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SINGLE PARENTING: A BIG CHALLENGE TO OUR NEW GENERATION



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We use the term single parenting to mean the aspect of parenting where one of the parents takes care of a child /children either alone or as part of a large family but without a spouse or partner. Single parenting can be the result of various circumstances, such as the death of a spouse, the departure of a spouse due to a job in a distant place, divorce, etc. Single parenting is one of the significant issues in parenting today in our context, and it results in scores of emotional and psychological imbalances in children.

Parenting is very significant starting from the child’s early years. Very young children are like emotional sponges. They will soak up the collective emotions in the family. The scene is more illustrated when the father is employed outside India, and the mother is left alone to care for the children. The father is never involved in any aspect of parenting but holds her responsible for all misbehaviors of the children. Then, she naturally becomes nervous about her parenting

responsibility. She tends to fear failure to raise children in good behavior. So, she is afraid of being perceived as a “bad” parent.

She expresses her fears indirectly, such as through her tone of voice or by shouting commands. Then, the child feels anxious, insecure, and responsible for the parents’ emotions. The need is for her as a parent to realize that these fears are the product of her own beliefs, needs, and desires and that she must learn to understand and manage them. Sometimes, in situations like these, the child perceives the

emotional burdens of the mother and then considers himself/herself responsible for keeping the mother happy. So, in an attempt to make the mother happy, she or he never expresses real emotions. All the time, when there is sadness, some other made-up feelings are being expressed. This later creates problems in interactions with others. Someone who is never trained to express anger or sadness will go deep into depression

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The Vision : To illuminate God’s Holy Word through Spirit-filled insightful pen.

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**Theme for April
Communication and Relationship**

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“Let no Christian parents fall into the delusion that Sunday School is intended to ease them of their personal duties. The first and most natural condition of things is for Christian parents to train up their own children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

-Charles H. Spurgeon

FROM THE
editor

RE-THINKING CHRISTIAN PARENTING OF ALPHA GENS.

Every generation of parents faces new challenges with the changing situations of life. The past few decades, after the sixties, have witnessed unprecedented and rapid changes catalysed by major philosophical shifts and technological advancements. The X, Y and Z generations born during the decades entered a world shaped by sexual revolution and post-modern thinking that challenged norms, values and authority. One significant change was that organised religions gave way to personal spirituality. All these changes led to the rise of the modern self over the essence. Thus, ‘feel-good’ took precedence over who they were. Prolific scientific inventions in every field, supported by technological advancement and easy accessibility, have joined forces with other changes, contributing to the triumph and independence of the self. The church, which served as the foundation of faith and ethical and moral compass, relegated as a deterrent against these changes. These tidal waves mainly affected the free-church types. Popular preachers and influential leaders shaped their theological outlook rather than well-articulated doctrinal and theological foundations.

Parenting and grandparenting are crucial in reclaiming a generation from drifting to the ultimate freedom of the self largely shaped by electronic gadgets, media, social institutions, and their peers. Generation Alpha (those born after 2010) is predicted to attain financial freedom and all the comforts of life. At the same time, social, relational, and psychological malfunctions among them are soaring. Atheistic influencers like Prof. Harare predict that the human species is becoming the most dispensable ones on the planet as AI technology is dominating all walks of life. Faithful parents and those with parental responsibility can turn the tide if they rethink how they raise the new generation. A serious consideration of the biblical mandate in Proverbs



Parenting and grandparenting are crucial in reclaiming a generation from drifting to the ultimate freedom of the self largely shaped by electronic gadgets, media, social institutions and their peers."

22:6, “train up a child the way he should go”, can make a profound difference in parenting and raising a faithful and robust generation.

- Train them through intentional, rigorous involvement with children from a young age and instil scriptural values. In families where both parents are working, this can be challenging. Still, it is crucial to find ways for parents to intentionally direct their growth and pay careful attention to their spiritual milestones to mitigate the influence of the philosophy of freedom and the triumphant self. Sadly, many new parents join the bandwagon of ‘freedom’ and let children grow despite the lack of freedom they experienced. It will be too late before they realise its vicious outcome in permitting children to gain unrestricted access to technology and the web world.
- Train them up through role modelling. Social and spiritual learning takes place in the environment. Parents are responsible for creating a home filled with love (for each other, for God, and for others) and discipline that models excellent biblical values. Children must grow up watching responsible fathers who love and serve the Lord and caring and sincere mothers.
- Finally, the Body of Christ has a responsibility to train them in the rich spiritual resources and tradition of Christian history, involve them in worship, prayer, and Bible study, and help them encounter the power of the Spirit, which will protect them from the cultural, philosophical, and spiritual strongholds in the societies they grow up in.

THE POWER OF PRESENCE



One of our most significant responsibilities in this life is parenthood. Not just parenting biological children but also the overarching responsibility to future generations of Christ followers. It is no small task, particularly in a world forever damaged by the effects of the fall. The words in Proverbs 22:6 remind us to “train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” We understand that training is necessary, explicitly training from a young age to ensure longevity. However, what does training entail? When we think of our loving Shepherd, who guides sheep with a rod and staff (Psalm 23:4), we understand that multiple factors are involved – protection from danger and guidance in the right direction. But when we pay attention to the preceding words, we see this: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” We have confidence in God’s omnipresence and how He stays close to us through every mountain and valley. For the rod and the staff to protect and guide, the shepherd must be in close proximity. This highlights for us a very crucial component of parenting well – presence. A rod and staff intended for training and guiding is futile at a distance.

One may posit that there are more hindrances to being present today than ever before. With distractions at our fingertips, evading mental and emotional presence becomes easier. Still, God models this presence in His closeness to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18). Our presence in the lives of future generations may make the difference between spiritual and emotional life and death. Unfortunately, physical presence does not automatically imply mental presence. The fruit of that presence will tell the real story – when children are engaged and connected in the presence of a parent or authority figure,

they are more likely to experience the trust and safety necessary for vulnerability on difficult days. When children are disengaged and disconnected from parents who are physically or emotionally absent, the lack of trust and safety in that relationship will significantly deter vulnerability when it matters most. Most of us are not intentionally neglecting wholehearted presence, and rather it is the seemingly urgent distractions of life that disengage us from what is most important.

There is power in presence. There is an opportunity to be genuinely heard, seen, and validated – core desires of human hearts. Research has affirmed my experience in the counselling profession that the core desire of a human is to be seen and felt in their time of struggle. Often, in our desire to rescue children from big feelings, we jump to consolation, resolution, and remedial efforts. Presence, being with them, involves much less striving. What would it look like to sit beside those hurting and weep with them? What would it look like to walk beside them on their journey simply for the assurance that you are beside them in their dark valley? This is what Jesus did. When Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35), it was an identification with the sadness of his sisters, an act of oneness and connection with their grief despite knowing full well Lazarus would shortly be raised from the dead. When the Psalmist mentions the dark valleys, the Lord is close, and His closeness is impactful. Notice the difference when we abandon other motives and sit beside individuals in their struggle. Notice the impact on a generation when we can be the presence of Christ, having benefitted from His presence within us.

“Often, in our desire to rescue children from big feelings, we jump to consolation, resolution, and remedial efforts. Presence, being with them, involves much less striving. What would it look like to sit beside those hurting and weep with them? What would it look like to walk beside them on their journey simply for the assurance that you are beside them in their dark valley? This is what Jesus did.”



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RAISING A GENERATION OF FAITH: THE SACRED CALL TO NURTURING GODLY HEARTS



"In a world where values seem to shift like sand and moral compasses often spin aimlessly, the call to nurture a godly generation echoes louder than ever. As custodians of faith and stewards of truth, we are sure to have a sacred responsibility to guide and shape the next generation's hearts according to the timeless wisdom found within the pages of Scripture."

Eli, the aging priest, rests in his usual place while Samuel, a young boy, sleeps nearby in the Lord's house. Despite Eli's failing eyesight, the lamp of God is still burning. Suddenly, Samuel hears a voice calling his name. Thinking it's Eli, Samuel rushes to him, offering his service. However, Eli denies calling Samuel and advises him to go back to sleep. This mysterious encounter repeated, drawing Samuel closer to the divine source each time. Finally, Eli recognized the voice as God's and gently guided Samuel to listen and respond. With a heart full of awe, the young boy whispered, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

This is the story of the ever-beloved prophet of God, Samuel, son of Elkanah and Hannah. Hannah was barren for many years and prayed fervently for a child, vowing to dedicate him to God's service if her wish was granted. Samuel's birth was seen as miraculous, further emphasizing his special connection to God. His dedication to the temple served as an example of piety and obedience. In a world where values seem to shift like sand and moral compasses often spin aimlessly, the call to nurture a godly generation echoes louder than ever. As custodians of faith and stewards of truth, we are sure to have a sacred responsibility to guide and shape the next generation's hearts according to the timeless wisdom found within the pages of Scripture. In Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." This verse encapsulates the essence of our duty - to instill the ideas of a

foundation built upon the solid rock of God's Word. Yet, nurturing a godly generation extends beyond mere instruction; it is a holistic endeavor encompassing every facet of life.

First and foremost, we must lead an exemplary life because our actions often speak louder than our words, and the consistency of what we preach and do must be maintained as our actions based on what we preach will truly leave an indelible mark on impressionable hearts. Whether in moments of triumph or adversity, our children observe how we respond to life's challenges, and it is through our unwavering faith and reliance on God they learn to navigate their journeys with courage and conviction.

Furthermore, nurturing a godly generation requires intentional discipleship within the home. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 instructs us, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children 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." Every interaction presents an opportunity to impart spiritual truths and cultivate a deep-seated reverence for God.

Moreover, we must create environments conducive to spiritual growth. Just as a seed requires fertile soil to flourish, our children need nurturing environments wherein they can thrive spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. This may involve fostering a culture of prayer, worship, and fellowship within the home and actively

participating in congregational life alongside other believers. In addition to our roles as parents and guardians, we must also recognize the influence of broader societal structures in shaping the values and beliefs of our children. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be salt and light in a world shrouded in darkness (Matthew 5:13-16). By actively engaging with our communities and advocating for justice, compassion, and righteousness, we not only model godly principles to the next generation but also contribute to the transformation of society at large.



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GROWING UP A GODLY GENERATION



SHARING 'GOD MOMENTS' AT ANY TIME IS A POWERFUL TEACHING OPPORTUNITY. IT ALLOWS PARENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE REALITY OF THEIR FAITH IN A LIVING GOD WHO ACTIVELY ENGAGES WITH HIS PEOPLE.

"...When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8). In my ministry life, the biggest challenge I hear from my friends is raising a generation rooted in faith. The situation was similar or even worse when the Israelites were in Egyptian bondage. There was no ruler, no preacher, no teacher. But, in those days, "a man of the house of Levi" (Exodus 2:1) had experienced God-moments. Moses - the Israelite's leader; Miriam - the prophetess; and Aaron- the High Priest, were born from his lineage. The story of the Israelites and their deliverance from Egyptian bondage holds several lessons for today's Families.

TRUST IN GOD'S DELIVERANCE:

The Israel families waited for God even when they were suffering. Almost four centuries have passed since God promised Abraham. Amram and his family never lost hope, even when they had to keep Moses out of their house. Along with Amram's family, Some other families might have been waiting for God and trusting His promise to their father Abraham. In His time, God intervened to rescue the Israelites from slavery. God will indeed intervene when our family is facing a difficult circumstance. Trusting in God's faithfulness can provide strength and perseverance during challenging times.

But it asks for three significant practices in our lives.

1. Unity in Adversity: The Israelites faced numerous trials during their bondage and throughout their journey after the deliverance, but they remained united as a community. Family should learn from their example by supporting one another and staying connected, especially during hardship.

2. Put God first above all else: As we read in Deuteronomy 6:5, Moses says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children." (NKJV). The passage underscores the importance of genuine and wholehearted love for God as the foundation for passing down faith to the next generation. When parents authentically love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, this love naturally permeates every aspect of their lives, including their relationships with their children.

3. Remembering God's Faithfulness: Throughout their journey, God instructed the Israelites to remember His faithfulness and the miracles He performed. The prayers of Old Testament believers could be a model for us in cultivating a culture of gratitude and remembrance, acknowledging God's past faithfulness and trusting Him for the future. Our Children can find comfort in knowing that God can work miracles in their lives and provide for their needs, even in seemingly impossible situations.

Remembering God's moments in our day-to-day life is not easy. We tend to take it for granted. I do not say we are becoming ungrateful in God's sight or not thanking God in our personal time. But testifying His deeds to the next generation is essential. David says, "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent." (Psalm 30:11-12). In another instance, the psalmist declares, 'I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of Jehovah' (Psalm 118:17).

Teaching the generations what God has done in one's life is a divine commandment. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV) says: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, walk along the road, lie down, and get up." In the context of the Israelites, the instruction of God emphasises teaching future generations about God's actions, laws, and covenant with His people. In Deuteronomy 4:9 (NIV), Moses tells the Israelites: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and their children after them." Remember, it is a commandment from God that you should follow.

In my family, I practice a brilliant mechanism to convey the 'God-moments'. God - moments are the moments we experience God's presence, guidance and provision in our day-to-day lives. Every evening, my family and I gather for our family prayer. We sing a song and meditate on a chapter from the Bible. After reading, we share what we learnt or felt from the chapter. For example, if the chapter deals with sexual immorality, we discuss it openly, and sometimes, my boys would ask questions in terms of different aspects dealt with in the portion. This allowed me to discuss my understanding, experiences, and moments with God with my children. Let me summarise: sharing 'God-moments' at any possible time is a powerful teaching opportunity, allowing parents to demonstrate the reality of their faith in a living God who actively engages with His people.



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RAISING A GODLY GENERATION: A SACRED RESPONSIBILITY

Christianity is not merely a set of beliefs, a creed to live by, or a sacramental fellowship; rather it is a reconciled relationship. Christian faith is grounded on the assurance that the eternal God, who revealed Himself to people, has a purpose to accomplish through the chosen race.

Each person in this world is a valuable and unique creation of God. Genealogies recorded in the Bible indicate that people are essential to God. “The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time” (Gen. 6:5). “Another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel. In those days Israel had no King, and everyone did as they saw fit” (Numb. 21:25). God raised individuals like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and other leaders who had impacted well through their obedience to Him in different generations.

The book of Proverbs covers several topics, including youth and discipline as part of the family. “Train children in the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray” (Prov. 22:6). This is against the teaching that children should be raised according to their natural tendencies. We are to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. God told Moses that He wanted the people to incline their hearts to fear, honor, and love Him. God emphasized the importance of teaching the Word to their children (Deut. 6:4-9).

Eternal truths are most effectively learned in the loving environment of a God-fearing Christ-centered home. We live in a multi-religious and cultural context where many seek truth and peace. A daily Bible reading plan and disciplined family prayer with effective church involvement bring holistic growth. They learn to have a deep relationship with God and prioritize character formation, where Godly parenting becomes a sacred responsibility.

Children's ministry is central to the mission of churches everywhere. Age-segregated services are recognized as a shortcut to solve the issue that children should be given prominence in congregations. Rather than children being considered only as the future of the church, it is essential to embrace the emerging generation with age-integrated services to promote holistic

growth. Joshua 24:15 gives a model of godly living; “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

However, God's grace is the foundation for a disciplined, godly life, which brings salvation and trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions. It disciplines us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for the blessed hope, the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-12).

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FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done” (Psalms 78:4, NLT).

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible portrays a God concerned about not only one generation but all generations. God created Adam and Eve with a desire to have an eternal relationship with them. He created them for His pleasure (Rev. 4:11) and made them in His image (Gen. 1:28) so that they can love Him and have fellowship with Him. He commanded them to procreate and fill the earth to have godly generations wholly committed to God and fulfil His purposes. Even when man failed and got diverted from God’s expectations, He did not discard His treasured creation. Instead, He loved them so dearly and provided a way to re-establish the broken relationship through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16). From Adam, God preserved a few in each generation who truly heeded His calling.

Through Abraham’s faith and obedience to God’s call, the everlasting covenant promises are given not to him alone but to his descendants and the whole nations on earth through his offspring (Gen. 1-3). The ultimate fulfilment of the Abrahamic covenant and blessings comes in Jesus Christ, his true “offspring” (Gal. 3:16). According to God’s promise, those who belong to Christ are now considered Abraham’s descendants and spiritual heirs (Gal. 3:29). Thus, God’s purposes, promises, and blessings are not only limited to one generation but are also for people of all generations. We learn about God, His nature, character, works, and ‘how we relate to Him’ through the Scripture. The Word of God reveals God’s intervention in human history and how he provides, protects, redeems, transforms, guides, empowers, and gives us hope and purpose. It becomes the responsibility of each generation to understand and obey God’s will and diligently teach their children about the divine revelation they received and experienced through Scripture and their lives.

It is a sobering fact that the faith of one generation does not habitually ensure the next generation’s faith. In his farewell speech, Moses reiterated the God-given commandments to the people of Israel

who were about to enter the promised land. He urged them to keep the commandments at the core of their beings and diligently imprint them in the hearts of the children of every generation because their lives depended on obedience to the Commandments (Deut. 6:6-7). Until Joshua’s generation, they knew, loved, and followed God (Josh. 24:31). But the next generation did not understand the Lord and followed other gods (Jud. 2:10-12). The pattern is noteworthy. A society quickly declines when one generation fails to instil God’s laws in the next. We have a responsibility towards our children and an assignment from God to impart His values and truths into their lives.

Teaching children about God begins at home. Parents must make a painstaking effort to walk in God’s ways and exemplify obedience to God’s Words. We must be ready to share our faith with our children anytime. Every part of life is an opportunity to teach the children about God. Mere teaching of ethical values will not suffice. Instead, we must cultivate in children the desire to find their hope in Jesus. Teaching them the truth of the Scripture makes them wise for salvation (2 Tim. 3:15). With proper discipline and love, we can guide them to truth, but God makes their faith grow. Therefore, we must continuously pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The Bible says, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it” (Pro. 22:6). The value of the teaching and training invested by parents in the short span of their lives has an eternal effect on their children’s lives. Investment is essential, and the results are worth the effort!

“The value of the teaching and training invested by parents in the short span of their lives has an eternal effect on their children’s lives. Investment is essential, and the results are worth the effort!”



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Queen Athaliah: An Example of Ungodly Leadership and Parenting

“In order to raise godly leaders, both parents need to be equally involved, on the same page, willing to discipline, and ready to intervene and intercede for their children. It also requires parents to be the best possible version of themselves so that their faith, thoughts, speech, and actions serve as examples of godliness and holiness for their children.”

Athaliah was not your typical woman. For that matter, she was not your typical wife, mother, grandmother, or queen. She had only one agenda: to be the Queen of Judah in her quest for the throne; she was willing to take down whoever stood in her path. While her single-minded focus is admirable, her actions, parenting, and the example she sets for her children are deplorable. However, considering Athaliah's lineage, this is not surprising. She did not have the best example in her grandfather, King Omri of Israel or from her parents, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, and her actions and behaviour prove the generational impact of bad parenting.

As powerful, ambitious mothers, Jezebel and Athaliah could have raised the next generation of godly leaders. But that was not the case. Jezebel's impact as a mother is seen in Athaliah and Athaliah's in her son Ahaziah. When Ahaziah was king, Athaliah “encouraged him to act wickedly” (2 Chronicles 22:3). Sadly enough, instead of being recognized as matriarchal powerhouses, both Jezebel and

Athaliah serve as a stark reminder of what not to do in raising children who will one day become world changers and leaders. By the same token, their lives also show us the immense responsibility God has placed on parents to shape the next generation into godly leaders. For that reason, their stories are worth dwelling on and learning from. Their stories teach us to:

- Embrace our role. As parents, it is our responsibility to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6).
- Pray constantly over our children, over their past, present, and future. Pray that they become a blessing to others and that the people in their lives become a blessing to them.
- Teach our children the word of God. Model for them how to dwell on the word of God and use it to guide their actions
- Equip our children with God's word so that the Holy Spirit can help them discern between good and evil.
- Speak God's word and promises intentionally over our children's lives so that it serves as a constant reminder of their divine purpose
- Show our children how to aspire to their goals without compromising their faith, ideals, and morals.
- Encourage our children to serve the Lord in whatever capacity they can. Whether that means serving their church or their community, developing an attitude of servitude from a young age is essential.

Athaliah's legacy was one of evil and destruction. Instead of raising a generation of godly leaders, she allowed her selfishness and worldly desires to mould her son into becoming a replica of his mother and grandmother. However, perhaps the far more concerning factor here is that, due to

her negligence as a mother, her husband did not step into his role to raise his children in a godly manner either. This is important to note because we live in a society where stereotypes still dictate parental roles, and raising children and shaping them into good, successful humans still falls heavily on the mother. However, to raise godly leaders, parents must be equally involved, on the same page, willing to discipline, and ready to intervene and intervene for their children. It also requires parents to be the best possible version of themselves so that their faith, thoughts, speech, and actions serve as examples of godliness and holiness for their children. Ultimately, in raising a generation of godly leaders, we must remember the words of Pastor Paul David Tripp: “Parenting is not first about what we want for our children or from our children, but about what God has planned to do through us in our children.”



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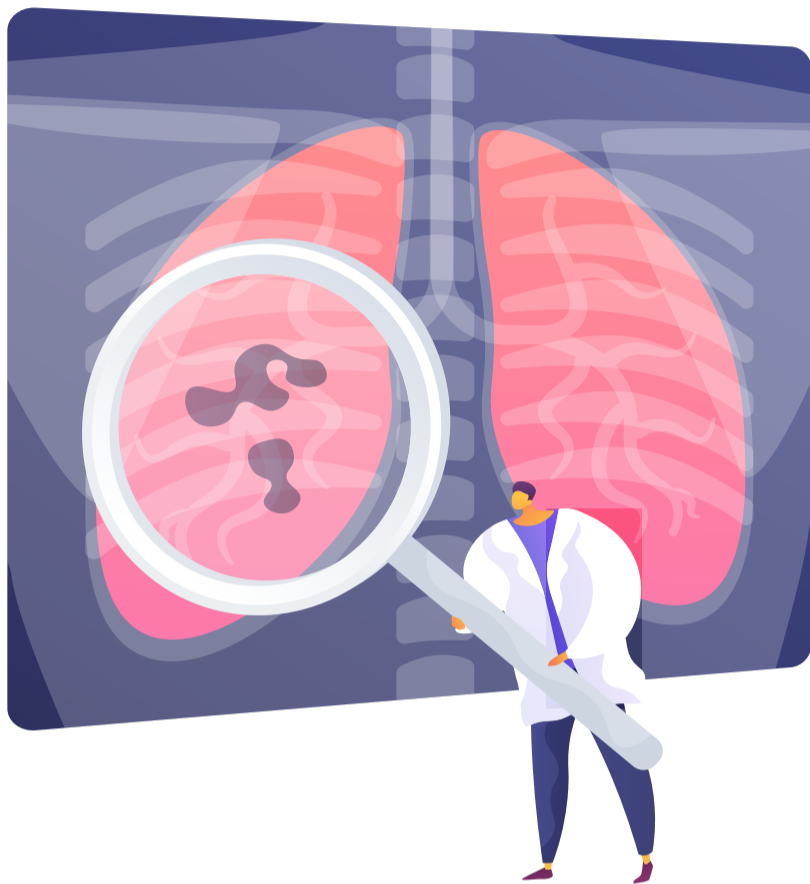
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"AS YOU TAKE GOD'S WORD AND APPLY ITS ETERNAL PRINCIPLES TO THE EVERYDAY ISSUES YOU FACE WITH YOUR FAMILY, YOU WILL BEGIN TO CREATE A GODLY HERITAGE - A LEGACY THAT WILL IMPACT THAT GENERATIONS TO COME IN WAYS YOU NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE."

-KEN HAM



LUNG CANCER



Lung cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide, with an estimated 1.8 million deaths in the year 2020 (WHO, 2023). It is often diagnosed at advanced stages when treatment options are limited.

Types: Lung cancer is generally divided into Non-small cell lung cancer and Small cell lung cancer.

Non-small cell lung cancers are divided into three types: Non-small cell lung cancer accounts for 85% of all lung cancer. The five-year survival rate for localized cancer is 61%, but for the distant stage, it is 6%.

- Adenocarcinoma is the most common form and begins in the outer regions of the lungs. It is typically slow-growing. It can be seen both in smokers and non-smokers.
- Squamous cell carcinoma tends to cause early symptoms and usually begins in the bronchial tubes. It is typically slow-growing. It is most common in smokers. Accounts for approximately 25% of lung cancers.
- Large cell carcinoma tends to increase and cause late symptoms. It usually begins in the outer areas of the lungs. It accounts for about 10 % of non-small cell lung cancer.

Small cell lung cancer: It is fast-growing and is likely to metastasize or spread to other organs like the liver, brain, bones, and adrenal glands. The five-year survival rate if it is localized is 27%, and for the distant stage, it is 3%. It is further divided into two groups. It accounts for 15% of lung cancer and is centrally located.

- Limited stage: the tumour is generally found in one lung and the nearest lymph node on the same side of the chest.
- Extensive stage: the tumour has spread beyond the primary tumour to other areas of the lung or other parts of the body.

Risk factors: Tobacco smoking is the primary risk factor, but it can be found also in non-smokers. Other risk factors include exposure to second-hand smoke, occupational hazards (like asbestos, radon, and certain chemicals), air pollution, and personal or family history of lung cancer.

SYMPTOMS:

- Constant chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss
- Frequent lung infections
- Hoarseness in voice
- Coughing up blood

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS:

1. Chest x-ray to detect any mass in the lungs
2. CT chest for more detailed images
3. Positron Emission Tomography (PET scan): to evaluate the metabolic activity of the tissues and organs using a radioactive tracer.
4. Biopsy: needle biopsy, bronchoscopy, mediastinoscopy, or surgical lung biopsy.

Treatment: Treatment for lung cancer depends on the stage. It can be treated with surgery, radiation treatment, chemotherapy, or a combination of treatments.

- Surgery: Three different types of surgery are usually used.
 - » Wedge resection or segmentectomy: removal of a small part of the lung.
 - » Lobectomy: removal of an entire lobe of the lung.
 - » Pneumonectomy: removal of a whole lung.
- Radiation treatment: Two different types
 - » External beam radiation, which can be standard EBRT, SBRT
 - » Internal radiation or brachytherapy: Radioisotopes are swallowed, injected, or implanted directly into the tumor.
 - » Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapy: molecular testing is done to identify the gene mutations in cancer cells, and targeted therapy is offered based on the gene mutation.
- Immunotherapy stimulates the immune system to identify and destroy cancer cells.

Cancer may have the power to destroy our fleshly body but it has no control over our spiritual body when we are in Christ. 2 Corinthians 4: 16 Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly, we are being renewed daily. Let us praise God for His sovereignty!



Jebi Sam Dallas
Texas, USA

Jebi Sam, DNP, APRN, is a Family Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. She resides in Grand Prairie, Texas, with her husband and three beautiful daughters.



CALLED HIGHER

The Disney movie *Mulan* shows a scene where the soldiers are training for war. Their Captain has them running, shooting arrows, and learning how to be agile, and suddenly, they get down to the final test. There is a large wooden pole at the centre of the camp, quickly reaching 50 feet high, and the soldiers are told they need to climb up to the top of the beam. While not an easy task by any means, the soldiers seem confident enough, but before they can begin climbing, the Captain hands over two heavyweights they must carry as they climb. The ensuing scene is classically comical as soldier after soldier tries their best to reach their goal while being dragged down by the heavy medallions. The task, which seemed difficult at the beginning, now seemed impossible.

Sometimes, it feels like we have been in the same position in our Christian life. We are told that we must get through life and be successful, and we get ready to reach our goals, but then God comes around and straps the weights of His commands to us, and suddenly, it seems as if there is no way that we can win. After all, how do we compete against our peers in school when God calls us to be people of integrity and honesty so we can't cheat when everyone else does? How do we not get discouraged and weary when our friends go out and enjoy what life has to offer when God calls us to the consistent transforming of our minds?

One night, with no one else around her, *Mulan* approaches the beam and tries repeatedly to reach the top, but she fails every time. I'm sure all she thought was, "How can the Captain expect anyone to succeed with such a heavy addition to the task?" But then, just as dawn begins to break, we see a realization breakthrough. The weights, which she originally thought were there to make her task harder than



needed, could be used for her benefit. She loops the weights together and uses them to provide strength above her as she climbs. When morning arrives, and the soldiers climb out of their tents, they see her sitting triumphantly on the top of the beam.

Although it may seem at times that the rules God gives us are an extra burden, meant to weigh us down and make our life more complicated than it needs to be, we must remember that God's commands are meant for our good. When God gives His law and instruction to His people, it is not intended to be weary or burdensome but instead, allow us to walk in a way that reflects His goodness and character to the people around us.

1 John 5: 2-3 reads, "By this, we know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

When we struggle to follow God's commands, our prayer should echo what is found in Psalms 119:18: "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." We can have confidence because we know that our great Captain will never weigh us down for no reason. Instead, He is training us and calling us higher for our good and His glory.



When God gives His law and instruction to His people, it is not intended to be weary or burdensome but instead allow us to walk in a way that reflects His goodness and character to the people around us.



Priscilla Samuel
Dallas, Texas, USA

Priscilla Samuel is a youth director at IPC Tabernacle Church in Dallas, Texas. She is passionate about empowering and guiding young people on their spiritual journey. With a background in marketing, Priscilla seamlessly integrates her creative communication skills with her spiritual leadership; she organizes and leads various programs and events, fostering a sense of community and spiritual growth among the youth.

Continued from Page 01

COVER STORY

afterward. One of the results of single parenting is child-dominated parenting. The single parent gives in to all the temper tantrums, crying, and other pleas. Submissive parents surrender all rights to the demanding child. As a result, the child becomes demanding, impulsive, self centered, unwilling to work hard, feels unloved if not "obeyed," and overlooks the rights of others.

Single parenting affects children more adversely in their teenage years. Teenagers are people who have left the shore of childhood and have not reached the harbor of adulthood. So, they have so many fears and worries of their age. They become very emotional at this age due to the effect of the growth hormonal production. They bring a lot of frustration to a single parent

as they demand more respect and freedom. A single parent is very apprehensive because of the fear that the child may go beyond their control. During this turbulent period, the parent must take responsibility for meeting its own needs, as indicated by the feedback from their feelings.

There are single parents around us who struggle with the enormous challenge of being a good parent. They require special attention and care from the church and pastors as individuals. There must be emotional support from the elders and spiritual mentors provided to each single parent.

Parents must promote spirituality in their children to ensure they are aware of God in their lives, to whom they can turn over their

burdens that are out of their control to change or fix. Good parents clarify their values about what is essential in their lives. They choose the emotionally based values of relationships with self, others, and God as more important than relationships with things, money, and material possessions. They show their children by example the need for a relationship with God.



TikTok is closer to a ban in the US

A powerful House committee advanced a bill on Thursday that could lead to a nationwide ban against TikTok on all electronic devices, renewing lawmakers' challenge to one of the world's most popular social media apps and highlighting unresolved fears that TikTok may pose a Chinese government spying risk. The measure that sailed unanimously through the House Energy and Commerce Committee would prohibit TikTok from US app stores unless the social media platform — used by roughly 170 million Americans — is quickly spun off from its China-linked parent company, ByteDance. If enacted, the bill would give ByteDance 165 days or more than five months to sell TikTok. If not divested by that date, it would be illegal for app store operators such as Apple and Google to make it available for download. The bill also contemplates similar prohibitions for other apps "controlled by foreign adversary companies." The bill was introduced with some bipartisan support earlier this week by Wisconsin Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher, who chairs a House select committee on China, and the ranking member of that committee, Illinois Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi. The legislation also supports the White House and House Speaker Mike Johnson. Its fate is less evident in the Senate, where there is no companion bill and the Democratic chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell, has made no firm commitment to advance the proposal.

World News

Indonesian plane flies 28 minutes with both pilots asleep.

Indonesia is investigating local carrier Batik Air after both pilots were found to have fallen asleep for 28 minutes mid-flight. The two men - who have both been temporarily suspended - fell asleep during a flight on 25 January from Sulawesi to the capital Jakarta. One of them was reportedly tired from helping care for his newborn twins. The Airbus A320 briefly veered off course but landed safely, with all 153 passengers and crew members unharmed. The 32-year-old pilot had told his co-pilot to take control of the aircraft about half an hour after take-off, saying he needed to rest. The 28-year-old co-pilot agreed, according to a report from the transport ministry. But the co-pilot inadvertently fell asleep as well. The report said he had been helping his wife look after their one-month-old twin babies. Jakarta Air Traffic Control tried contacting the cockpit of the Batik Air A320 after their last recorded transmission but received no response. That radio silence lasted 28 minutes until the lead pilot woke up and realised that his co-pilot had fallen asleep. He also found that the aircraft had briefly veered off course. The pilots then responded to calls from Jakarta and landed the plane safely.



Byju's fighting to survive

Once India's leading privately-held company valued at \$22bn is now regarded by some as a cautionary tale for domestic start-ups, as investment company BlackRock recently slashed its valuation to \$1bn. On 23 February, a majority of shareholders in Byju's parent company Think & Learn (T&L) voted to remove Mr Raveendran

as CEO during an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), citing allegations of "mismanagement and failures." Mr Raveendran and his family deny the allegations, disputing the vote's validity and claiming it violated internal company laws requiring at least one founder-director present at the EGM. In a letter to employees the next day, Mr Raveendran called the meeting a "farce" and challenged it in court. The Karnataka High Court has temporarily halted the implementation of the resolutions passed in the EGM as it hears the case. The events were the latest in a growing mountain of legal and financial crises the tech firm has been battling in recent years. In the past year alone, Byju's has faced mounting debt, unhappy investors, lawsuits by lenders, an investigation by India's financial crimes agency, layoffs of thousands of employees, delayed salaries and a liquidity crisis. This month, Byju's told its employees their salaries would be delayed as it could not access funds raised during a rights issue. A month ago, the company said it had struggled to pay wages due to lack of money.

Indian Supreme Court orders SBI to disclose details of political donations

India's Supreme Court has ordered a government-run bank, SBI, to disclose details of a controversial scheme that allowed people and companies to donate anonymously to political parties. The State Bank of India asked for more time but must share data with election officials by the end of Tuesday. It will also have to publish the details on its website by Friday. The court struck down the scheme last month, calling it "unconstitutional". The ruling comes days ahead of an expected announcement setting the dates for the general election. It will be seen as a setback for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been the largest beneficiary of the system. His government had launched the electoral bonds scheme in 2018, saying it would make political funding more transparent. But critics say it did the opposite and made the process more opaque. Donors could buy the bonds in fixed denominations - 1,000-10 million rupees (about \$12-\$121,000) - from branches of the SBI and give them to political parties to be encashed.

In its February order, the Supreme Court had directed the SBI not to issue any more such bonds, to provide details of those who bought them, and to give information about bonds redeemed by each political party to the Election Commission by 6 March. The Supreme Court dismissed the petition of SBI seeking an extension until the 30th of June, two days before the deadline. It said it was putting the bank "on notice" that it might be seen as wilfully disobeying the court's order if it didn't comply with the timeline to share the information "by close of business" on 12 March 2024. Critics of the electoral bond scheme had challenged it in the Supreme Court, calling it a "distortion of democracy". The government had defended the policy, saying it was introduced to eliminate cash donations to political parties as much of India's elections are funded through private donations. The court, however, ruled that the scheme violated citizens' right to access information from the government.



India CAA Act becomes a reality

On Monday, the government issued a notification to implement the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act. The CAA - which makes religion, for the first time, a test of citizenship - was cleared by Parliament in December 2019 amid violent protests, in which over 100 people died, and fierce resistance from opposition politicians and non-BJP states. Now that the notification is issued, the government can grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants - from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan - who came to India before December 31, 2014. A spokesperson for the Union Home Ministry said eligible individuals could submit citizenship applications in "a completely online mode, for which a web portal has been provided". No other documentation will be sought from the applicants, one official said.

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Google employee charged with stealing trade secrets

A Google employee was charged with stealing artificial intelligence trade secrets from the tech giant while secretly working with two Chinese-based companies in the AI industry. Linwei Ding, who also goes by Leon Ding, is charged with four counts of theft of trade secrets. He faces up to 10 years in prison for each count if convicted. "The Justice Department will not tolerate the theft of artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies that could put our national security at risk," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement, adding that "we will fiercely protect sensitive technologies developed in America from falling into the hands of those who should not have them."

Ding, a 38-year-old Chinese national living in California, is accused of copying over 500 files with confidential information from Google into his own personal account over one year, beginning in 2022. The files included technology in the building blocks of Google's advanced supercomputing data centres, prosecutors say. Ding took steps to conceal his work while in China, prosecutors say, including by having another employee use his badge to access his office to look like he was in the United States.