

PREFACE

“Today, many children are rude and disrespectful to their parents. And their parents are likely to be liberal. Many times, I have seen children throwing tantrums in shopping malls. When a parent did not want to buy the child a toy, he would sit on the floor, kick his legs and cry. And to my shock, the parent would actually give in so easily to the child and buy him what he wanted. I have also witnessed children answering back and staring angrily at their parents and some would even punch and kick their parents when their parents scolded them. Sadly, their parents let them off so easily and such expressions of defiance and rebellion are never thoroughly dealt with.

As a mother, I too had many fights with Carmen especially when she was approaching her teen years. I was told by some parents who had older teens that the worse had yet to come. Prior to our coming under pastor’s ministry, I was losing my control over Carmen. She was growing older and I could no longer use the cane on her. Whenever I scolded her, she would answer back. Once I flicked my finger hard on her cheek and I told her that was for answering back. Shortly after coming under pastor’s ministry, I had another battle with her. The battle was different this round. It was a battle for her soul and not a battle to save my face and pride as a mother. I have heard pastor’s preaching and I was very burdened for Carmen’s soul, seeing that rebellion was very strong in her. On that afternoon, I was in the midst of cooking in the kitchen. I came out to check on her and scolded her for something she had done wrong. She continued watching television and ignored me. Then I instructed her to switch off the television which she reluctantly did and I continued to scold her. She started to stare daggers at me and when I raised my voice, she covered her ears with both her hands and turned her face away from me! I could see from her countenance that she was very angry with me and that caused me to be more burdened for her soul. I continued to scold her and she walked away from me and went into her room! I followed her and stood outside her room and lectured her for one whole hour while she sat on her bed. I told her that I had to do that for the sake of her soul. I told her it was not so much that I feared her disrespect towards me that I had to win that battle. I told her that if it was not for the sake of her soul, I would have preferred to keep quiet to maintain the peace between us and to avoid straining our relationship. I also told her that as her mother, I would not let her off as her sins would remain in her heart and she would end up in hell. I reminded her of pastor’s preaching. I told her that her disobedience and rebellion were sins against God and not so much against me that I was more concerned about. I reasoned with her and asked her why I had to stop all my kitchen work while there were many other household chores waiting to be done or why I would not spend the time sitting down to enjoy a book but instead I was scolding her till my throat hurt and till my voice became hoarse. I told her it was because I loved her soul. It took me one hour to rebuke and reason with her until her countenance softened and the spirit of rebellion in her subdued. It was not until her countenance softened that I knew I could safely stop scolding her. It was then that I understood experimentally and witnessed the effects of what thorough dealing is like as though it was an exhausting and heart-aching experience that I had ever experienced in parenting. I thank God for pastor’s preaching and counsels given to us parents that assured me that I was doing the right thing.

During that incident, I knew she could have resisted me and would even decide to follow her father to the False Prophet church and stopped following me. But I was so convicted by pastor’s preaching and on how we must deal thoroughly with our children’s sins that I could not let go such an opportunity to deal with her thoroughly lest her soul be destroyed. I thank God that He granted Carmen the grace to receive it. To my surprise, she has even forgotten the whole episode which to me is an unforgettable incident in my parenting experience.

Pastor showed us from Proverbs 29:15 and I Timothy 2:15 that it is particularly the mother’s responsibility to bring up children in the fear of the Lord. Before that, I used to think that the father is the disciplinarian but Scriptures proves otherwise. Now I see how important a mother’s role is. We have so great a responsibility over the souls of our children. The eternal destiny of their souls is in our hands. This is very solemnizing. Yet at the same time, we have to remember that it is still up to the sovereignty of God to grant our children His saving grace. I am praying and fighting for Carmen’s soul every day at the throne of grace though she is already delivered from the false church and is, by the grace of God, growing spiritually under the ministry of pastor. The battle is

not yet over and it is my responsibility as a mother to continue to pray for her preservation and salvation. I thank pastor for his burden and love for all our children. Pastor is more burdened for our children's souls than we as parents. I pray that God will grant us the full conviction, the burden and love for our children's souls that we may take heed to all that pastor has preached to us even in his sermon 'Parenting And Nurture'." Part 2 of Olive Pee's Sabbath vespers in response to presiding pastor's message on Parenting And Nurture, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5 July AD 2009