

Philippians 4:4-9

Part 5 - Passing the Baton

In Philippians 4:6-9, the apostle Paul writes to encourage the saints who happen to be struggling with several issues. Some of them had already walked away from the faith. How can we prevent our children and others walking away from the faith?

1. PURSUE FAITH INTENTIONALLY

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' (Luke 14: 28-30).

We get very intentional about the *intellectual, physical, social* development of our children, we need to be equally as diligent in their *spiritual* development. We must continue to call them back to Christ, against the opposing current of our culture.

...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (Philippians 4:8).

2. PRACTICE EXPERIENTIAL DISCIPLESHIP

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:9).

What's the point in teaching our kids about faith if we never give them a chance to practice it?

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

The emphasis here is that we should help children apply biblical teaching to everyday experiences.

3. PARTNER WITH COMPANIONS

To pass the baton of faith we must equip our children to build positive relationships.

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown (Philippians 4:1)

Finally, brothers (Philippians 4:8)

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. (Proverbs. 27: 9).

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme (1Timothy 1: 18-20).

4. PRAY FOR CONVERSION

Ultimately, we need God to do what we can't do; to bring people to a sound conversion.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:6).

WHAT NOW?

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy, Spirit" (Matthew 28:19)