

## *Dear Daddy*

Dear daddy, please give me a minute of your valuable time to share with you the burden of my heart because I love you and the children God gave you. Let me give you some Scriptures that will encourage and bless you. Psalm 127:3 declares, *“Children are a reward from God.”* This verse means that God regards your children as his property on loan to you. That’s right, your heavenly Father gave you the responsibility of raising the children he loaned you so you can depend on the Lord for divine wisdom, understanding and patience as you faithfully supervise your little ones.

God does not assign us responsibilities and then expect us to carry them out without his help. No, God grants us responsibilities so that we can perform them through his help. Malachi 2:15 points out that the Lord made you and your wife one. Then he asks, *“Why one?”* The prophet answers for the Lord, *“Because he was seeking Godly offspring.”* Yes, God wants you raising your children in a way that will help them become godly. He wants you doing your best to direct your children toward Christ-like living.

Well, how can you accomplish God’s goal. Proverbs 17:6 states, *“The glory of children are their fathers.”* This means that you occupy a unique place in your children’s hearts; you are their source of pride. They look to you as a person they want to please. Since you are their pride they crave your approval. When I played junior high football I always practiced harder when my Father stood on the sidelines. I wanted him to be proud of me, to brag on me and to commend me. Your heavenly Father wants you leading your children into godly living so he made you their pride and joy. They will follow you and adopt your lifestyle.

Can you say to your children, *“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ?”* Well, heavenly Father wants you following Jesus’ example so your children can follow your example. You see, since you are your children’s pride they are following you. Is your lifestyle leading them toward Jesus or away from Jesus? Do they see you faithfully attending church, do they see you reading the Word of God, leading the family in prayer and striving to please God in everything you do? You can be the example your children need if you strive for a relationship with Jesus Christ. He will, *“rub off”* on you as you hang around him. Then, inevitably, your children will try following your footsteps.

Dear daddy, I’m praying for you. I want to see you prepared to give account to the God who gave you the responsibility of raising the children he loaned you. You can only be ready to give account to him if you are ardently following Jesus. Please, put God first and he will make you everything your

children need you to be. Thanks so much for your time.

In Jesus' love,

Pastor James Fields



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