

# YOU AND YOUR BABY'S DEDICATION

**“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb is a reward.” Psalm 127: 3**

We as Christians have a tremendous responsibility given to us when the Lord blesses us with a child. By doing so He entrusts us with the responsibility of raising up that child in the way of the Lord and establishing early in his life a foundation built upon Jesus Christ. It is this tremendous responsibility that causes us to think of baby dedications as "family dedications." We feel that the whole family unit needs to be lifted up to the Lord so that each member will be able to keep his or her responsibilities.

But first, what exactly is involved in "dedicating" your child to the Lord? As mentioned, children are a heritage from the Lord. He gives them to us to bless us and because of this we must be willing to give them back to Him. We, too, must be willing to totally submit our children to the will of our Father.

A perfect example of "dedicating" a child to the Lord is given to us in 1 Samuel 1:11, 26-28. Hannah who had been barren (without child) for many years was weeping before the Lord because of her condition. As she was weeping she made a vow to God. *“Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, THEN I WILL GIVE HIM TO THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE, AND NO RAZOR SHALL COME UPON HIS HEAD.” 1 Samuel 1:11*

God honored Hannah's request and gave her a son named Samuel. Hannah then, in keeping her vow, dedicated (or set apart) Samuel unto the Lord.

We see here a beautiful example of what our attitudes should be toward our children and their relationship to God. We are to do the most we can to "set apart" our children to God until the day that they can make their own choice (something all of us must do at one time or another). By dedicating your children to the Lord you are making a vow to raise them in His ways and not your own. You are committing yourselves to this promise and must do all possible to keep it. The following is a list (though not exhaustive) of some of the things you as parents should do as part of keeping your vow.

## 1. Pray constantly for your child.

A parent's responsibility to pray for their child does not end at their dedication, but continues until the day the child commits his own life to the Lord. Job gives us an example of this in Job 1:5 *“So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.*

## 2. Instruct your child in the way of the Lord.

We are taught in Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) to *“bring them (your children) up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”* And Proverbs 22:6 adds *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* If we, while our children are young, instruct them in His ways, it is these sure ways that will develop into a life-long commitment.