

Nurturing A Sincere Faith (Parenting) Kathleen Cantwell

FEAR – Parenting out of Fear prevents Freedom in relationships

FAITH – As we mature in faith, perspective and understanding of God, God empowers us to engage in the relationships that He has entrusted us with.

FREEDOM – With proper perspective on nurturing a sincere faith in our kids, we are free to to enjoy the relationship and fan into flame what God has begun.

II Timothy 1 - Sincere Faith:

Sincere-genuine, legitimate, without hypocrisy

HEART (developing, nurturing training the Heart as develop faith)

Paul saw Timothy's genuine faith which would eventually produce Righteous behavior

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **Love the Lord your God** with all **your heart** and with all your soul and with all your strength. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."* Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Opposite:

Hypocrisy – the acting of a stage player (behavior modification)

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."
Matthew 23:27-28

At the end of the day, what we want for our kids is a sincere faith in which they love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

Sin is loving something (primarily self) more than God. Sin is competing affection for Jesus.

Through II Timothy God reveals:

- A. Faith in our children is God's gift
- B. Godly Heritage matters – Be invested, involved, intentional
- C. Fan the Flame/Don't quench the spark

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation."
Psalm 71:18

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