

Does **Jesus Have The Answer?**

*Learn this **ONE** Powerful Verse
that You've Never Seen or Heard of.*



READ THIS FREE REPORT
For The Sake of Our Children

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Hi, my name is Irene and I'm the creator of Inspire Higher Apparel. Inspire Higher Apparel is personalized scripture apparel designed to show your child how much you and their Heavenly Father loves them.

Have you ever been at a restaurant and a parent asks their pre-teen daughter to put down her phone while at the table and the daughter puts away her phone as she sucks her teeth with a big sigh while she rolls her eyes and the parents look like this is par for the course? Or you're in the grocery store and a 4 year old is gleefully pulling stuff off the shelves and the parents sheepishly run behind them and put it back on the shelf?

Or closer to home, have you ever felt frustrated when your child refuses to do their homework or get off the computer when you tell them or just generally ignores the things you tell them to do? You didn't know what to do next so you just got upset and started yelling at them. You tried taking away their toys, confining them to their room and curtailing their phone time. Still to no avail. You already felt guilty but then the devil starts sending thoughts like, ***"Look at you. You have no control over your child. You're a HORRIBLE parent."*** Then you start agreeing with the devil. ***"Yeah, I am a HORRIBLE parent. I can't control this child."*** Then the guilt feelings overwhelm you.

Well let me tell you what happened to me. A few years back I was helping a close, elderly family member by helping their grandson with his 4th grade homework. He was very smart and articulate but during his 1st semester he was falling behind.

After a while I was pulling my hair out trying to get him to buckle down and stay focused on his homework. I would go over the material over-

and-over-and-over-and-over again! Man, I would get so frustrated because I knew he was smart enough to do the work. I went from trying to think of ways to make the material fun and exciting to just straight out fussing at him. When I made it fun we would laugh and enjoy ourselves and he'd act like he was understanding the information but when it came time for him to do the work himself he would be staring into space. When I took the other route and started to fuss at him he would act like he didn't know what I was talking about even though I knew he did.

Nothing was working so I was tempted to quit but there was no one else to help. Truth be told, I began to wonder if I even liked him anymore because I was getting so frustrated with his lack of progress.

But God began to open up my mind and my heart to the answers in His word. He assured me that my feeling inadequate for the task didn't make me a **HORRIBLE** person but it simply exposed the fact that I needed to depend on God rather than my fleshy ways. I needed His ways, not mine. I didn't need to lean to my own understanding. I was now open to Him showing me what determines whether I loved the child or not. Once God revealed His word to me and He graced me to do it, suddenly, the grades went from one of the lowest in the class during his 1st semester to the highest grade in his class in the 2nd semester! The young boy was totally astonished. He never thought he could do it. But God's word and God's way never fails!

Why is it so hard to raise your children God's way? You ever hear of Dr. Spock? No, not the one on the Starship Enterprise. Dr. Benjamin Spock a well-known pediatrician and socialist who's book "*Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*" published in 1946 changed American parenting

forever. Over 50 million copies have been sold. He emphasized that, when it comes to parenting, parents should trust themselves and trust their children. However, there was no mention of trusting God. He encouraged parents to accommodate their children's feelings and indulge their preferences rather than provide them strict guidelines. As a result of Dr. Spock's influence parents now think it's wrong for them to impose their will on their children which has resulted in disrespectful children, sassy and contentious children, children walking around with their pants hanging off their behind and being unteachable in school!

However, responsible adults are quietly wondering what went wrong. I'm sure you're talking about how out of control our children are today. Yes, parents are ultimately responsible because the family is "the garden" in which God "plants" children.

But God showed me the problem was an age old principle that started in the Garden of Eden. (*Principles never change and can be applied to many different situations*) It's the struggle of the flesh (or a man's will) against the Spirit of God. That's why he couldn't get his homework done. He was ABLE to do his work but he was not WILLING to do his work.

So the question became how to change his will.

Well, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament saints were under the law in order to keep their flesh under control. While we, as New Testament believers, are under grace. We're to be led by the Spirit of God within us. However, even as New Testament believers, we start off as babes in Christ. In other words, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we

continue to daily strive against our flesh. Listen to what Galatians 5:16-18 says:

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But WHEN you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.”

I’VE NEVER HAD MY OWN CHILDREN but the word of God contains principles that can be applied in every area of our life. For example, until your child is of the age of accountability AND is striving to mature in the Lord they are NOT directed by the Spirit, and as such, are obligated to obey the law. In this case, it’s the ‘law’ you lay down in your house! God kept the children of Israel under the law (their schoolmaster) until grace came through Jesus Christ.

As a Christian you may want to treat your child as though they are under grace but the Spirit of God is not directing them. It’s their flesh.

That’s when the Lord showed me this **ONE** powerful verse hidden in the scriptures. I had never noticed it before or heard anyone preach on it:

*“Those who spare the rod of discipline **HATE** their children.
Those who **LOVE** their children care enough to discipline them.”*

Proverbs 13:24 NLT

Wow! That’s powerful. That really hit me when I read that. I thought the word ‘hate’ was a bit strong. I didn’t know God thought that strongly

about the 'rod of discipline'. I remembered "*Spare the rod and spoil the child*" because that was a popular saying. But I never equated not using the 'rod of discipline' on your child with a hatred for your child and I definitely never equated it with love for your child. Did you?

SO, IF YOU'RE NOT USING THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE YOU ACTUALLY HATE YOUR CHILD!!!

Now don't get mad with me. Get mad with your Heavenly Father. He said it!

When you endeavor to doing things God's way and trusting Him for the outcome I call that **NO-GUILT PARENTING™**. Let me give you an example.

When I was a child my mother chewed tobacco. She would frequently send me to the liquor store at the end of the block to purchase chewing tobacco. Since I was too young to purchase tobacco she would always (1) give me a note telling the cashier that I was purchasing the tobacco on her behalf and she always (2) gave me the money (or resources) I needed to do what she told me to do. That's what any loving parent would do.

As long as I did what she said I didn't have to worry about getting in trouble with her. If the tobacco was of a poor quality she wouldn't get mad with me because I did exactly what she told me to do. As long as I did what she said the outcome was up to her. That's what **NO-GUILT PARENTING™** is like. **WHEN YOU DO THINGS GOD'S WAY THERE'S NO NEED FOR GUILT, FEAR OR WORRY.** The outcome is up to your Heavenly Father. When the devil tries to come along and convince you otherwise, you have the authority to tell him you won't receive that lie. It's like, if I'm headed to the liquor store and, on the way, my friends asked me to

play with them I would say no because Mama said I had to go to the store. As long as I did what Mama said I'm good. No worries!

So God is the same way because Christianity is NOT a religion. It's a relationship. God disciplines us. If God doesn't discipline you you're NOT His child:

Heb 12:7-8 NLT

“As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.”

Don't get me wrong. Every child is different. Some may need the rod less than others. Of course, you treat your child according to your child's behavior. But don't resist using a rod because you want to be liked by your child and/or you're afraid of what others may say.

Remember, God is a loving Heavenly Father. One of the ways He helps to shape us and conform us into the image of His dear son is via His discipline.

NO-GUILT PARENTING™

USE THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE AND LOVE YOUR CHILD

So this is what I started to do with my 4th grader:

1. PREPARATION

a. I studied scriptures related to correcting a child and scriptures on how God treats you and I.

i. Isa. 49:14-15

“Yet Jerusalem says, “The LORD has deserted us; the Lord has forgotten us. “Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!”

ii. Pro. 22:15 NKJV

“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.”

iii. Prov. 23:13-14 NLT

“Don’t fail to discipline your children. They won’t die if you spank them. Physical discipline may well save them from death.”

iv. Pro. 19:18 NLT

“Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives.”

v. Pro. 29:5 NLT

“To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.” [AMEN TO THAT!]

b. PRAYER: I asked God for guidance, direction and wisdom and I trusted that He would give it.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

James 1:5 NLT

2. PROMISE

a. I let him know that I loved him and if I promise him ice cream for certain behavior I’m going to get him some ice cream. But if I say you’re going to get a spanking for certain behavior, I’m going to keep my word and give you a spanking BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

3. PICTURE

a. To help him understand why I was going to spank him I showed him what God says about spanking and I also tried to think of a real life example that he could understand by giving him a mental picture to relate to.

i. At that time in his life he wanted a dog. I asked him if he wanted his dog to run into the street and get hit by a car. He emphatically said, “No!” So I continued to question him about how he would stop the dog from running into the street. He talked about different ways to train the dog to follow his commands. It was then I helped him see the connection between his potential love for his dog and my love for him. And expanding it to show him it’s the same

way God shows His love for us His children. How love also means loving someone enough to correct them for their own good and how God gives us adults that responsibility for children in our care.

4. PRACTICE

- a. I kept my word! God put that child under my care. I was God's representative preparing him to have his own relationship with God the Father. Using a combination of the law as needed and giving grace as needed to get him ready to experience God and learn of God for himself.**

5. PERSISTENCE

- a. Many times I really didn't want to discipline him because I was tired or I was happy that day and wasn't in a spanking mood. But I knew I had to keep my word otherwise he wouldn't stay the course and assume that sometimes it's OK to disobey because there's no consequences to my behavior.**

6. PATIENCE

- a. Didn't let the spanking event linger in my heart. In other words, I wasn't mad at him afterwards. I focused on making sure I didn't treat him angrily after the spanking. He got his punishment now it's time to move on.**

DO'S AND DON'TS

DON'T:

Abuse your child verbally or otherwise. In other words, don't beat them mercilessly and think you're obeying God or pleasing God the Father. No, you're being directed by your flesh and the devil NOT a loving Heavenly Father.

DO:

Endeavor to read your Bible every day, say what God says every day and spend time talking to your Heavenly Father every day so that you begin to grow and mature into a loving parent that is led by the Spirit of God when disciplining your child.

DON'T:

Let the devil spank you with guilt.

DO:

Balance your spanking with encouragement and speaking God's word into their lives. Treat them like you want your Heavenly Father to treat you when you're disobedient.

Eph. 6:4 NLT

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."

Heb 12:7 NLT

"As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating

you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?

2Samuel 7:14 NLT

“I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do.”

DON'T:

Expect the child to know how to correctly do what you want from them. They won't know if you don't teach them. And they definitely won't continue to do it if they don't see it mirrored in your own life! You have to replace a bad habit with a good one, otherwise, they will fall back into their old way of doing things because you assumed they should magical know the right way.

“When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order.”

Matthew 12:43-44 NLT

DO:

Show your child the right way to do something. They can't be held accountable for something you didn't show them not to do and then show them the correct way to do it. That's why God gave the children of Israel the law and instructions on what they should do. He couldn't be a righteous God if He condemned them for something that He never told them they shouldn't do and then never told them what behavior was expected of them.

DON'T:

Treat your child like they're your best friend. Your job is to *“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”* (Prov. 22:6 NKJV). The key word is when they are OLD. Don't expect results right away. He gave the law until grace could be received. Remember, God was patient. The entire Old Testament demonstrates God's patience. Keep praying God's word into your child's life.

DO:

Discipline them and let them know why.

DON'T:

Tell them you're going to discipline them for certain offenses but fail to follow through.

DO:

Consistently keep your word. That's what will keep them on track when they're not around you. Knowing they'll be consequences for their behavior.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

So start blessing your child by using the 'rod of discipline' as needed. It will make them wise:

Prov. 29:15 NLT

"To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child."

If you haven't used the 'rod of discipline' repent for not trusting that your Heavenly Father's way is always the right way rather than man's way.

If you have been using the rod but have not balanced it with the tender care and love of God, repent and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in disciplining your child as you consistently read and speak His word.

Trust me, you're not a horrible parent. You're a Christian, like me, that wants to please the Lord the best we can. Remember, *"There's no condemnation..."*

Know that If you use God's words and His ways you'll experience **NO-GUILT PARENTING™** because God gives you a 100% guarantee in Isa. 55:10-11 NLT:

"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."

I offer this information prayerfully. My goal was to come along side you and offer my experiences. I hope it was helpful.

But I also recognize that some of you may benefit from a quick reference checklist on spanking your child. So in the next 3 or 4 days be on the lookout in your email for the **NO-GUILT PARENTING™** checklist and guide that I put together.

I'd love to know what you think. **Please take the time right now, while it's fresh in your mind, to leave your comments. I won't know unless you tell me!** And share this link with your friends if this has been a blessing to you.

***THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE
UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU THE LORD LIFT UP HIS
COUNTENANCE UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE***

Num. 6:24-26 NKJV

Irene Lewis

WhoseYourDaddyDESIGNS.com

Irene@WhoseYourDaddyDesigns.com