

# Family Heritage Developer

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*"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3*

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## **How to Treasure God's Design for *Your* Home**

By Gary L. Cox

By design, we mean that God personally directs his children by his *general* and *special* appointments of their personal circumstances.

God appoints all of your circumstances. Yes, *all* of the complex circumstances! You must receive them and surrender to God in hope-filled trust, resting in his grace.

Planning a family calendar or working up a daily schedule are acts of faith when they are done in obedient submission to God. *Flexibility* is welcoming unexpected changes as an instrument of God's choice. Remember, "that without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6)! By faith, the righteousness of God is revealed in His people (Romans 1:17).

You and I don't think like God thinks (Isa. 55:8)! We don't resist sin to the point of shedding our own blood (Hebrews 12:4)! God has plans for his children, "plans to prosper them with a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11-14). But those plans require specially designed circumstances that press His

children to seek him with all of their heart. God will be found by those who seek him!

God ordains difficult circumstances because He loves you and has plans to make you (and your children) like His Son, Jesus! "For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives. If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not" (Hebrews 12:6-7)? "Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3)!

And again, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ...For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, [then] do we with patience wait for [it]. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them

who are the called according to [his] purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:17-18, 24-25, 28-29).

God's will touches every circumstance of your life; that is his plan, that is his design! If you desire to follow God's plan for your family, you absolutely need to discern His sovereign presence in your everyday circumstances! Here are some practical points to assist you in treasuring God's design for your family...

*Do You Love the LORD your God with all your Heart?*

God has given parents the duty to bring their little ones to God (Isa. 49:1-6). It is the parents' duty to train their children to love and trust God! Love is important!

Since your role as a parent is so crucial, your first priority must be to love God entirely! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all

your might” (Duet. 6:5). "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1Cor. 2:9-10).

Teaching children is not about your performance, it is about their love relationship to God! God is love and He wants to bring us the help we need as His children. As a parent, *you* must engage in that love relationship with God. A truly Christian home is the primary place where children learn how to love God and how to trust Him with the circumstances of their lives! The only way parents can genuinely show love towards their sinful child (rather than anger or shame) is by themselves being secure in a love-relationship with God.

#### *Meditate on His Word Daily*

“These words which I command you this day shall be in thine heart” (Duet. 6:6). When something is *in* your heart, there is affection for it. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21). Orthodoxy shapes orthopraxy! You live *out* what you believe *in*.

The Word of God must be a treasure in order for you to embrace and pursue its teachings (Matt. 13:44-46). Study the Bible out of the largeness of your need and not the smallness of your ability. “If any man thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing as yet he ought to

know” (1Cor. 8:2)! Brokenness will mine richer truths than arrogance! Come to God in your need, and seek God as *the source* to meet your need. Let your children *see* you call on the Lord with all of your heart!

Teach your children to do the same! All children need their Daddy's help. Teach your children to come to God by training them to Come to you. Asking earthly parents demonstrates how to come to God. We all are children in God's family. "Daddy, I need help with math, can you help me?" Viola! — truth is taught and application absorbed. “Call on the Lord and he will show you great and mighty things that you know not” (Jeremiah 33:3)!

The Christian knows that God is the source of all that can be taught or known. When your child comes to you for advice, don't give him what you think or figure out; give him what God has revealed and taught you in the Word and in deed.

The Word of God is the source from which we hear God. Our needs are doors through which we go out to seek God and through which God's Word enters our heart to guide our steps.

#### *Impress your children consistently.*

“You shall teach them diligently”, the text says. Note that the Hebrew word for *diligent* means to *make a deep impression*, such as a seal in hot wax. Teaching diligently means making a deep, lasting impression on your child. You do this when you are authentic

and “talk to them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Duet. 6:7) If a parent loves God with all his heart, and has God's Word in his heart, his life will be an example of someone who hears God and orders his life accordingly in every area — yes, this is possible!

For example, how do you create a schedule? Look at the orderliness of God's universe. The sun comes up with regularity, the seasons return on time; therefore, if you are going to keep up with God, you'd better learn to get up when He orders the sun to rise, and go to bed when night is fallen!

#### *Organize instruction around your home's interests.*

Don't try to be a family that you are not. It is bondage to measure yourself against others. Your neighbor's home looks better when you visit them than your house does as you live in it every day! Stop it! Allow your home to be free-flowing. Let it be *your* home. Let the unique nature of your home guide decisions about how to best meet the needs of your family.

Make decisions that are in the best interest and function of your home. Have good reasons for the choices you make — better yet, have God's reasons! There are not many decisions that in themselves are right or wrong. Ask: "Is this the right thing to do in this situation? Why or Why not?" Your home has spectacular things to offer

because God has designed the details! Allow your home to partake of what God had ordained for your children to receive.

In your role as parent you are a steward. Your first need is to be faith-filled before God. Your home can only give what

God ordains it to give; however, you can miss out on God's plan if you are not careful! Never forget, that *you* are a child of God as well, you have a Father in heaven who is watching over you also. Enjoy that special relationship of being God's child. Let God be

*your* Father, love Him, and pursue Him in every detail of His providential plans for your home!

*Gary L. Cox*



## Becky's Tips

### **I. Ephesians. 3:7-8 from The Message**

"This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities."

Think on this when you feel less than victorious. Our life work given to us by God, is to make the Gospel Message known. Yet we are the least able. Do you see where we get the ability? From God, who does all of the equipping.

### **II. Engagement learning**

If you are trying to finish an assignment or a textbook and your student is not responding with at least moderate delight, it might be the time to evaluate. Ask:

1. What do I really want him to know?
2. How can we practice what

he needs to know?

You may discover that you are doing work that either:

- a. He doesn't need to know.
- b. There is an easier more original, more creative way to do it.

Remember: Plodding along finishing work that he is not engaged in produces some discipline but little learning.

### **III. Discipline**

Ideas for the argumentative child:

1. Recognize that God has a purpose for that temperament. Be vigilant about finding help for developing that temperament.

In part, the purpose for such a temperament is having the ability to make the Gospel clear. Also it is that temperament that is usually used to help a culture make decisions based on biblical principle.

2. Learning to argue biblically changes a foolish speaker to a wise speaker.
3. Left untrained, the argumentative temperament will operate out of anger and pride.

How do we train such a temperament?

1. Show that the misuse of the gift does the opposite of what he really wants to do.
2. Give specific training in godly discussion and how to prove his point.
3. Draw his attention to unacceptable behavior each time you noticed it. Guarantee him that the unacceptable behavior gets no reward.
4. Some scripture helps:
  - Prov. 10:12, 15:18
  - 2 Tim. 2:23
5. Books that may help:
  - *Council from the Cross*
  - *Give Them Grace*

**IV. Please remember that Bible memory gives advantage both to the heart and the brain.**

**V. Research skills and thinking skills are vital in your school. We share ideas of how to teach the skills at workshops. Hope to see you there.**

*Love, Becky*

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# STUDENT DEVELOPER

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## A Date That Will Live in Infamy

By Zachary Jones

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, was forever known as the date that will live in infamy. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drastically changed where the U.S stood in terms of WWII. Before, America stood aloof as the European and Asian powers fought it out. Now, all of a sudden, the U.S finds itself in another worldwide bloody war. No longer could it remain neutral as its freedom was threatened. What possessed Japan to attack the growing world power, and what was it that actually happened on that fateful day in Hawaii?

Across the Pacific Ocean, Japan had been planning this major sneak attack for a long time. Pilots trained daily, practicing maneuvers as they prepared to strike at the pacific naval base. Undoubtedly, Japan was about to touch off a full scale war with the growing USA, and no one knew that better than the head honchos in Japan who were planning it. They hoped to deal a fatal blow to the U.S fleet that rivaled their own and so prevent America from hindering their conquest of South Asia, forcing them to acknowledge Japan as the ruler of the Pacific. Japan's whole campaign centered around what would happen on Dec. 7, 1941.

Early in the morning, a rookie lieutenant received a radio message saying that planes were seen approaching on the radar. He promptly dismissed it, thinking that they were a squadron of B17's who were due to arrive. At 7:08 precisely, the first bomb was dropped that touched off the greatest war in America's history. On board a battleship, two comrades leaned over the railing watching the approaching planes. Thinking they were American-dive bombers practicing their tactics by dropping wooden bombs on the ships, they watched as a plane flew straight at them. Not until there was a terrific explosion did they realize they were under attack. The air was filled with the sound of anti-aircraft guns opening fire on the attackers, and the exploding bombs as over 300 planes attacked the harbor and airfield. Shrapnel rained down on the island and confusion reigned. The returning B17's were caught between friendly fire and the

attacking Japanese. The attacked soon receded like a spent wave, carrying with it many lives. Moments

later, the second wave of bombers arrived, wreaking more havoc and causing death and destruction. When the attacks finally ceased, thousands were left dead or wounded, and many others trapped in sinking ships. Had the Japanese pressed their advantage, U.S history might have been drastically changed for the worst. However, the Japanese leaders on board the aircraft carriers didn't know the extent of the damage they caused, and they held back the third wave.

Hawaii was badly hit and vulnerable to invasion. Every battleship in the harbor was damaged as well as many other vessels, and hundreds of planes were destroyed. The attack came as a shock, and the unprepared Pacific fleet was badly crippled. Despite the suddenness of the attack and no time to organize properly, the military responded as best they could as every soldier ran for the nearest weapon available. Many fought back against aircraft with merely rifles. Thankfully, all the aircraft carriers which were the primary targets were harbored elsewhere contrary to custom. Had it not been so, many ships would have been lost, and who knows what the outcome of the war would have been. As it was, over three-thousand people were killed or wounded, and nearly three-hundred planes and all the battleships were destroyed or damaged.

As a result of the attack, America once more got into war gear, and factories began building war equipment at a pace never before seen. After the Axis powers in Europe had been crushed, the U.S was able to turn its full attention on Japan. Island after island was taken by U.S Marines as America pressed Japan harder and harder. After one particularly bloody battle, the island of Iwo Jima also fell into U.S hands. Wishing to save further loss of life and end the bloody war, President Roosevelt twice ordered the Japanese to surrender or face a new and deadly weapon. The Japanese refused to surrender. Therefore the first atomic bomb ever was dropped over Japan, and many square miles were destroyed by the single bomb.

Still, the Japanese refused. One more bomb, however, was sufficient for them. Japan surrendered and the largest war ever was finally over.