

POWER^{for} LIVING

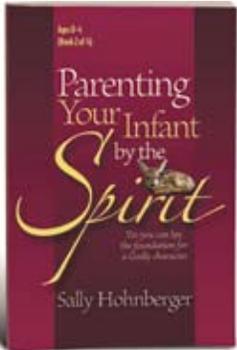
A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

April - June 2008

Dear Friends,

Ever been frustrated in parenting? Ever wanted some help getting your child to do the right thing for the right reason? Well, help is available—from the King of the universe! This month's article—**"The Parenting Pyramid"**—will show you how to connect with that help and the difference it can make!

Parenting Your Infant/Toddler by the Spirit is now available! Contrary to many modern ideas, the experiences of the earliest years are critical to the future of our children. Satan wants us to delay the work of character development until he has written his signature on the page of their thoughts, feelings, and responses. But he need not succeed! In and with God leading, parents can lay a solid foundation of an upright character in the hearts of their infants and toddlers.



If you are a parent, an expectant parent, a grandparent, aunt, uncle—anyone who comes in contact with small children, for that matter—this book will give you the keys to nurture a solid beginning for your little one. **Order yours today** by

calling our office, visiting our online store, or mailing us your payment. \$20/single copy. **Price discounted for orders of three or more.**

Camp meeting season is beginning and we hope to see you there! Take a look at the camp meeting map on the back of this newsletter, choose your favorite location, and **plan now to attend!**

On a personal note, our **fourth grandchild** is due to be born next month. Please keep Matthew and Angela in your prayers as they prepare for the arrival of their new little one.

Happy grandparents,

Jim & Sally

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

April 19

Holland Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Holland, Nebraska
Call (402) 580-0720

April 24 - 27

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Leoni Meadows Camp
Grizzly Flats, California
Call (417) 296-3362

June 6 - 14

International Rescue & Relief Program
Telluride, Colorado
(For IRR students only)
Call 406-387-4333

June 26 - 29

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Laurelwood Academy
Jasper, Oregon
Call (541) 399-3020

July 23 - 26

Open House
Polebridge, Montana
Call (406) 387-4333

August 28 - 31

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Cohutta, Georgia
Call (706) 398-7218



It's About Walking With God!

“The Lord shall guide thee continually.”

Isaiah 58:11

Two-year-old Sam was doing something nearly all little boys enjoy—throwing stones into a lake. His mother sat beside him on a large boulder, tossing pebbles into the water and enjoying Sam’s fun. After a time, Sam began to tire of the activity and looked around for something else to do. Just then, something caught his fancy. His father had laid out a wet map to dry in the sun and had anchored it with a few stones. All of a sudden those particular rocks holding down the map took on an appeal that no other rock could hold. Sam just had to play with those rocks! He started over toward them.

“Sam, come here,” Mother called patiently. Sam headed straight for the rocks. “Sam, don’t pick up those rocks,” she said more firmly.

Mother tried again, “Sam, you may not have those rocks; they are holding down the map. Come here. You can throw these other rocks.”

Ignoring his mother, Self-led Sam picked one of the forbidden rocks and threw it into the lake. He sent a sullen look in his mother’s direction and picked up a second forbidden rock. His mother came running and intercepted his little hand in the act of throwing it.

Firmly, but kindly, she repeated her instruction. “No, Sam, you may not throw these rocks. Come with Mommy.” He tried to pull away so, she picked him up and carried him back to the spot on the beach where there were lots of rocks he could throw. He squirmed and fussed, and as soon as she put him down, off he went to the rocks on the map.

Mother carried him back again and said more firmly. “You may not play with those rocks. You can throw these rocks.” Sam, still self-led, whined and frowned, but stayed near Mommy this time.

“Okay, Sam, lets make things clear here. Do you see this split in the big rock?” Sam nodded. “You may not go past this crack in the rock. Stay on this side. If you cross it, you will have to take a ‘time out.’ Do you understand Mommy?”

“Yes,” he replied.

About fifteen seconds elapsed before Self-led Sam was over the crack, heading for the prohibited rocks again. His desire was focused and directed. There was a shoreline full of rocks he could throw, but he wanted the only ones he couldn’t have. Mother imposed a time out, repeated her instructions, and Sam returned to the forbidden rocks the moment his time out was over.

“Sam, you may not have those rocks. You’ll have to take another time-out.”

As soon as the second time-out was over, Self-led Sam headed back to the rocks on the map! Mother continued to work with him. She was patient, yet firm; consistent, while reasonable; kind, but clear with her instructions. She followed through on time-outs and spankings without becoming harsh or angry. She didn’t have a moment of rest to enjoy the sunshine and lake, but she did not give in to irritation toward Sam. Still, nothing would deter Sam from going after those forbidden rocks. Finally, Mother picked him up and carried him away—fussing, screaming, and kicking.

In “Self” vs. In Christ

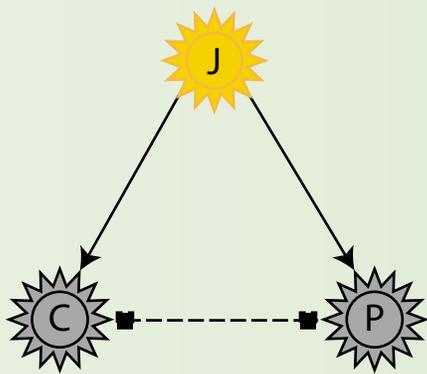
We have all been in a similar scenario with our children, haven’t we? Conscientious parents try so hard to be kind, consistent, and to teach obedience to their toddlers. Why did all this hard effort fail to bring about willing obedience? Is there a solution that works?

Yes, there is! It has everything to do with discovering the difference between parenting “in self” and parenting “in Christ.” Parenting in self produces children who are “mother-managed.” Parenting in Christ allows a child to experience the joy and freedom of becoming “God-governed” and “God-empowered.”

I like to describe this as a pyramid. The “J” at the top of the pyramid represents Jesus or God. The “C” represents the child and the “P”

the Parenting Pyramid





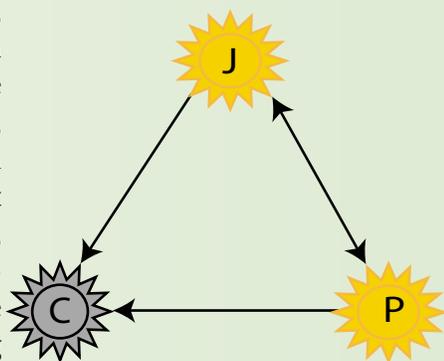
represents the parent. Christ is always seeking to communicate to both parent and child.

When a parent attempts to be godly in the power of the flesh and does not cry out to nor respond to God, Satan pushes his tactics on the parent's mind. The parent either relinquishes control to the child or forces obedience. Forced obedience may produce outward compliance, but self is unsubdued and will wait for a chance to dominate the parent. The relationship between the parent and child is strained and/or distant.

If we're in Christ and seeking His direction in the moment, He will impress us with an idea, a concept, a Scripture, or a bit of common sense that will help us know what course to pursue. This is communion from God to the parent. We evaluate these thoughts to see that they fit God's Spirit, His character, and truth—and conclude, "This idea is likely from God," and so we implement it. There is no sonic boom, no flashing light, and no neon sign—nothing through our senses to distinguish that this idea is from God. We follow His inaudible voice by faith, reason, and gain experience. As we repeat this process, our confidence in Him builds. Christ becomes the Head, the One in charge—not the parent. If we stray with a wrong approach or spirit, God will make us aware of how to correct our course.

When God gives us an instruction, we go to our children and tell them what He wants them to do. This is the parents' pathway of communication on the bottom of the triangle. Our voice needs to be the same as God's voice and spirit. In this way, our child hears God's directives in an audible way. Our discipline and instruction may be identical to what Self-led Sam's mother did, but God is in the equation now. When Divinity works with human effort, the outcome will be very different.

As you follow what you sense God is asking you to do, God will communicate the same message to the child that He directed you to say. "Sam, you don't want to throw these forbidden stones. You can choose to be



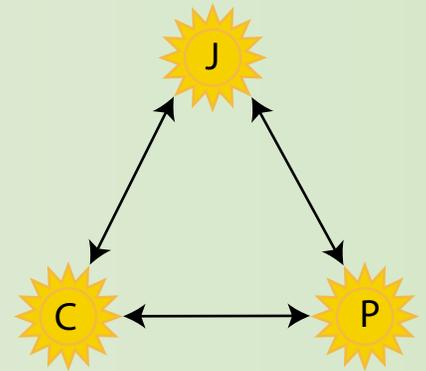
content to throw all these other stones, and you will be happy. I'll help you! Trust Me." This is God communicating to the child in the pyramid communication system.

Don't you want God working in your behalf this way? Sure you do! And He will work for you. Sometimes it will be obvious He is working in this way, and other times it won't be obvious. We can trust that God will be influencing our "Self-led Sam" to yield up his selfish nature and become "God-led Sam."

When Sam surrenders to the influence of the pyramid communication, then a very special thing happens. As he makes a choice to obey, his communication goes up that pyramid to God. It is his heart cry of "I want to obey." This free will choice is expressed by his outward cooperation of coming to Mother. At this time, God comes into His heart and cleanses all the selfish desires that ruled over him formerly. His emotions may remain negative for a while, but trust and lean on God! In time, feelings always follow faith. You will see the self-led disposition melt from his countenance.

As a result, Sam walks away from the forbidden rocks and willingly throws stones with Mother. This obedience is the outward evidence of an inward reality—a clean heart. Sam no longer longs for the forbidden rocks. When our little ones yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit upon their minds and heart, they become empowered to obey God, mother, and right. The parent sees this transformation, and is amazed at its completeness.

Do you see how "in Christ" versus "in self" is very different? "In self" is a powerless religion that attempts to wrestle and subdue the flesh by human will power alone. It fails to change the heart. It can be a relentless uphill climb against a set will. We may get outward compliance for a time, but no inward change occurs. In Christ, the child is not left alone in self's will power but is empowered by Divinity to obey. God directs each step and supplies the power (grace) to take that step. Being under God is the greatest place for parent or child to be. *elm*



*This article is an excerpt from Sally's most recent book **Parenting Your Infant/Toddler by the Spirit.***

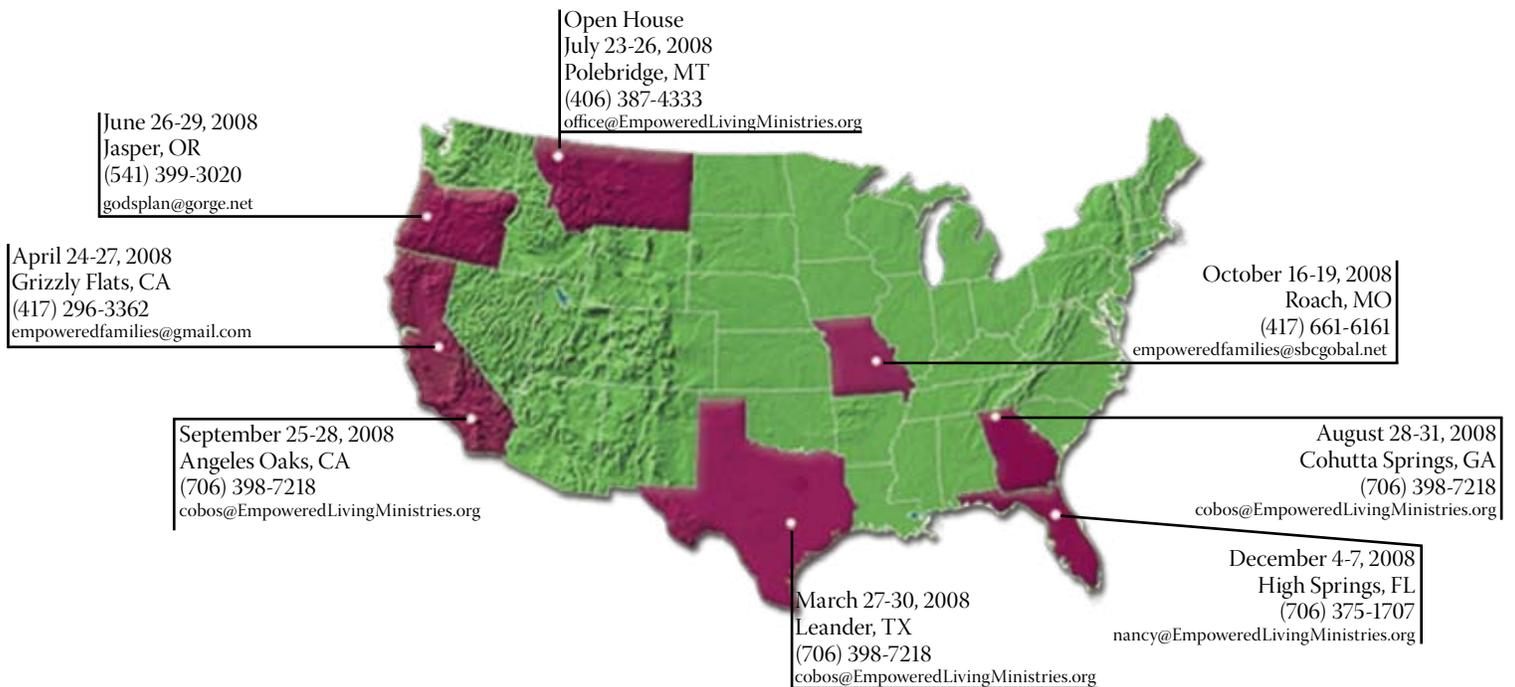


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It's About Walking With God!

2008 Empowered Living Camp Meetings



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