God's Highest Goals for My Children

Am I a Help in Reaching These Goals?
. . . Or a Hindrance??

INTRODUCTION:

"If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time."

Must decide what the highest goals for our children are. There are many <u>good</u> goals - but they are not the best, the highest - for example, accomplished pianist, good grades, make the sports team, get accepted at a good college.

I believe the highest goals in God's eyes are spiritual (not material or of this world) and simple (diff. Between simple and easy): (and most of us would agree on them)

1. Salvation
2. Surrender
3. Service

Once we have determined the goals, everything we do should help the goal be reached. (For example, education is just one tool to help us reach the goals).

How do I reach these goals, point my children in this direction? Well, they are spiritual goals, so can't be done in flesh.

I can prepare the soil for God to do the work in their heart, cultivate. Can't force them to be saved or spiritual, but can be used of God to cause them to be <u>bent</u> in the right direction.

1. Pray (only God can really do it)
2. With my words ("Precept upon precept") (don't spit facts, try to get to their heart,

understand each child's needs and temperament)

3. With my example (they will follow what I am not what I say)

We would probably all agree that we want these goals to be accomplished; however with our poor teaching or poor example, we make it so much harder! Let's work with God and do our part.

SPIRITUAL GOAL	PRACTICAL TEACHING	MY EXAMPLE
SALVATION John 3:16 2 Peter 3:9b a. Sinner who (thus they see that they need a Savior] b. Needs forgiveness c. & needs faith/trust	a. Respect for and obedience to authority. When they disobey, point out that they are disobeying God, not just me. Help them see why they do what they do (what sin in heart is behind sinful action). b. Ask for forgiveness from God when they sin, and from any person that they wrong. Encourage them to be humble and transparent. c. Build a God-consciousness in them. When young, even as babies, sing and talk about God (His love, care, power, authority, what He's like). As they get older, turn them to the Lord with problems. Pray with them. Point out that they can't do it on their own.	a. Require obedience and respect. Be consistent. Mean what I say [ILLUS: lady in Pathmark - "Sit down or you're going to bed right when we get home. Sit down or you're not going with Uncle John tomorrow night! (he still ignores). Okay, I'm going to count to three, and then I want you sitting down! One…two…three…(the kid has won the battle, has shown his mom whose in charge, so now he sits down) Good boy!"???]. When we give a command, there has to be a "sting" if they choose to rebel against the command. Never give in, back down (if realize I'm wrong or unfair, tell them and change the command). Spank and teach. *Prov. 13:24 - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Prov. 23:13-14 - "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Prov. 29:15 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."* Do they see me obey God, even when it's not easy? Do I obey other authorities? I simply cannot teach my children submission to authority without being submissive myself - to my husband, traffic and parking laws, city

		regulations, etc. Our example is everything! [I'm amazed how often I see parents take grapes or candy at the store and feed it to their little ones…and then they wail when the child is a thief someday!] I can't teach politeness if I'm rude at the library, store, etc. b. Let them see me ask them, others, and God for forgiveness (if they see me sin, they should see [or know about] me make it right). We have to be humble and transparent. Our kids know we mess up, we can't hide it from them, so let's be a good example and come humbly for forgiveness. c. Show I really believe the Bible. Turn to God in times of need. Show faith. Also, I must keep my promises and be trustworthy and dependable. (just being there does a lot to build the child's trust - don't leave them for a job or lots of activities unless you absolutely have to).
SURRENDER Romans 12:1-2 Romans 6:13 Galatians 2:20 I Corinthians 10:31 a. Self-sacrifice b. Spirit-control	Not "What do you want to be when you grow up?" But What does Jesus want you to be? Encourage them to seek God's will in choices and actions. And to do everything for His glory. a. Teach all that Christ gave to us and gave up for us (*"We love Him because He first loved us"*); and therefore we should give ourselves freely to Him. Encourage *agape* love. Don't require "warm feelings" (these may not always be present) [If love isn't a "warm feeling", why is that the kind of love I show and try to get from my kids for God and others and myself?), rather	a. Do I yield my rights to God? Do I seek for glory and notice, or do the unappealing jobs at the church, for God alone? Be selfless. Deny myself to obey God. Deny myself to be a blessing to someone. Put my children before myself. [ILLUS; When tired, but play the game anyway. Let them choose activities, not what I want (i.e. for fun times - park as opposed to reading & resting) b. Have the fruit of the Spirit. Stop to go to the Lord when in the flesh.

	to give when see a need regardless of feelings. b. Don't allow them to act in flesh; rather they need to deny their flesh [as opposed to today's philosophies of self-expression] Encourage them to yield daily to Jesus. Especially in their weak areas, encourage them to pray and Jesus can help them.	
SERVICE Ephesians 2:10 Romans 12:4-8 Ephesians 4:12 a. With faithfulness b. With joy	a. Require them to be responsible in chores and school. Encourage faithfulness in their daily devotions. Help them find opportunities to serve Christ now. (i.e. helping someone, serving siblings or parents, helping in church kitchen, nursery, cleaning, etc.) b. Don't allow them to complain or argue. Joy in a job well done. Teach them to find joy in giving more than getting.	a. Do I do the jobs at church I said I would? Do I keep my word to my kids and others? Am I faithful in personal devotions and in teaching them the Bible? b. Do I have "joy in serving Jesus?" Never complain! Show joy in accomplishing a task. Especially, find joy in doing things for my children ILLUS: When my girls were playing dolls/mothers, and all complaining to each other abut how overwhelming their job was, how the kids were so much work, etc. etc.]

CONCLUSION:

Read my notes about how my example makes my goals so hard to reach.

Read poem "The Greatest Test."

Read words to "I Would be True."

Phil. 4:13 - *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Let's work with God instead of against Him!

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There are many <u>good</u> goals - but they are not the best, the highest.

I believe the highest goals in God's eyes are _____:

1. Salvation
2. Surrender
3. Service

Once we have determined the goals, everything we do should help the goal be reached.

How do I reach these goals?

1. _____ (only God can really do it)

2. _____ -- With my words ("Precept upon precept") (don't spit facts, try to get to their heart, understand each child's needs and temperament)

3. With my _____ (they will follow what I <u>am</u> not what I <u>say</u>)

We would probably all agree that we want these goals to be accomplished; however with our poor teaching or poor example, we make it so much harder!

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SURRENDER Romans 12:1-2 Romans 6:13 Galatians 2:20 I Corinthians 10:31 a. Self-sacrifice b. Spirit-control	Encourage them to seek God's _____ in choices and actions. And to do everything for His _____. a. Teach all that Christ gave to us and gave up for us and therefore we should _____ ourselves freely to Him. Encourage _____ love. b. Don't allow them to act in _____; rather they need to <u>deny</u> their flesh Encourage them to _____ daily to Jesus.	a. Do I _____ my rights to God? Do I seek for glory and notice, or do the unappealing jobs at the church, for God alone? Be _____. Deny myself to obey God. Deny myself to be a blessing to someone. Put my children before myself. b. Have the _____ of the Spirit. _____ and go to the Lord when in the flesh.
SERVICE Ephesians 2:10 Romans 12:4-8 Ephesians 4:12 a. With faithfulness b. With joy	a. Require them to be _____ in chores and school. Encourage faithfulness in their daily _____. Help them find opportunities to _____ Christ <u>now</u>. b. Don't allow them to _____ or _____. Teach them to find Joy in a job well done and in giving more than getting.	a. Do I do the jobs at church I said I would? Do I keep my _____ to my kids and others? Am I faithful in personal devotions and in teaching them the Bible? b. Do I have "joy in serving Jesus?" _____ complain! Show joy in accomplishing a task. Especially, find joy in doing things for my children.

CONCLUSION:

Phil. 4:13 - *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Let's work with God instead of against Him in seeing His goals accomplished for our children.

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	Sing. Talk about what God is like. Pray with them.	_____ _____ authorities? b. Let them see me ask them, others, and God for forgiveness. We have to be _____ _____ and _____ _____. c. Show I really believe the _____. Turn to God in times of need. Also, I must keep my _____ _____ and be trustworthy and

		dependable.
SURRENDER Romans 12:1-2 Romans 6:13 Galatians 2:20 I Corinthians 10:31 a. Self-sacrifice b. Spirit-control	Encourage them to seek God's _____ in choices and actions. And to do everything for His _____ __. a. Teach all that Christ gave to us and gave up for us and therefore we should _____ ourselves freely to Him. Encourage _____ love.	a. Do I _____ my rights to God? Do I seek for glory and notice, or do the unappealing jobs at the church, for God alone? Be _____ __. Deny myself to obey God. Deny myself to be a blessing to someone. Put my children before myself. b. Have the _____

	b. Don't allow them to act in _____; rather they need to deny their flesh Encourage them to _____ daily to Jesus.	of the Spirit. _____ _____ and go to the Lord when in the flesh.
SERVICE Ephesians 2:10 Romans 12:4-8 Ephesians 4:12 a. With faithfulness b. With joy	a. Require them to be _____ in chores and school. Encourage faithfulness in their daily _____ _____. Help them find opportunities to _____	a. Do I do the jobs at church I said I would? Do I keep my _____ to my kids and others? Am I faithful in personal devotions and in teaching them the Bible?

	Christ <u>now</u>. b. Don't allow them to _____ or _____ _____. Teach them to find Joy in a job well done and in giving more than getting.	b. Do I have "joy in serving Jesus?" _____ ___ complain! Show joy in accomplishing a task. Especially, find joy in doing things for my children.

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