

Donna's Devotional

A Father's Encouragement

Fathers provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

--Colossians 4:21

We often talk about the role of the godly father in training his children. I have been very interested in the impact of both mothers and fathers upon their children. In a research internship, which I served at the University of Arizona, I performed statistical analysis (regression analysis) of data on the families of 90,000 adolescents. I looked for a correlation between teens that got in trouble at school and the relationship they had with their parents. I was amazed to find the strongest influence upon teenage girls was the time fathers took to talk to their daughters.

I realize that the Scripture is clear that both fathers and mothers are to teach their children the Word of God, train them in righteous living, and guide them in wisdom and instruction. The Bible is clear about the necessity for discipline. All this is critical, but so is encouragement.

Often we have such a desire for our children to do right that we overlook their need to be encouraged. We are quick to tell them when they fall short, but are we equally as swift to encourage them in well doing.

Watch your child's or grandchild's face light up when they know you are pleased with what they have done. Better yet, that you are pleased with who they are.