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Directives for Sacred Priorities in A Covenant Home

Judges 13:12, '*And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. **How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?***'

While reading my Bible one morning, I was greatly affected by the verse above. It was the sincere prayer of a father seeking guidance as to how he should order or bring up his new child, Samson who became a great judge in Israel one day. This was partly due to the careful upbringing by his parents (not withstanding his failures later).

It is one's greatest privilege to be married in the Lord and starting a Christian home. **It is also a grave responsibility of fathers and mothers to ensure that our children, as well as our grandchildren are growing up in a godly home that is distinctly God-honouring.** What are the sacred duties required of us as Christian parents to our families? Here are 5 of them briefly given below for our edification:



1. The Priority of Fervent Family Prayer.

Matthew 21:22 says, '*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*' Is your home a house of prayer? It had been said that the children of prayerful mothers cannot stray for too long. The prayers of Monica and Suzanna bore testimonies of this for Augustine and John and Charles Wesley, their children, and they were greatly used by the Lord in the 4th and 18th centuries respectively. Will we as parents commit ourselves to pray often for and with our children, for we do not know what the Lord will do with them one day. Begin and end the day with them in prayer. **Will they know and live a life of intercessory prayers, and will they be surrounded by prayerful parents around them with peace of heart and mind?** (Phil 4:6,7)

There is no
substitute for
Family Prayer.

2. The Priority of Studying the Scripture as a Family.

Nehemiah 8:8 says, *'So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.'* The Christian home has rules governed by a book, the Holy Bible. It is called the Word of God. As soon as a child is able to see and hear, read to them the gospels and study with them the Words of everlasting life (2 Timothy 3:15). As soon as they are able to understand, teach them to meditate on the Psalms. As soon as they are able to

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a father.**

memorize, help them to store in their hearts the Word of the Old Testament and New Testament, especially the 10 Commandments and the Lord's Prayer with the discipline of daily devotion or family worship. **They will grow up in life guided by the inspired Book because they are accustomed to people at home who love and obey and meditate on this glorious Book.** (Josh 1:8 am 2Tim 1;5 and 2Tim 3;16)

3. The Priority of Sharing the Gospel with our Children

A Christian home is known to be committed to declaring the gospel to all those within and without. Do not take salvation of your children for granted for we never know or we cannot be presumptuous to think that they are definitely saved. Timothy for his younger days was told of the great Saviour through a godly mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5).

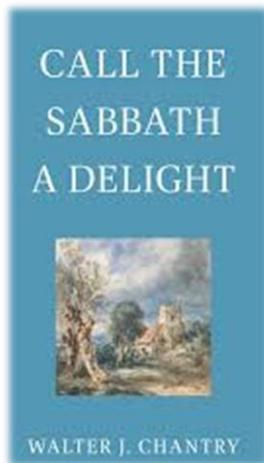


“
Your child's faith
starts with the
conversations you
have at home, not just
what they hear at
church.”

Tell them about the person Jesus and the consequences of sin when they offend God. As soon as they are able to grasp our great need for faith and forgiveness, teach them to seek this sovereign forgiver who will forgive when we confess and repent of our sins (1 John 1:9). As soon as they are enabled to express and demonstrate their saving faith, show them who to place their faith in, in Christ Jesus and confess their faults to Him. **They should be grounded in the faith and know God personally as Saviour and Lord as we are a covenant people who belong to our great covenant-keeping God.** (Rom 10:9,10)

4. The Priority of Worshipping God as a Covenant Family.

Hebrews 10:24-25, *'And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.'* To be leading a Christian home is to be responsible to bring our children into a local community of believers in regular corporate worship and fellowship. They will grow up with blessed memories of Christian churches and Christian worship, thanksgiving through hymns, listening to sermons and partaking of the sacraments. It may take more than a village to raise a child. It takes the whole church. **Let us faithfully attend the Sabbath worship service, Sunday School Class, Bible study, the Wednesday Prayer Meeting and church camps. In a lively and edifying Christian fellowship, we are blessed to meet people committed to Christian worship and fellowship.** (Psa 100)



5. The Priority of Instilling the Fear of God & Holiness.

A Christian home is to be a place with a good witness of godliness and piety. Their faith with their words, under our care, showcase godly fear and reverence for God, for the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom for them (Proverbs 9:10). Do they see sin daily being mortified in us, righteousness upheld and holy attitudes and godly examples of Christian wisdom and character displayed? They will be bombarded daily with all kinds of information in the world and on the internet social media and friends and mass media too You need to counter that at home Not with constant bickering, with jealousy and harsh words in our quarrels that is exhibited to discourage them but with sanctified living as they grow in holiness . A good example of the father or mother is invincible, and it can transform young hearts. (1Pet 1;16) **We need to be examples of holy living and godliness as parents and siblings, for these are people we want to impact them spiritually for the Lord.**



Conclusion

The Lord says in Genesis 18:19 of Abraham, 'For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.' Abraham did the right thing in his family and God was well pleased with him. **In all of these directives and sacred plans, we need fathers and**

mothers to humbly seek the Lord's wisdom, guidance and grace and be blessed by the great joy of a vibrant and edifying covenant family life. It is not impossible if God be for us and we be for Him, then all can be well in the home. Let us strive to have a God-honouring family life ahead. Resolve to let God be the very epic centre of your home and work and married life.

Jack Sin

(For further studies read Wayne Mack, *Strengthening your Marriage*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co, 1997 and *Your Family, God's Way*, P and R Publishing Co, 1991)

O Give Us Homes Built Firm Upon the Savior

Barbara B. Hart Jean Sibelius

1. O give us homes built firm up-on the Sav-ior, Where Christ is Head and
 2. O give us homes with god-ly fa-thers, moth-ers, Who al-ways place their
 3. O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Mas-ter, The Bi-ble read, the
 4. O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine for-ev-er! We trust to Thee their

Coun-sel-or and Guide; Where ev-'ry child is taught His love and fa-vor
 hope and trust in Him; Whose ten-der pa-tience tur-moil nev-er both-ers,
 pre-cious hymns still sung; Where prayer comes first in peace or in di-sas-ter,
 prob-lem, toil, and care; Their bonds of love no en-e-my can sev-er

And gives his heart to Christ, the Cru-ci-fied: How sweet to know that,
 Whose calm and cour-age trou-ble can-not dim; A home where each finds
 And praise is nat-ural speech to ev-'ry tongue; Where moun-tains move be-
 If Thou art al-ways Lord and Mas-ter there: Be Thou the cen-ter

though his foot-steps wa-ver, His faith-ful Lord is walk-ing by his side!
 joy in serv-ing oth-ers, And love still shines, though days be dark and grim.
 fore a faith that's vast-er, And Christ suf-fi-cient is for old and young.
 of our least en-deav-or, Be Thou our guest, our hearts and homes to share.

Pastoral Chat ***- Of Missiles, Missions & Master -***

Our Lord Jesus in Matt 24:14 says, “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*”

We are living in perilous times that witnessed unprecedented international conflict that concerns Israel and the Middle East.

It will not be just a simple short war as some wanted but possibly a long protracted one with global repercussions on economic, military, social and political fronts.

Already the Straits of Hormuz is closed with threats from almost 90

million strong Iran that any tankers or ships passing through will be burnt and oil prices will skyrocket and energy affects business costs and this will be passed into us as consumers as supply chain is adversely affected.

The debt of the US will deepen further with this protracted war, and a financial crisis could be in the horizon, worse than 1997 and 2008. Our Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong has already said in Parliament that he will revise the GDP figures and CPI soon as the situation develops and that is not good news.

At least 6 countries in the Middle East have been dragged into this reluctantly and possibly some EU members and Russia and China in some ways.

This sets the stage for a deeply polarized and fragmented world that even UN Security council will not be able to meditate or solve.

In the midst of these signs, what should the Church and Christian do?

Our Lord calls for greater spiritual vigilance and patience (Luke 21:19) of the saints when we see signs of the times and a readiness for holy God-centred living, greater evangelistic enterprise and the faithful preaching of the Word to warn the people before it is too late.

2Pet 3:9-12 says,

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

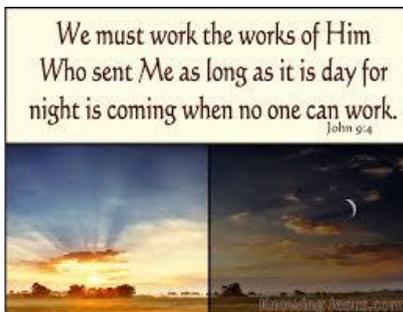
It may be at midday, it may be at twilight
It may be, perchance
that the blackness of midnight
Will burst into light in the blaze of His glory
When Jesus receives "His own"
*O Lord Jesus, how long, how long
ere we shout the glad song
Christ Returneth! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah! Amen

The prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah did warnings in their times too which fell on deaf ears mostly. I suspect it will not be very much different in our times.

Take God and His Word seriously and not just be enamoured with our little temporal world. Let us get our priorities right and live with an eternal perspective before it is too late. Who is my Master is a question to ask.

At SHBPC, we labour on with our evangelistic outreach despite what may come next:

- The church mission team of 4 (Pastor, Angie, Joseph & Lilian) will head for ministry next week to reach out to children of Myanmar refugees in Malaysia. Pray for the teaching of the Word, the demonstration of Christ's love and mercy and equip the teachers there with resources that we bring over.
- Sat 21 March will be the outreach at All Saints Home (Tampines) to share the Gospel and edify believers with God's Word to about 30 residents at the nursing home.
- Door-to-door evangelism will be held later this month at the MacPherson estate to invite residents to our Gospel Sun Worship Service on 29 Mar, Good Friday Service on 3 Apr and Resurrection Sunday Service on 5 Apr.



Let us continue to pray for unction for the preaching of the Gospel and the Word of Truth to impact souls for eternity.

Lk21:19 tells us, "***In your patience possess ye your souls.***"



Combined Sunday School Seminar on 1 Mar 2026 by Pastor on ***“The Call, Conditions, Cost & Consecration of Discipleship”***.

Weekly Sunday School Class on ***“Walking Through the Old Testament”*** by Pastor.



Memory Verse

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***A Disciplined Athlete in the Race (1Cor 9:24-27, Heb 12:1-4)***". the quarterly series on "***Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life***".
3. Next Sun, Pastor will preach on "***An Honourable Ambassador of the King (2Cor 5:1-20)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. **Outreach to All Saints Home on Sat 21 Mar 2026, 9.30am.** Come and share the love and mercy of God to the residents. **Register with Eld Yue Kay by Sun 15 Mar.**
7. **SHBPC Church Camp** will be **9-12 June 2026** on the theme "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". The camp speaker is **Dr Scott Hollander** from Tacoma, USA. The camp venue is at **Yello Hotel, Harbor Bay, Batam**. Contact Dn Paul/Bro Joseph Chan for more details and the registration form.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
9. Pray for:
 - **Cameron Highlands Mission Outreach 12 Mar 2026:** Pastor, Angie, Joseph & Lilian.
 - **Travels: Poh Huat** [Vancouver 13 Mar – 11 Apr]
 - **Dr Sam** [Career Pathway], **Yusong** [PostGrad Studies Pathway]
 - **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation],
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application], **John Almon** [NYP application]
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.