

#2 How to be Spiritual Parents

Unity of Generations - **Malachi 4:6** 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."

Deuteronomy 6 Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, **that you may observe them** in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and **be careful to observe it**, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ "And these words which I command you today **shall be in your heart.**

- You shall teach them diligently to your children,
- and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
- when you walk by the way,
- when you lie down,
- and when you rise up.
- You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
- and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
- You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Practically - Live life with them!

- BE _____
- BE _____
- BE _____
- BE _____
- BE _____ - YOU HAVE A LOT TO OFFER!

Spiritual Parent

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.

A few of the most common ways a spiritual connection are naturally demonstrated:

Teach - Proverbs 1:8-9

Example/Demonstrate - 1 Corinthians 4:16

Encouragement - 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

Love - John 13:34-35

Correction - Proverbs 3:12

Accountability - Hebrews 13:17

Gift/Calling - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Inheritance - Proverbs 13:22

Typical objections:

I am not qualified

I am not old enough/too old

I don't even have children of my own/ or my own children aren't serving the Lord

I don't have anymore time to give

I don't know how to connect with younger people to even start a relationship

No one has asked me to be their spiritual parent

Psalm 78:1-8 (MSG) Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you.
I'm chewing on the morsel of a proverb; I'll let you in on the sweet old truths,
Stories we heard from our fathers, counsel we learned at our mother's knee.
We're not keeping this to ourselves, we're passing it along to the next generation—
God's fame and fortune, the marvelous things he has done. He planted a witness in Jacob, set
his Word firmly in Israel, Then commanded our parents to teach it to their children So the next
generation would know, and all the generations to come—
Know the truth and tell the stories so their children can trust in God, Never forget the works of
God but keep his commands to the letter. Heaven forbid they should be like their parents,
bullheaded and bad, A fickle and faithless bunch who never stayed true to God.

What's _____ can be _____