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A Portion of Chapter One

### **Biblical Parenting In a Fallen World**

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#### FOREWORD

## A WORD TO PARENTS

Parenting is one of the most sobering callings God entrusts to His people. Few responsibilities expose our weaknesses, fears, and limitations as quickly, or as persistently. Many parents carry questions they rarely voice, discouragement they quietly manage, and guilt they assume is unavoidable.

This booklet was written with those parents in mind.

It is not intended to burden you, overwhelm you, or add another demand to an already full life. It is meant to steady you. It is meant to bring clarity where confusion has settled and peace where unnecessary pressure has taken root.

This is not a hard book. It is a serious one, but not a heavy one. It does not ask you to master techniques, follow formulas, or measure your faithfulness by outcomes you cannot control. It asks you to return to Scripture's clarity regarding responsibility, influence, obedience, and trust in God.

Many parents struggle not because they lack love or effort, but because they are trying to parent within a framework God never designed. When responsibility is

unclear, parenting becomes exhausting. When God's design is restored, parenting remains demanding, but it becomes purposeful rather than crushing.

This booklet is offered as a parenting aid. It is meant to be read slowly, reflected on prayerfully, and returned to when discouragement resurfaces. You may find much of it familiar. You may also find places where your thinking needs adjustment. Both are part of growth.

Above all, this booklet is meant to remind you that faithful parenting is not measured by perfect children, but by obedient parents. God has not called you to control outcomes. He has called you to walk in faithfulness and trust Him with what you cannot see.

If this booklet brings steadiness where there has been discouragement, or clarity where there has been confusion, it will have served its purpose.

David M Tyler

CHAPTER ONE  
**CHILDREN ARE A GIFT,  
NOT A BURDEN**

Children are not interruptions to adult life. They are not obstacles to fulfillment. Scripture presents children as gifts, deliberate acts of God's generosity and grace, not inconveniences to be managed.

Psalm 127:3

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb is a reward.”*

That statement confronts modern assumptions immediately. Children are not primarily the result of planning, biology, or human desire. They are entrusted by God. Parenting, therefore, is not ownership, it is stewardship.

How parents understand this truth shapes everything else. When children are viewed as burdens, parenting becomes survival. Parents focus on endurance rather than stewardship. Normal childhood immaturity begins to feel intolerable rather than expected.

When children are viewed as gifts, parenting takes on meaning, responsibility, and direction. Difficulty does not disappear, but purpose does not either. Parents labor not merely to get through the day, but to invest faithfully in something God calls good.

WHEN THIS TRUTH IS FORGOTTEN

Many parents today are exhausted not because their children are unusually difficult, but because they are carrying expectations God never placed on parenting. Children are often treated as projects to manage rather than souls to shepherd.

This produces a subtle shift. Parents begin to measure parenting by emotional payoff, convenience, or visible progress. When parenting no longer “feels rewarding,” resentment quietly grows.

Scripture never promises emotional ease. It promises meaningful responsibility. When parents forget that children are gifts entrusted by God, they begin to expect children to justify the cost of parenting. That expectation will always disappoint.

## CHILDREN AND GOD’S REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE

This truth remains even in a fallen world.

Adam and Eve rebelled against God before they ever conceived children. Yet God preserved their lives and allowed them to fulfill His command to “be fruitful and multiply.” This was not indulgence. It was mercy, and the beginning of redemption.

Genesis 1:28

*“Be fruitful and multiply...”*

Even after the Fall, God did not abandon His design. He initiated His redemptive plan through generations.

Revelation 7:9

*“A great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.”*

Children were never an afterthought in God’s redemptive plan. Eve understood this. When Cain was born, she said, *“I have gotten a man from the Lord.”* When Seth was born, she said, *“God hath appointed me another seed.”*

Children were not accidents to her. They were acts of divine provision.

Even the children of unbelievers are described in Scripture as blessings. This reinforces a foundational truth: Children are blessings by nature, not by behavior.

## PASTORAL DEEPENING: BLESSING VS. SENTIMENT

Calling children a blessing does not mean parenting is sentimental, pleasant, or easy. Scripture never equates blessing with comfort. Often, God’s blessings require sacrifice.

Parents should not confuse difficulty with failure. God often works through difficulty to shape both parent and child. Parenting exposes impatience, pride, and fear, not because something is wrong, but because sanctification is taking place.

Seeing children rightly does not remove difficulty, but it restores purpose. And when purpose is restored, endurance becomes steadier.

## **BIBLICAL INSIGHT**

### **When Parents Quietly Resent the Gift**

Many parents would never say it out loud, but resentment toward parenting is more common than most are willing to admit. It often shows indirectly, irritation over small things, emotional withdrawal, constant exhaustion, or a sense that life has been unfairly interrupted.

This resentment does not usually come from hatred of children. It comes from unmet expectations. Parents were told, sometimes explicitly, sometimes subtly, that fulfillment would come through ease, balance, or personal freedom. When parenting instead brings sacrifice, limitation, and exposure of sin, disappointment follows.

Scripture corrects this expectation gently but firmly. God never promised that blessing would feel easy. He often blesses His people by entrusting them with responsibilities that stretch them beyond their perceived capacity. Parenting is one of those blessings.

When parents resent the gift, they often interpret normal childhood immaturity as personal offense. Noise feels intrusive. Questions feel exhausting. Discipline feels like interruption rather than stewardship. Over time, the parent's heart grows weary not because the child is unusually difficult, but because the parent is laboring without a biblical framework.

Parents in this place often feel guilty for their resentment and then add shame to exhaustion. Scripture does not call parents to deny weakness. It calls parents to reorient their understanding. A child can be a gift and still require sacrifice. A gift from God is not measured by comfort, but by purpose.

It is also important to say plainly: God uses children not only to shape the child, but to sanctify the parent. Parenting exposes impatience, pride, control, and self-centeredness precisely because God intends to deal with those sins. That exposure is not punishment. It is mercy.

Parents who understand this stop asking, “Why is this so hard?” and begin asking, “What is God teaching me through this stewardship?” That shift does not remove fatigue, but it does restore meaning. Resentment begins to give way to humility, and frustration gives way to endurance.

If you find yourself weary or resentful, Scripture does not condemn you. It invites you to recalibrate. Children are not burdens to survive. They are gifts through which God accomplishes His work, both in them and in you.

Faithful parenting begins when parents stop fighting the cost of obedience and begin embracing its purpose.