

February 6, 2011  
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## **Monday**

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Outcomes are often predetermined by goals. Unfortunately, parents often either have no goal for their parenting or adopt wrong goals in raising their children. "The way he should go" assumes a goal of godliness to be a parent's first and foremost priority. Knowing God and following God become the measure of success. Wealth building, career building, happiness, and contentment are secondary, because the successful trainer understands the greater goal. Of course the outcome of training in godliness ushers in the possibilities of all other blessings and without godliness much that the world sees as success only becomes a curse.

## **Tuesday**

2Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Competence is required in a trainer. The Titans will not hire a candidate who is not competent in knowledge and experience as their next head coach. Parents/grandparents need to be competent too. Laziness in our own spiritual lives cannot but produce a poor quality in the spiritual lives of our children. We cannot teach what we do not know. We cannot know what we will not learn. We will not learn if we do not apply ourselves with consistency and determination. So the greatest plan for the benefit of your children is a plan that includes an emphasis upon your own growth in faith and knowledge. Do you have that plan?

## **Wednesday**

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

In the yard there was a tree that had been 'bent' in its first years. It grew straight up a few feet and then the trunk crooked to the side. Two or three feet further and it began to grow up to the sky again. You could sit in the crook as if it was a chair. No amount of strength or pressure could change the 'bent' of that tree trunk. It had grown into it and solidified. So too, the child who is well bent by spiritual training will be well bent for a lifetime. Every parent and grand parent should have such bending in mind as they pray and as they parent.

## **Thursday**

Psa. 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

Do you realize how valuable you are? The coaches of college and professional teams make millions of dollars to 'train' their teams. You are far more valuable than they. They are charged with developing winning sports stars; you are charged with making thoroughly godly children. You are called to build the next generation. In sports it's a game or a season; but you are coaching for a winning life. God counts you as far more valuable than a sport's coach. His blessings for you will be more valuable too. Give all you have to your spiritual profession. Stand proud that your priority is to 'train up a child'. There is no higher priority for a parent.

## **Friday**

Phil. 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Erk Russell was the storied baldheaded coach for the Georgia Junkyard Dawg Defense of the 70's. He often butted heads with his players to give them motivation: his bald-head against their helmets, leaving him bloodied. Not so smart? Well he knew that training was caught not merely taught and he trained by example. Tough, strong, motivated, conditioned. He went on to coach another team to a national title by leading through example. Your example is your best tool and should be your highest priority.