

## Did God promise salvation to children raised up according to the scriptures?

Families who have children that walk away from the church and apparently from God and Christ as well often claim that they know that their children will return to following Christ since the Bible makes it a promise.

1. Where do people claim the promise can be found?

Proverbs **22:6**

Acts **16:30-32**

The primary text of interest is Proverbs 22:6 as it is the most commonly used reference related to the promise of salvation. Of secondary use is the message of Paul to the jailer in Philippi.

The majority of the evaluation will be spent looking at the details of Proverbs 22:6.

2. What is meant by “train up a child”?

Deuteronomy **20:5**

1 Kings **8:63**

2 Chronicles 7:5

The word translated as “train up” is generally translated “dedicate”. This is a reference to dedicating or committing a child for something specific.

3. What is mean by “in the way he should go”?

Genesis **29:2**

Genesis **45:21**

The Hebrew literally states “dedicate in regard to the youth upon the mouth of his journey”. The phrase 'upon the mouth of' can refer to an opening of something, in this case the opening of the journey of his life. It could also mean 'commandment', indicating the commands of the child. On the one hand then, it indicates the steps he is taking on the journey of his life and on the other hand it indicates that the child is the one commanding or dictating what is to transpire.

1 Corinthians **2:14**

If it is to be understood as dedicating the child according to his commands concerning his journey of life, then the passage is a reference to the parents dedicating the child to do what the child naturally wants to do.

Ephesians **6:4**

Deuteronomy **6:6-9**

If it is to be understood as dedicating the child along each step of his journey of life, then the parents are to guide and instruct the child to utilize his God given gifts and talents in order to pursue a pathway that is in agreement with God's commands.

In the New Testament, Paul is commanding fathers to “bring up” or “nurture” their children in the training or discipline and the instruction of the Lord. This means that Paul, while not making any promises, is commanding the fathers to nurture and instruct their children in a loving and caring fashion in the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ. This does not mean that the father who brings his children to church is actually “bringing up” his child in the discipline and instruction of

the Lord. Instead the father, per Deuteronomy, is to continually speak to his children the words of God and to stress the importance of listening and obeying what God has said.

4. What is the nature of the proverbs?

Proverbs **1:2-7**

The proverbs can be considered general observations of life and wisdom that comes from above. They are not promises from God about what will or will not take place in life but they are general truths and observations. It should be considered risky to extract out of the proverbs any specific promise.

Conclusion:

At best, the challenge to the question concerns itself with what is meant by dedicating a child in the pathway of life. Taking a child to church and praying for meals is not a work of dedicating the child to understand the world according to God's commands and desires. Encouraging a child to utilize his God given gifts in an unrestrained manner is actually encouraging a child to pursue after his natural state and not after a redeemed state. To properly dedicate the child through life, the parents must take a very proactive stand to evaluate and direct the use of a child's God given abilities in accordance with God's word and God's commands. This may entail asking the child questions about the use of their abilities in light of what God says about their abilities and in understanding that their abilities are not theirs but they are in reality the property of God.