reliance and corn:
Corny Ten Different Ways
- Farming: FarmerJohnny.com



From the Mailbox

Dear Pearls,

Last year we wrote to tell you of our Annual Shekel Shop. Shekel Shop is an opportunity for children to redeem Shekels that they earn for memorizing verses, reading their Bible and other related activities.

Again this year, in addition to books, games and other resources, we made available the option for children to voluntarily exchange their shekels for support to specific missionary organizations - in particular projects and relief efforts.

We committed to match the gifts of the children as recognition of their generosity. Many children 'donated' as much as half of their available shekels to this concept.

On behalf of the Assembly, and the thoughts of our children, we have enclosed a \$2,000 for the *Good and Evil* book project.

We were humbled by the thoughtfulness of the children and are pleased to be able to provide these funds and trust that they will be used to meet specific needs in these areas - particularly that souls be reached in material ways to honor Him who loved us unto death.

Chris Reitz

Jeremy Fresz

Fort McMurray Christian Assembly, Alberta





Questions on the Preparing Site

By Shalom Brand

What can I do to be ready for courtship and what kind of questions should I ask before I begin a courtship?

H Did you know about the *Preparing To Be A Help Meet* website at <http://preparingtobeahelpmeet.com>? You can post comments and questions on it for other readers and sometimes even us Pearls to see and chime in on. Each day, or whenever I can get to it around the kids and family, I get on the site and read your comments and questions. One of the questions that came in was, “What can I do to be ready for courtship and what kind of questions should I ask before I begin a courtship?” That’s a

huge question. I’m sure a lot of girls are wondering the same thing.

When Justin first asked me to get to know him I didn’t drill him that same night with all kinds of questions. The next day, after Dad said yes, you can get to know him, and I agreed to get to know him a little bit, we were washing dishes together. As opportunities came up I asked questions. “What do think about kids? What you do think about child training? What do you think about life? What are

your goals? What is your future?" Questions are just natural. It doesn't have to be something that is stiff or uncomfortable or a list, because guys do NOT like to be put on the spot. They do not like to be drilled with questions. It makes them uncomfortable and makes you seem controlling. So you need to be natural about it, and do it in a comfortable setting. The best way to get to know a guy is playing sports, working together with other people, hanging out playing games, just laughing and enjoying life together. While those things are happening, the questions will come up and they'll be answered. He can answer questions any way he wants to, but the way he lives his life and the way he responds is going to show what is really in his heart. So that's what you need to focus on, more than the answers he gives, because girls can be easily led by their feelings. So if he's answering all the questions that way you want him to, then that's what you are

going to believe, but that might not be who he really is.

Another good way to get to know somebody is asking his friends about him, asking the church, his pastor, your brothers, your sisters. They will know who he really is, where you won't. When Justin and I started getting to know each other the first thing I did was ask my family, "What kind of guy is this?" Justin spent several weeks in Thailand with my brother, and who knows a man better than someone who went overseas with him? And my brother had a good report of him. My sister got to talk to him and hang out with him before I was paying him any attention. So she said, "Hey, this guy is a good guy. You need to pay him attention. You need to listen to him."

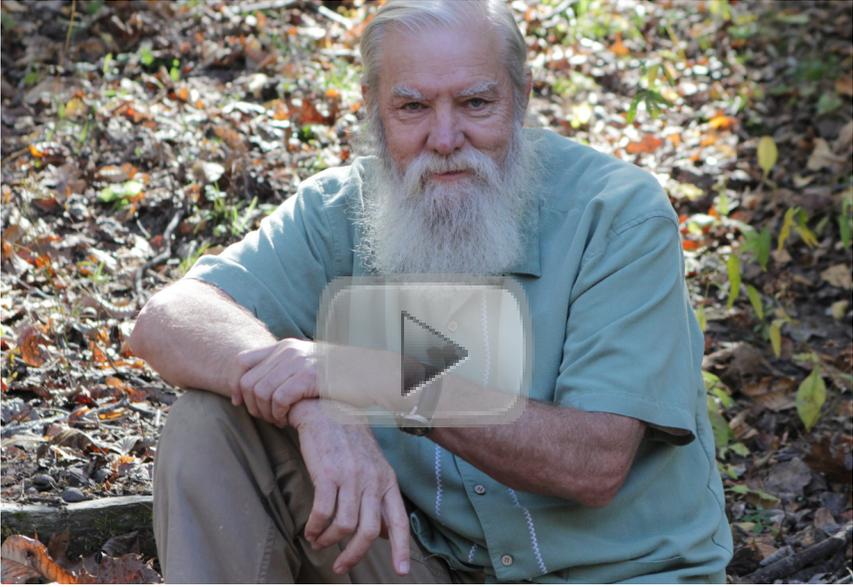
So that's one of the really good questions here on the Preparing site.

Continue to serve the Lord, continue to strive after what God wants for you, and that will attract a man the right way. ❁

Tips and Resources

- Have trusted family members check him out.
- Do fun things and work together.
- As opportunities come up ask questions in a natural way, not putting him on the spot.
- Join Shalom as she answers your questions on her blog, PreparingToBeAHelpMeet.com
- *Preparing To Be A Help Meet*, \$19.95





Created To NEED A Help Meet

By Michael Pearl

The full image of God is found in both the man and the woman and when the two come together into one flesh and one spirit, then you have the full expression of God's nature.

Here I am sitting about 20 feet behind my back door of my house. Elizabeth is here today and she wants me to tell you about the new book I have written. Actually I have written two books, finished them, and got a third one on the way. I finished the first, *Training Children to be Strong in Spirit*, and it's to the proofer. It'll be back in about a week and be ready for distribution. (NOTE: *Training Children to be Strong in Spirit* is now available.)

I've written another one called *Created To Need A Help Meet*. It's

kind of a take-off on my wife's books *Created To Be A Help Meet* and *Preparing To Be A Help Meet*. And so the idea came to me that not only was a woman created to BE a helpmeet, but also a man was created to NEED a help meet. If he doesn't have a help meet he is incomplete. God made us whole, but he made us as half of a unit. That unit is made up of one man and one woman. There's something that God placed in the woman that he didn't put in the man. It's as if God created us in his image. Adam and Eve together are

If we don't have a help meet we are incomplete. God made us whole, but he made us as part of unit.

in the image and likeness of God. But man and woman are different—so something of God's image is in the man and something a little different is in the woman. When the two come together into one flesh and one spirit, then you have the full expression of God's nature.

A man who never marries can serve God. He can be a prophet. He can be a eunuch that ministers. But he'll never have that complete roundness of personality that is required to be the full expression of the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So I've spent many months now writing. I wrote till it got so big that my little brain wouldn't contain it, so I just gave up. Last summer I started once again, rewrote the whole thing, and finished it. Now my wife is helping correlate the original with the present version. So we're taking these two 70,000-80,000 word books and blending them together, which means cutting

some stuff. It'll mess your brain up trying to correlate all that.

So I actually have two books finished that are being combined into one. And I've got several people looking at it to help me edit it, and then I'm going to go back and go through it again. So you say, "When will that be?" It'll probably be at least be Christmas, maybe January, something like that before I finish it. And then we have to go through about 16 different proofers so there will only be 500 mistakes in it. And then we will have to lay it all out before we can send it to the printer. It could be the end of January or February before it's ready. But it is written and it is coming. *Created To NEED A Help Meet.*

So ladies, the burden is not going to all be yours. I will hit your husbands hard and fast. I hit them again, and again, and again. And I think they are going to treat you a little bit better when they read this book. So hang in there! 🌟

Tips and Resources

- [CD Message: Only Men.](#)
- [DVD: Marriage God's Way](#)
- [Article: I Need Her Counsel and Judgement.](#)
- [Book: Created To NEED A Help Meet pre-release special through December 31, 2011, Reg. \\$14.95, Now only \\$11.21.](#)



NGJ Kids

Project

Growing Sweet Potatoes

Growing sweet potato slips is fun and you can do it on a window sill or a greenhouse.

Sweet potatoes are loaded with vitamins and minerals like iron, calcium, thiamine, vitamin c, vitamin A (as much as 8,800 IU) and beta carotene. They are also loaded with fiber which keeps you healthy!

Sweet potatoes are not grown from seeds. They are grown from “slips” which are vines that grow out of a sweet potato after it has been sitting for a few months.

Take 3-4 toothpicks and stick them about half-way down in the side of your sweet potato. Place it in a canning jar or cup of water so that the bottom half is covered with water. In a couple of weeks, you’ll

be able to see the roots growing and leaves appearing on the top of the potato. Keep your container filled with water so it does not get dry. Once the “slips” are a couple inches long, you can remove them and put them in pots with dirt or in a separate jar with water. Either way, they will grow their own roots and be ready to plant when the temperature outside when the daytime highs are in the upper 70’s to 80’s, usually in May or June.



**Remember,
Jeremiah, everything
you're doing is
practicing being
a man, so practice
what you want
to be.**



The Lord is _____, a _____ in the
day of _____; and he _____ them
that _____ in him. **Nahum 1:7**



My Recipes

Baked Sweet Potato Fries

Serves 2-4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large sweet potato, peeled (if desired) and cut into wedges
- 2 tsp. (warmed) coconut oil
- Sea salt, garlic powder and cayenne to taste

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 450°F. Toss sweet potato wedges with oil, salt, pepper and spices. Spread the wedges out on a baking sheet. Bake until browned and tender, turning once (use tongs for best results), about 20-30 minutes total.





Starting Your Own Preparing Bible Study

By Shalom Brand

Start Your Own Bible Study!

KIRSTEN: Hi, I'm Kirsten and I'm here with Shalom. Today we're going to talk about starting your own *Preparing To Be A Help Meet* Bible study. All the summer activities are winding down. It's Fall and it's the perfect time to start organizing a Bible study for young girls and older girls. The *Preparing* book lends itself very well to a girls' study because it has a Teachers Guide in the back to follow along with.

You do have to put a lot of prayer, preparation and organization into leading a Bible study. You don't just jump blindly into it. But if someone hands you the opportunity, you take

it! Because you can help these girls in areas that you never even knew. It will be a blessing to them and to you. You will learn so much.

SHALOM: One of the things to consider in starting a *Preparing* Bible study is that it's much better to have a partner, because it is a big responsibility. You are teaching these girls and ministering to them. You will need wisdom, but you don't have to know everything. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. A lot of the work has already been done for you in the Teachers Guide. Bible verses are there. But ahead of time you need to study the Bible

diligently so that you can explain it to the girls.

Last year at college you had the book with you and you started a class. Did you have somebody helping you?

KIRSTEN: I did! And it was awesome because she would organize the time and the place. She always brought snacks and drinks, so I could focus on studying and doing the cross referencing and the word searches. It took a lot of pressure off me because I knew she was going to send out the emails or text messages. Having her to arrange the meetings was a big help.

SHALOM: It does help. Before *Preparing To Be A Help Meet* was written when we were starting a Bible study, I had a young married lady help me and we did the same thing. We used her house. She was the hostess and she made everything flow. And then this year we did another Bible study, this time using the *Preparing* book's Teachers Guide, and it worked

out really well. If one of us was sick or tied up with our husbands doing something, taking care of kids, we would shift the load and take turns. It is SO much fun and you learn so much from doing the Bible study. As the teacher I think you learn even more the students do.

KIRSTEN: And it blesses you just as much as it does them. Also, if you go to the website, preparingtobeahelpmeet.com, there are lots of good ice-breakers on there. We also have weekly studies up and a lot of girls post interesting questions.

SHALOM: If you can't have a Bible study, or if you can't teach a Bible study or be involved with one because you don't know anybody, go to preparingtobeahelpmeet.com. There is an online Bible study that Kirsten or I put together. Check it out! *



Tips and Resources

- Spend time in prayer and preparation ahead of time.
- Ask God for wisdom.
- Ask God for friend to help you.
- If you can't host a study, help someone lead it.
- Check out preparingtobeahelpmeet.com for ideas.
- Get your copy of *Preparing To Be A Help Meet*, \$19.95



From the Mailbox



Dear Big Papa and Mama Pearl
and the No Greater Joy family,

Thank you so much for the books and CDs that you sent to me and my husband. I really appreciate the love and kindness that you have shown my family. I feel truly blessed that I was able to receive these books that will help me in my walk with Christ and also help my husband and our marriage. I also wanted to thank you so much for sending some things to my husband especially a Bible. He is just starting to get interested in being saved and a gift like this is such a blessing! My son was also so excited about the Bible story comic book! Thank you again for blessing our family! May you be blessed for all of the love you give to military families like ours.



Much love and appreciation,

Mrs. Regina Bush - US Navy wife and family

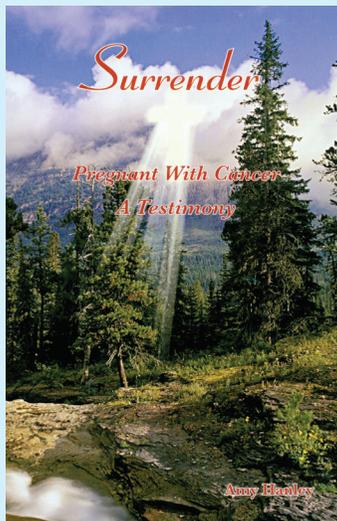
The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and
he knoweth them that trust in him. Nahum 1:7

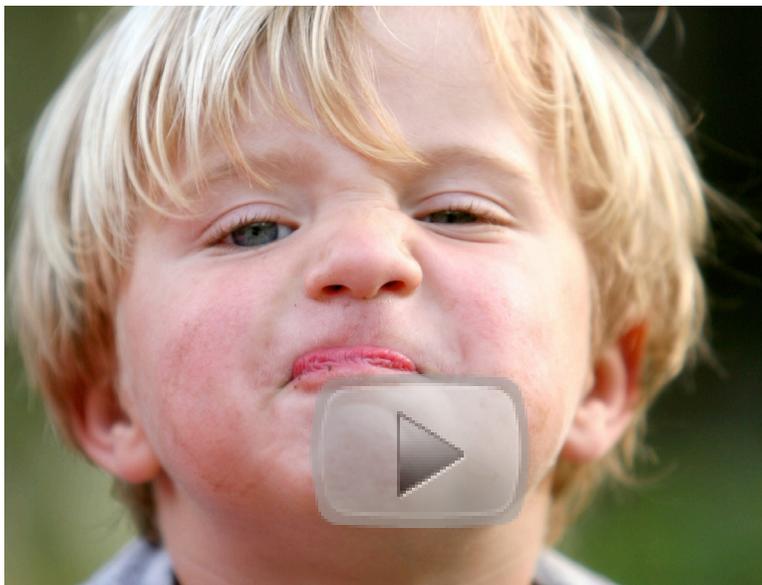
Pregnant with Cancer

Almost every week, I get several CDs and books sent to me in the mail. This one caught my eye. For anyone going through this, it is highly recommended reading.

For information about buying Amy Hanley's book (\$12 per book, plus \$3 for shipping and handling), contact her at hanley5@windstream.net or at mylibertybaptist.com. Amy Hanley also is available to speak to church groups or at other events.

No Greater Joy does not carry this book.





Taming the Tyrant

By Michael Pearl

*Excerpt from the unpublished book,
Traditional Child Training Made Easy*

Dear Pearls,

God has blessed us with three wonderful children. But lately we have had some problems with our three-year-old son, and we just don't know what to do. He is very rebellious and when we tell him to do something like pick up his toys, he just says "No" and doesn't do it. Spanking him doesn't seem to be the answer. No matter how often we spank him he keeps on being rebellious. We try to show him that we love him and to be consistent with what we say. Do you have any advice on how we can break his will without breaking his spirit?

**Thank you,
T. M.**

Yours' is a common problem. The "Terrible Twos" give way to the tyrannical threes. As to your concern about breaking his spirit, it seems the opposite is true; he has broken yours. His spirit is a long way from being broken. And, although we may speak of breaking a child's will, in reality, we do not want to break a child's will or his spirit; we want to see his spirit strengthened to direct his will to do what he ought. I know you understand that distinction, but for the sake of 500,000 readers, I need to mention it.

Your son needs to be trained to choose rightly. He is now trained to choose the opposite of your will.

You said spanking doesn't work. I am assuming that you have consistently administered the spanking in a quiet, controlled manner, without anger, and with sufficient force to sting his skin and momentarily give him pain.

The problem runs much deeper than a failure to obey; he has a willful commitment to defy your will. You have developed an adversarial relationship with him. He is in fact a rebel at heart, bent on bringing down your authority and proving his independence. The two of you have different agendas.

You said spanking doesn't work. I am assuming that you have consistently administered the spanking in a quiet, controlled manner, without anger, and with sufficient force to sting his skin and momentarily give him pain. Some parents who have had the same complaint as you have seen a complete turn around when they discovered that their "spankings" were just irritating little swats that did not hurt at all. When the kid got a real spanking he perked up and started respecting their threats.

Never use your hand to swat the child. If you actually hit him hard enough to hurt, you would cause damage to the tissue, bones, and joints. Use a small, light instrument on bare skin, four or five licks, something that will sting mightily but not leave marks or bruising.

If you are convinced that you have indeed spanked him soundly—he has squirmed and hollered in pain and still refused to obey—then you should stop spanking. Your problem lies elsewhere. Spanking is not punishment; it is the last word of authority in an admonition

to obedience. When used before admonition its purpose is to grab the child's attention and show him the seriousness of the moment. Some very strong spirited children learn they can endure the pain and maintain their pride and will become even more defiant. Their spirit grows stronger and their wills more resolved. Like a terrorist under torture, they find satisfaction in defying their captors. There is a great sense of self esteem and power in maintaining one's autonomy in the face of great opposition. The only thing left is the self-respect of not yielding to their enemies, of proving their bravery.

Let me be very clear, do not follow their lead and give way to excessive spanking or angry retorts and actions that communicate rejection. The way to create an emotionally disturbed child and adult is to constantly criticize him and fail to show affection. Parents are in danger of expressing rejection toward a child that is constantly rebellious; and as a result of his dislikable nature, they fail to show him affection. It is the formula for supplying psychiatrists with another patient to drug.

I have no doubt that laziness is the human weakness that originally provoked him to neglect household duties. Laziness alone is sufficient to cause a child to disregard his chores and ignore commands. But when he is threatened with a spanking and he

defies you to the point of enduring pain, it is clear that he is no longer motivated by laziness. There is now a very powerful force of defiance that springs from his definition of self. To yield would be to give up who he is, the thing that makes him unique. As concerned parents we can not allow him to frame his life with a false and destructive premise.

Before I offer some practical suggestions, I need to raise a relevant issue. I know from reading many letters that you are wondering why your third child is rebellious when he was trained exactly as were the first two, and they did just fine. Kids are all different. When parents have two mild mannered, complaint children first, they get relaxed and even lax in their training. And when they give birth to a little Viking, they are amazed that he doesn't respond in the same manner as the others. Some kids are best molded with a gentle touch and others must be chiseled with much labor. You've got a granite rock that will need chisel and hammer, but with a caution that he could be easily fractured.

This article is a part of the new book I am writing called *Traditional Child Training*. It covers this subject thoroughly, but it will not be available until early spring of 2012. For now, I will give an abbreviated formula. It will also help if you go on line and review articles like, "The Flavor of Joy" and watch the video "The Joy of Training."

OK, let's get to an answer. You have failed in the first principles of child training and cannot now resolve all the issues at the end of a switch. Remember what I said, "We want his spirit to direct his will to do what

he ought." He must be bought to the place to where he finds pleasure in cooperating and obeying. He must be led to choose the good for the satisfaction it brings.

You need to go back and lay the foundation properly this time. The first principle of child training is to establish a relationship of trust and fellowship. Fellowship is sharing something personal with another. We fellowship with people that make us feel better about ourselves. It is mutual giving and receiving. Fellowship requires trust and confidence in the good will of the other. We make ourselves vulnerable when we enter fellowship with another, so we must trust that they have our best interests in mind. Your son does not believe you are committed to his best interest. He sees you as an adversary that must be beaten—and he finds pleasure in the process. You will counter his warped perspective by creating for him a new channel of pleasure not dependent

Your goal is to get him addicted to sweet fellowship so that he comes to value you as a source of endless delight. In turn he will care for you.

upon his surrender to you. Your goal is to get him addicted to sweet fellowship so that he comes to value you as a source of endless delight. In turn he will care for you. He will care how you feel. He will not want to make you sad. On the contrary, he will be sad when you are grieved. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

You said, "We try to show him that we love him." The word

“try” stands out like a doom’s-day prediction the day after it didn’t happen. Love is not a sentiment, nor is it an intention or a duty; love is pouring out the soul moment by moment. It is seen in the eyes and experienced in the actions. Love does not originate in our need; it is responding to the need of another. Dear lady, your son does not feel loved. Let me put it another way; he does not feel valued. He does not think of himself as a part of the family unit—a part of the fellowship. He is on the outside establishing his identity in defiance of the norm.

In good times, when emotions are in neutral, when you are not asking anything of him, come along side of him and share good experiences. Let him see your delight in his performance—any performance, as long as he thinks it is an accomplishment.

You must make him an insider, a participant in the social order. You do that by turning your heart to him and then his heart to you. “And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers....” Malachi 4:6 Notice in the passage the father turns his heart to his children before the children turn their hearts to their father. The children’s turn is conditioned upon the father’s turn of heart. Your son must feel valued and cherished. It is not enough to cherish him; he must feel it as well.

Don’t expect to establish fellowship and make him feel valued in the midst of conflict. In other

words, when he is in the midst of an act of defiance, that is not the time to try to tie sweet strings. That would just dilute your authority—make you look weak and ineffectual. He would despise you for it. Rather, in good times, when emotions are in neutral, when you are not asking anything of him, come along side of him and share good experiences. Let him see your delight in his performance—any performance, as long as he thinks it is an accomplishment. Empty “positive affirmation” that has no basis in actual performance is counterproductive. Take his hand and lead him to accomplish something worthy. It can be as simple as a drawing, a stunt on his tricycle, or jumping off the couch onto a cushion. Spend face time with him. Let him become addicted to your favorable attention. He should be moving from one thing to another to please you, to cause you to laugh, to make you brag on him to others. When you have given him your heart, he will give you his. When he is living in a stream of fellowship and seeking to please you, he will not want to interrupt that communion with acts of disobedience. If he becomes dependent upon your approval he will not want to lose it by giving in to laziness.

This transformation will not come magically or suddenly. It will be a process that may have some setbacks, but don’t give up. Fellowship is sure to work. You just have to keep laying the foundation. He may have to suffer the emptiness of defiance several times before he puts it together and understands the cause and effect, making a choice to protect his stream of fellowship with happy compliance.

Where it concerns an extremely defiant kid, don't overreach in trying to gain perfect compliance. Set the bar low so you can win even if the win is a fraction of what you actually desire.

You will ease him into obedience.

Here is the way to approach it.

When the happy juices are flowing and he is enjoying your company, hand him some of the dirty clothes you are carrying to the laundry and continue your fun as you walk and talk together. He will not see it as a transition from fun to duty. While avoiding making demands that will lead to a confrontation where he falls back into his habit of defiance, continue to involve him in household duties at a level that remains fun. When you are wiping off the table where he spilt his food, hand him a rag and the two of you wipe together. Make a game out of it. Laugh. Chase his rag with yours. Race to see who can get their side of the table cleaned first. Slowly transition from hand in hand sharing of work to just asking him to do a very small job alone. One day you will find him happily doing that which previously turned him into a French revolutionary or a Wall Street protester.

When he balks at a command, you must make sure three things occur. First do not back off from your authority. Secondly, do not transform into an angry policeman, ready to sentence him to 30 days in jail. Maintain your calm, controlled self. If anything, move and speak a little slower, more deliberately and intensely. There will be a little tension in the air and he will be aware that you have stopped your routine and are seriously focused on him. His defiance may be just old habits reasserting themselves,

or it may be naturally laziness, and the seriousness of the moment may cause him to wish he had taken a different course. Give him space to return to the cheerful, cooperative path. If you explode into anger and rejection he may retreat to the old paths of solitary rebellion. So leave him an easy path by which to return emotionally. Speak seriously so he feels the moment and knows he is at a cross roads, but speak as if you expect him to amend his ways and share in the burden of labor. Patiently point out the need for him to do his share as part of the family unit. Explain how it would be if you didn't cook; the family wouldn't have anything to eat. And if Daddy didn't work we wouldn't have any money to buy groceries; so he will have to do his part as well. If he still resists obeying, and you have covered all the bases up to this point, then you will need to win the contest of wills. In the animal kingdom, the parent always wins—without exception. The young are forcibly caused to submit. Likewise, in the real world to which he will emerge, the boss always wins; the policeman always wins, and the judge always wins. It is time for him to learn the rules.

Where it concerns an extremely defiant kid, don't overreach in trying to gain perfect compliance. Set the bar low so you can win even if the win is a fraction of what you actually desire. The important issue is psychological. The child must come away from the experience feeling that he gave in and failed to maintain his

rebellion. He must acknowledge you as the alpha female of the herd—the big boss. He must be made to feel his weakness in the face of your power. This is accomplished by causing him to give-in on some level—any level, no matter how small. If he comes away from the confrontation having begrudgingly surrendered his will to yours, you have triumphed. It is the second step to a cheerfully obedient son. The first step was fellowship.

If you don't have enough grace to restrain yourself while constraining him, it will be best for you to leave him be and go about the business of bringing yourself to maturity.

What might victory look like? You have told him to put his toys back in his box and he has refused. Get you switch and swat his exposed legs hard enough to make him squirm, calmly commanding him to pick up “That toy,” pointing to one close at hand. If he refuses to touch it after three commands and three spanks, calmly, not hastily, take hold of his hand and constrain him to pick up the top and drop it in the box. Do that with two or three toys and then tell him that you are going to help him finish the big job. In a tone that suggests the sweet fellowship he has previously enjoyed, say, “I will help you get finished so we can go out and swing.” [He loves swinging, so it is an inducement to obey.] “Here, I have picked up one; now you can pick up one.” [You are holding the toy in your hand waiting for him to pick up a toy.] If he picks up a toy, flood your face and voice with the

praise and fellowship he has come to enjoy. Then, with a laugh, say, “Let’s hurry so we can go swing.” And begin grabbing the toys and throwing them in the box. I would expect him to laugh and join in the fun, grabbing the toys and throwing them as fast as he can. He will come away knowing you are boss and the rule of law must be obeyed. Continue in this vane until he is readily obedient in all things.

But what if he still refuses to pick up a toy after you have constrained him to pick up two or three? I cannot imagine a little fellow being so committed to rebellion that he maintains his defiance through all of this. If so, for his sake you must continue the process of forcing him to do the job until every toy is picked up. His hand may not close around the toy, but as long as you are forcing his hand to move with yours, he will come away knowing you won. If he is kicking and screaming the whole time, do not create an ongoing confrontation that you cannot win. Walk away smiling as if you got everything you desired. Then resume house work or invite him outside to swing. You won. Act like it. He will pick up your attitude and know you are in charge and are now happy with his performance. Remember the end goal here is for him to perceive you as the final authority.

His little developing soul needs you to win. If you don’t win now, the judge and the policeman will win later. What kind of husband will he make if he lives to defy? What kind of father? He will not be able to hold down a job or function in society.

If you don’t have enough grace to restrain yourself while constraining him, it will be best for you to leave

Don't give up, for I have seen many parents with the same problem who have triumphed and saved their child from rebellion.

him be and go about the business of bringing yourself to maturity. You can do more harm than good if you become belligerent or excessive in your physical domination of the child. Maybe you need a "time-out." I don't recommend them for kids, but sometimes adults need a self imposed

retreat to a place of prayer and heart searching.

Don't give up, for I have seen many parents with the same problem who have triumphed and saved their child from rebellion. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." ☆

Tips and Resources

- Article: The Flavor of Joy
- DVD: The Joy of Training
- Look for Mike's new book!



From the Mailbox



Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I just wanted to write you and say thank you so much for your book, **Preparing To Be A Help Meet**. I love it so much. Every now and then I will pick it up and read a chapter or two, then write down what I got out of it. It has made me more mature in so many ways, and now I have gotten to the point where I read the chapter over and over, and I just can't put it down. Anyway, thank you so much. I never realized a book like that could apply to fifteen year old girls like me.

God bless you guys.

Love,

RayeLeigh V.