Get to Your Child First

What Every Parent and Caregiver Must Do Before the World Does

Ayo Fatubarin

Introduction

Who will raise your child: you, or the world? The world begins early. It reaches children through friends, screens and the adults around them. This book shows what Christian parents must do at home, and what the church must do alongside them, so that a child grows up knowing God and choosing Him.

The book has two parts. Part One speaks to parents and shows what to do at home, from the first prayers of the day to the day you let your child go. Part Two speaks to the church and shows what leaders and members must do alongside the home. Every chapter begins with a verse and ends with a short “Pray and act” note drawn from the author’s own words. Take one chapter at a time. Pray over it. Then do one thing this week.

When this book says parent, it means anyone raising a child.

Preface

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

Psalm 127:1

Before this book begins, readers should hold on to two things from the Bible, which has rightly been called the manual for the journey of life, the guide to our footsteps, and the light on our way. The first is that nobody receives anything unless it is given by the Lord (John 3:27). The second is that, as Scripture says, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Where the blessing of Almighty God is missing, all effort is fruitless. May this never be our lot, in Jesus' name.

These two truths lay the foundation for what every believer must grasp. Nobody has mastered the art of raising a child, and no single method works for every home. Each child is different, so one parent cannot simply copy another. Only God can show the best way to train a child. This is not hard for Him, since He gave the child in the first place. He will also see that the child grows up to fulfil their destiny in life.

Fellow brothers and sisters, it takes more than wisdom, education or sophistication to train a child.

Such training is the Lord’s doing, and when He has perfected it, it will be marvellous in our eyes. May that be the lot of all of us, in God’s wonderful name.

PART ONE

In the Home

Parents Must Act Now

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.”

Deuteronomy 6:6–7

This book came about because the author was given the privilege of working with students in a faith-based institution. These students were not children by any measure. They were grown-ups, mature and almost “iron-cast”, as hard to reshape as cast iron. They already knew, as the saying goes, their right from their left. They knew what they liked and what they hated, what they wanted and what they did not. They accepted direction only because it was compulsory in an institution that cared about them and tried to shape them. They could decide which instructions suited them and which did not, and the reason was rarely that the instructions were bad. They disrupted personal plans.

Some would plug their ears with a handset or watch a movie while a staff member or a visitor spoke on a serious matter that called for their compliance. Some would phone or say things that annoyed the speaker. Such are the youths for you!

I often asked myself: if things were like this in a faith-based institution, how would they be in a school where nobody closely monitors the students, and where the saying “every one to himself, God for everybody” comes true? Only some students indeed behave this way. Most are serious and do things right. But are those who misbehave not someone’s children, raised in someone’s home?

The message is clear. Parents, particularly Christian parents, must see that today’s world has become the “book” their children are “reading”. They must rise to this reality and “catch them young” to save the situation. Only God can do this for them, if they are fervent in prayer and do the right things. He did it for many parents in the past, and He is still doing it today. May ours never become difficult, in Jesus’ name.

The fact is that no institution can raise your child for you, and no method can do it for you. At best, you can give your very best, and only God can do the rest. Why not hand your child over to this God early enough? Doing so will do much for you. It will give you a longer life, peace of mind and rest in old age, a time when children should “pay back” and do all they can to make having them and cherishing them worth it.

A wayward child can shorten a parent’s life and become a source of lasting sadness. May ours, as Christians, never be such children.

Pray and act

Pray:

- Lord, may our children never shorten our lives or bring us lasting sadness, in Jesus’ name.

Act: Hand your child over to God early, and give your very best.

END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

Get to Your Child First

by Prof. Ayo Fatubarin

To read on, visit **keynoteslegacy.com** and look for this book.

You can also take the free scorecard there.

Keynotes Legacy Group Inc. You are welcome to share this sample.