

# A Shepherd on Spiritual Archery

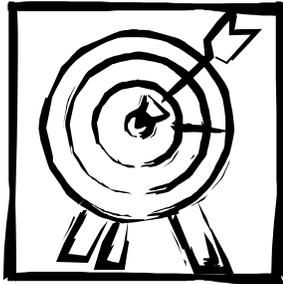
by Gordon Addington

**“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.”**

Psalm 127:3-5

Read the first line again. Your children are a gift from the Lord. They belong to

Him, and He has given them into your care as a reward. What a blessing. But what a sobering responsibility, as well! The Psalmist compares children to arrows. An arrow in and of itself is only a sharp stick — of little use on its own. But in the hands of a warrior and driven by the power of a strong bow, it is capable of awesome deeds. Parents are the warriors who are charged to give children direction. The strong bow is God’s Word. All parts of the system are necessary for the target to be hit.



Study after study has been conducted that points to the same conclusion, namely that the most influential people in a child’s life are his parents. This is especially true in their early years, before other people and things begin to pull them in different directions. Children will accept what they see you do and hear you say. They will quickly learn what is most important to you.

Parent, I want you to put yourself in your child’s place for a moment. Do they see you making your relationship with Christ most important? Do they see and hear you in prayer? Do they even see you thanking God for the food on your table? Do they see you practicing with “The Bow?” Do you share the Word of God with them? Do they see you making time around the Lord’s Table priority one on Sunday morning? Or is fellowship with the saints down the list? Do they see you making an effort to be part of regular Bible study with other Christians on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening? Do they see you giving of yourself to serve the Lord and His people? Do they see you trying to live a Christ-like life even when

other Christians aren’t watching?

There are no guarantees that your child will make all of the right choices. There are no guarantees that your child will even follow the Lord when they are grown. But I can guarantee you that your children are being guided and influenced in the choices they make. If not by you, certainly by others!

Parents, I implore you to teach your children by example! They must see you do it before they will do it. Be spiritual warriors, not spiritual pacifists. Mark your target and aim for the center. Remember your children belong to God. But He has given them into your care. Use the strong bow that is the Word of God, for this is where the power comes from.

