

It's Never Too Late

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires... **2 Timothy 4:3 (NLT)**

What Happened?

Root Cause #1: We have <u>outsourced</u> the responsibility of passing on our faith.

Root Cause #2: We have become **Bible** benders.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)**

Two key truths from God:

- A. It is never too late.
- B. I am still the best hope for my child.

GOD'S PATHWAY TO RECLAIMING MY LOST

Step #1: It begins when I offer <u>ALL</u> of my <u>heart</u> and <u>life</u> to the Lord.

...You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. **Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NLT)**

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)**

Step #2: I must turn my heart toward my children.

John the Baptist... "And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly." Luke 1:16-17 (NLT)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36 (NLT)

Step 3: I must fight to draw my child's heart to mine.

The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure to have children who are wise. So give your father and mother joy! May she who gave you birth be happy. O my son, give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways. Proverbs 23:24-26 (NLT)

The Key is to Repair a broken foundation...

- A. Ask forgiveness by apologizing biblically.
 - 1. Clearly state what you did or didn't do, without qualification and or excuse.
 - 2. Declare that what you did or didn't do was wrong and that you regret it.
 - 3. Ask them, "Will you please forgive me?"
- B. Build new foundations.
 - 1. Communicate honestly about your anxiety about talking about spiritual things.
 - 2. Invite your child to be honest with you things with you.
 - 3. Elevate honesty as a top value in the relationship.
- C. Seek to understand before seeking to be understood.

Step 4: I must point my child's heart to Christ.

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes... Romans 1:16 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own: For a broader study on this topic go to RightNow Media and watch the four-part series on "NEVER TOO LATE" By Rob Rienow.