

## Spiritual Parenting - week #1

Good is calling for Unity in Generations

**Malachi 4:4**“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, *With the* statutes and judgments. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

“It’s about a whole generation returning to the God of their fathers -- that is, getting back to the hearts of their spiritual forefathers”. - Lou Engle

**Deuteronomy 6:1** Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded *me* to teach you, that you might do *them* in the land where you are going over to possess it, <sup>2</sup>so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. <sup>3</sup> O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do *it*, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, *in* a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### Historical path

- 1st–5th c.: Families primary; church provides catechesis (instruction) for converts and adolescents.
- 5th–15th c. (Medieval): Parishes, monasteries, guilds handle spiritual formation, baptismal instruction; some schooling and care for orphans.
- 16th c. (Reformation): Reformers formalize catechisms and parish instruction; churches expected to give systematic religious education.
- **Late 18th–19th c.: Sunday-school movement and evangelical revivals expand church role in children’s religious education.**
- Early–mid 20th c.: Institutional children’s ministries and youth programs become widespread.
- Late 20th–21st c.: Mixed expectations — some movements stress parental responsibility, others maintain strong church programs; pluralism and public schooling reduce uniformity.

Churches created programs to do what God had intended parents to do. Programs are not personal nor relational, instruction without demonstration.

**Programs can help reinforce but cannot replace the role parents have in their kids' spiritual formation.**

### **Intercessor - Reese Howell**

But the real problem arose as the Revival proceeded and thousands were added to the churches. There were more \_\_\_\_\_ than there were \_\_\_\_\_ to tend them. The establishing of converts became the \_\_\_\_\_ need, which if not met would be the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the Revival.

Many blamed the young converts for backsliding, but we \_\_\_\_\_, because we were not in a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ them through to \_\_\_\_\_. Oh the tragedy, to be helpless in front of the Enemy when he was sifting young converts like wheat!

### **Digging the Wells of Revival - Lou Engle**

The Holy Spirit's outpouring in these last days of the twentieth century is founded in \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ connections.

Think of the crises in the youth of our nation alone-and how their heart cry is for identity. What would happen if our kids could tap into the reality of the great spiritual heritage to which God has called them?

The prophetic word of our day is sobering and the price we will pay for ignoring it cannot be overestimated. We must arise and redig the wells of our spiritual inheritance, so that we, our children, and our children's children may receive the blessings of godly covenants restored.

We have a hungry generation desperate for God and needing Spiritual Parents! What does that look like?

## **Parent      Mentor      Teacher      Counselor      Coach      Spiritual Parent**

---

---

Primary role: delivers knowledge/skills and assesses learning.  
Relationship: structured, role-based.  
Scope: specific topic or subject matter.  
Timeframe: fixed.  
Authority: formal authority to evaluate and grade.  
Methods: lectures, assignments, tests.

---

Primary role: help you achieve more or perform better.  
Relationship: target specific, they observe and make adjustments where needed.  
Scope: limited to skill or activity.  
Timeframe: until a goal is achieved or a milestone is reached.  
Authority: formal authority within scope of role.  
Methods: observation, correction, and repetition for improvement.

---

Primary role: long-term advisor who shares experience, networks, and career/life wisdom.  
Relationship: informal, often voluntary and mutual; recipient-driven.  
Scope: broad (career, professional development, strategic choices).  
Timeframe: medium–long term.  
Authority: influence via experience, not formal power.  
Methods: storytelling, coaching, introductions, goal-setting.

---

Primary role: walk alongside someone as they grow in faith and character.  
Relationship: close, intentional, usually older-to-younger, built on trust.  
Scope: spiritual practices, decision-making, and emotional support.  
Timeframe: long-term, with focused seasons during major life changes.  
Authority: trusted guide, not a boss—influence based on consent and respect.  
Methods: pray together, share resources and practices, have honest conversations, set regular check-ins.

---

Primary role: provides support, problem-solving, and professional advice.  
Relationship: confidential, and professional.  
Scope: emotional, psychological, or decision-focused issues.  
Timeframe: varies.  
Authority: professional expertise; bound by standards/confidentiality.  
Methods: active listening, assessment, interventions, referrals.

---

Primary role: responsible for overall wellbeing, development, and discipline.  
Relationship: intimate, legally/socially obligated.  
Scope: holistic—emotional, physical, moral, educational.  
Timeframe: long-term/lifetime responsibility.  
Authority: legal and practical decision-making power.  
Methods: modeling, nurturing, setting rules, providing resources.

Overlap: Both parents and spiritual parents can offer guidance, protection, and long-term support; a single person can be both. The main distinction is legal/physical responsibility versus spiritual/mentoring authority.

**Teacher:** Points to the **Book** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach:** Points to the **Goal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor:** Points to the **Path** \_\_\_\_\_

**Counselor:** Points to the **Heart** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** Points to the **Person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spiritual Parent:** Points to **Wholeness** \_\_\_\_\_

From the list, who is 1 person, from any of the categories, that has impacted your life. Who?  
How?