

EMPOWERED TO MAKE RIGHT DECISIONS

TEXT: (Proverbs 23:19-21, TPB)

¹⁹ As you listen to me, my beloved child, you will grow in wisdom and your heart will be drawn into understanding, which will empower you to make right decisions. ²⁰ Don't live in the excesses of drunkenness or gluttony, or waste your life away by partying all the time, ²¹ because drunkards and gluttons sleep their lives away and end up broke!

INTRODUCTION

1. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11, KJV).

I. EMPOWERING YOUR CHILDREN

1. "As you listen to me, my beloved child, you will grow in wisdom and your heart will be drawn into understanding, which will empower you to make right decisions" (Proverbs 23:19, TPB).

A. Modeling Godliness

1. "In the same way, let your light shine before [your children], that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NIV).
2. "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1, NIV).
3. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27, KJV).
4. "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27, NIV).

B. Teach

1. "I'm reminded of how sincere your faith is. That faith first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I'm convinced that it also lives in you" (II Timothy 1:5, GW).
2. "The LORD made an agreement with Jacob and gave the teachings to Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children. Then their children would know them, even their children not yet born. And they would tell their children. So they would all trust God and would not forget what he had done but would obey his commands" (Psalm 78:5-7, NCV).
3. "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:5-7, NLT).

C. Train

1. "Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way that they should go, and the values they've learned from you will be with them for life" (Proverbs 22:6, TPB).
2. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV).
3. "Even children are known by the way they act, whether their conduct is pure, and whether it is right" (Proverbs 20:11, NLT).
4. "Do not hesitate to discipline a child. If you spank him, he will not die. Spank him yourself, and you will save his soul from hell" (Proverbs 23:13-14, GW).

II. RESIST PEER PRESSURE

1. "Everyone is tempted by his own desires as they lure him away and trap him. Then desire becomes pregnant and gives birth to sin. When sin grows up, it gives birth to death" (James 1:14-15, GW).
2. "Don't live in the excesses of drunkenness [or smoking pot or taking drugs] or gluttony, or waste your life away by partying all the time" (Proverbs 23:20, TPB).

A. The Origin of Sin

1. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it" (Jeremiah 17:9, NIV)?

B. Don't Blame God

1. "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed" (James 1:13-14, NIV).
2. "Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?' (Genesis 4:6, NIV).
3. "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it" (Genesis 4:7, NIV).

III. SOMETHING WORSE THAN BROKE

1. "Don't live in the excesses of drunkenness or gluttony, or waste your life away by partying all the time, because drunkards and gluttons sleep their lives away and end up broke!" (Proverbs 23:20-21, TPB).
2. "But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17, NIV).
3. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22, KJV).

A. The Death of Righteousness

1. "Now Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let's go out to the field.' And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him" (Genesis 4:8, NIV).
2. "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them" (Romans 1:32, NIV).

C. Eternal Death

1. "Where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched'" (Mark 9:48, NIV).
2. "Where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:51, NIV).
3. "My punishment is more than I can bear" (Genesis 4:13, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

1. "If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell" (Matthew 18:8-9, NIV).