

***Deuteronomy 6:4-12***

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

**God's Word**

In Bible times, ages before the industrial revolution, the tools of trade and the weapons of war had one thing in common; they all operated with the power and/or guidance of human hands. Efficiency was directly related to personal skill and the keenness of the instruments. Every family had first hand knowledge of the use of the sharpening stone, or "whetstone." The hours spent in repeatedly honing tools or weapons to a fine edge always "paid off" as work or wars were entered upon.

As Moses gave instruction to Israel regarding the character of the family blessed of God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), he made reference to this very process of repeated sharpening for precision: "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."

Although missed in the English translation, the Hebrew word translated "impress" or teach is "Shanan," the word for setting or sharpening. With this word, God emphasized the process and passion involved in teaching His truth in the home. The process was understood as a need for repeated discussion (talk), in which God's Truth, having first been internalized in parents hearts with fondness, would be related to every aspect of family life (when you sit...walk...lie down...get up). The passion was understood with the sense of urgency suggested by this word, an urgency evident in the importance of sharpening the weapons because the enemy was just over the hill.

The great failure of today's families is the delegation of teaching which formulates our children's values, choices, purposes, and aspirations, to institutions and influences outside the home. In the chapter entitled "The High Call of Parenting," Bill Hybels' book "Honest to God" states: "In the 1940's, the top offenses committed by public school students were talking, chewing gum, making noises, running in the halls... In 1982, the top offenses had changed. They had become rape, robbery, assault, burglary, arson... A million hours of television have made kids talk like valley girls, dress like rock stars, and think like game show contestants."

God has never delegated the responsibility of teaching life values to the government, nor the public school, nor the church school, and certainly not the media. He places the responsibility squarely on the parents: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6 NIV), "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6 NIV). God's Word is described as a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12), and is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV). How keenly honed is His Sword in your home?

***What is my response:***

---

---

---

---