

## **Parents are you building a Fire Resistance Body?**

Issue date: 25 Aug 2007

The night was quiet, but there was a glow in the distance. As you get closer you notice that this glow was from a fire. Perhaps it was a straw-stack? As you arrive to help, you see that it was a thatched cottage being gutted with fire and the whole family was standing outside looking at their worldly possessions being destroyed, and there was nothing that they could do! Everything that they had was gone forever! Fire destroys completely.

Imagine what it is like when everything that you had worked for in life had gone up in smoke. However it is far worse to see a former Christian turn away from The Truth, especially if it is one of your children! It is possible to see this within the ideal family; and then one day it breaks up! Those parents will always ask themselves, with sadness:-  
'What did I do wrong'?

What can parents do?  
Normally it is too late to do anything now!  
What should have happened?

It is reliant upon the children to decide what they do with their lives and how impacts with those around, but it is even much more incumbent on the parents to build this fire resistant material to withstand the pressures generated by this world in the early days of their youth – starting even before they were toddlers (by your own words and works)!

1Cor. 3v10-13 According to the commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid the foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid; which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

Build a good foundation. Put into practice what they learn from The Bible.  
We must be like a soldier, the endless practice on the assault course or 'square bashing' so that we and they are ready for the battle ground.  
Jesus Christ's ministry, demonstrated by his lifestyle is this solid foundation upon which to base our own lives; this like the above example enables us to face the battles in our future life.

How do we do this?  
We must talk to fellow Christians about (and show) the wonderful qualities of Jesus. These would be the things that he has done and shown to us. It is this bonding principled love that a True Friend can bring.  
We could use the wrong materials, we could use gold, silver and precious stones or we could use wood, hay and stubble.

How does Paul compare the two?  
He says: "That fire will show 'The Truth'."  
A thatched cottage is a death trap, it goes up so quickly and just leaves the four walls.  
Is this what the sort of material we want to use to protect our children?

What does gold, silver and precious stones represent?  
Psalm 19v7-11 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean. enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Hence it is The Knowledge of Yahweh God (being what His Desire is of us) that is worth more than gold.

Prov. 2v1-6 My son, if you received my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

A fine quality of Godly wisdom being The Knowledge being accurately applied within our lives. This will generate strong faith and loyalty (strange, because in this world, loyalty is a quality that is thrown out of the window during our present days – basically we see to get on in this present world, we should climb over the backs of others).

What does this fire represent?

This “fire” means anything that this world can throw at us, True Christians, to destroy our faith/fidelity/assurance in The Truth. It could just be that slow creeping fire, but also it could be fast moving fire blast, or a fire storm.

It takes on the following guises:

It can start while you are young.

Examples would be, Alcohol, drugs, immorality, greed, or just those nasty video games (one can become drugged on them - the mind becomes completely wrapped up on them, one becomes just like a zombie). Peer pressure suggesting that it is all right, no-problem, entertainment and sexually orientated, suggestive songs are not good – because it sets an ‘acceptable’ standard, being that ‘everyone does it’ thus it must be acceptable.

When you go to work.

Examples would be, more peer pressure. Materialism, the television is always saying that you must have it (else you are ‘missing something’ that you ‘should have’)! The children see these adverts and are tempted, they then try everything within their power to force the parent to change their mind. But if the parent relents, then a day or two after the child has got it, the much 'wanted' toy is now discarded and a new toy is wanted. Unfortunately some parents are like this and just succumb because in the short term it is easier – but in the long term they are destroying their children, feeding their self-centred nature.

Are you going to make a palace of gold and silver or a thatched house that will burn up so quickly?

Clearly the parents must lead by example.

Children are so honest when it comes to copying their parents. They will always repeat what they see!

Deut. 6v4-6 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart.

Clearly this should be ingrained into our very being.

Deut. 6v7-8 And 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. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes

This text tells us that we must keep God's Word and His commandments at the forefront of our mind, and instruct our children accordingly.

Unfortunately, many parents say:

‘Do not do as I do, but do as I say!’

Children are very intelligent and can quickly pick up what parents are doing and what they are saying - and when tested in their minds any differences will be found wanting! The children will then act out what they see rather than what they are told!

Children should be taught to pray. What should be said and how it should be structured.

Do our prayers show deep love and affection to The Almighty God – Yahweh/Jehovah?

Teach our children wisdom.

We must not just say to children:

'Do not do that!'

And then give no explanation.

But rather, we must explain why you cannot do it - otherwise it is almost an open invitation to go out and do it!

An example would be high voltage wires.

Just saying: ‘Do not touch it’, is no good.

But saying: ‘That it is very high voltage and if you touch them then you will be electrocuted to death and be badly burnt, possibly like a cinder.’

When this is said, be prepared for funny answers to come back. And in this manner you are able to find out how they feel about it and thus direct them through this two-way communication.

Always discipline your children.

Always try first to “second guess” what may be in their mind and give them a warning first before any incident arises.

The child has now been forewarned. Then if they cross that line which they shall surely do then rebuke them firmly.

Make sure that they know that when you say:

“Stop it! - Then they do - stop! Because this may be leading to a life/death situation that you as a parent can foresee – but the child cannot.

If they do not, they must know that you will keep your word and give them a smack when you get back home - if they do not stop.

However you must keep a strong grip on your responses. Never smack in uncontrolled anger - always wait until you know that you can control yourself and that the child fully understands precisely why it is occurring.

In their planning, give them guidance to how they should approach and tackle a problem. This is the guidance that they need to learn for their adulthood. Ask them what they learned in the morning, show interest. If you believe that they have not been listening - you may be in for a shock, because ask them to do a drawing and suddenly you will see that it was about the subject talked about. Clearly information is going into their minds!

However it is such a reward after so many years of hard work by the parents to see the fruits of success. It is wonderful that these correctly brought up children bring blessings to their parents in later years.

1Cor3v14-15 If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

To loose someone in The Truth is like a person passing through fire. Satan will put this fire around us and it is wonderful to see that person still standing there resisting it because of their impenetrable fire resistant material.