

What Do You Have in Your House?

(A timely message for parents) by Ronke Adetunji

uestions! We hear them every day and each one begs for the right answer. What if the appropriate answer reveals the inner workings of one's home? Can anyone give an honest response to an outsider who bluntly asks,

"What do you have in your house?"

The widow of 2 Kings 4:1-7, when she sought the help of the prophet Elijah to save her sons from the hand of the creditor was asked, "What hast thou in the house?" Her honest answer and wholehearted obedience to the prophet's instructions made all the difference in her life. A pot of oil was turned into a profitable business which helped pay the creditor and save her sons. Realizing that the human body is referred to as a temple, the Christian's answer to this question may be twofold, relating first to his place of abode and secondly, to his body. So, in light of the foregoing, What do you have in your house?

Discord, hostility and strife? A happy home is the only paradise on earth and it is everyone's responsibility to contribute to its peace and harmony, where understanding and love are the norm.

In our contemporary culture, there has been a paradigm shift in the structure of the home resulting in numerous and sometimes insurmountable problems. Many fathers, even while physically present, have abdicated their role as head of the house and mothers have moved in to fill the vacuum. It should be noted that these "role reversals" contradict God's divine plan. 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, "The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." When God's order is not maintained, the resultant inverted situations almost always bring discord, hostility and strife, turning the home into a breeding ground for disunity.

A note to you...

Are you a born again, redeemed child of God? Are you living and reigning with Christ? Are you accepted in the beloved? If your answer to the foregoing is "Yes," then you are a candidate for divine chastisement. The Bible says, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6). God will rebuke you for wasting your time, being careless and for other habits which some other Christians never feel distressed over. God may not explain everything to you while He draws you into a special closeness where He will reveal to you secrets that are available only to a select few. So receive His chastisement with thankfulness and acknowledge that God will do with you and to you whatesover He pleases, and who can ask, "What doest Thou?" (Job 9:12).

We appreciate your faithful support which enables us to reach and make a difference in the lives of thousands. Thank you for partnering with us and may the Lord richly bless you.

Shalom,

Lawrence and Ronke Adetunji

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31) presents excellent advice to all parties involved.

Differences among siblings can also result in hostility. Parents must work with their children collectively and individually to pluck out the evil seed of discord, being mindful that no two children are alike. They must follow the advice in Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt," as they prayerfully address each problem, for their actions can

influence the attitudes of daughters when they become wives and sons when they become husbands. It is wise to remember that the New Testament epistles were addressed to churches that met in the home and many of the principles expounded then are still relevant in the home today. Parents, be prayerful! Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly and you will be empowered to handle every adverse household situation with Godly wisdom. What do you have in your house?

Spirit of favoritism? Favoritism is the practice of giving preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another. It is one of the most destructive habits parents can display and has long-lasting effects on both the favored and unfavored child. One child may develop resentment toward the parent and favored sibling and the other may develop an attitude of entitlement. Both children can become emotionally crippled.

Isaac, Jacob and Esau. Genesis 25:28 says, "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob." Two sons, twins, and each was selected by one parent to receive special favor. That unbridled favoritism caused strife between Jacob and Esau and resulted in lying, cheating, conniving, deceit and a murder plan. Needless to say, the repercussions of that particular favoritism are felt in the Middle East up to this day.

Israel (Jacob), Joseph and his eleven brothers. Jacob obviously did not understand the ramifications of favoritism. His partiality towards Joseph, his son with Rachel, the love of his life, was unsurpassed. Genesis 37:3 says, "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his

children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours." That was blatant favoritism! The brothers' jealousy and anger drove them into lying, cheating, conniving, deceit and a murder plan ... just as in their father's time. Joseph

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was sold into slavery by his brothers and consequently suffered hardship.

Parents, the dangers of favoritism are real with destructive and lasting effects. Therefore, love your children equally, "Without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (1

Timothy 5:21). Shun favoritism since it provokes the envy of the less favored, "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:16). Again I ask, What do you have in your house?

Colossians 4:6

An honorable violator? Some parents seem incapable of acknowledging the wrongdoing of their children and make excuses to protect them. A child who is not corrected or appropriately punished will not develop the skills necessary for life in a brutal world. Illequipped to handle the rigors of life, that child may become the bane of the parents. The vile actions of such a child is recorded in Genesis 34, where we learn that "Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her" (v. 1-2).

Shechem, a prince who no doubt was pampered, privileged and considered "more honourable than all the house of his father" (v. 19) was obviously void of moral values. Unable to comprehend the gravity of his actions, he showed no remorse but requested that Dinah be given to him as a wife. Interestingly, no rebuke came from his father or household. On the contrary, his father negotiated with Dinah's family, the house of Jacob, on his behalf. How immoral and accommodating!

Parents, is your favorite, pampered child who is emotionally crippled and whom you have elevated to the status of "royalty" honorable, able to make sound moral decisions and take responsibility for his or her actions? What do you have in your house?

Godly children? In many societies, godliness in the young is not promoted and too many individuals accept moral laxity in children as part of growing up. Godliness in the young should not be an option, but the rule, and can be achieved only from teaching them God's Word.

The first classroom is the home where the child is trained for life as an adult. Scripture admonishes parents to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

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A child should be properly trained and eased, not thrust, into the role of adulthood. Parents should use the principles in scripture as the guide for their children. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." Parents should extol the virtues of young Bible characters like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel, and his three friends in Babylon, Timothy whom Paul called "my son", and the three virgin daughters of Phillip the Evangelist.

Children must also be taught respect for others and their properties. They should honor the hoary head, respect men of God and strangers. Are ministers of God spoken of dishonorably in the presence of your children? Are the aged spoken of disrespectfully? Leviticus 19:32 says, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD." The chilling record in 2 Kings 2 says that a group of children mocked the prophet Elisha saying, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head" (v. 23). The prophet's reaction was swift and devastating. "And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them

in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them" (v. 24). Obviously, the Lord honored the word of His prophet. Parents, teach your children to fear the Lord and respect his servants. A God-fearing child is a blessing to his parents but an ungodly child brings woe and disgrace. What do you have in your house?

Articles from the kingdom of darkness? It is dangerous to believe that witchcraft and the occult are relegated to certain nations or geographic regions. Witchcraft is universal. It is prevalent in schools, universities and social groups, and is embedded in games, books, songs and television programs. Therefore, it should not be surprising that witchcraft paraphernalia, which pollute physically and spiritually, are brought into many homes resulting in chaos and destruction.

Isaiah 52:11 says, "Touch no unclean thing be ye clean." Additionally, Ephesians 5:11 says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Our homes must be clean and free from contaminants from the kingdom of darkness. The child of God must be like those in Acts 19:18-19, who, after believing, "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver." Strive to be holy for God is holy. All witchcraft-related items must be destroyed and the practice of witchcraft itself forsaken because "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:20-21).

Parents, let godliness permeate every facet of your life. Be sterling examples of cleanliness and other Christ-extolling virtues. Make the Word of God your compass. Spend quality time with your children. Then and only then will you honestly and confidently answer the question, *What Do You Have In Your House?*

Words of Wisdom

- * Only a loving God could devise a plan to give His friends and enemies the opportunity to be with Him.
- * Unemployment is non-existent in the Kingdom of God.
 * Pray daily and you will eliminate emergency appointments with God.
- * It is amazing what God can do with a broken life when you give Him all the pieces.
- Your spouse complements you; God completes you.

- * Godliness is a Christian's best tool.
- * Excellence is not achieved by accident.
- You will save a lot of time when you do the right thing
- * God's favor is superior to the level of failure most Christians accept.
- * Learn to recognize a problem before it becomes a calamity.

By the Word of Their Testimony

First of all, I want to thank God for that wonderful prayer line, Good Morning Holy Spirit. I went through depression in 2013 and even thought of taking my life, but thoughts of my children kept me determined to hold on. I prayed that God would save my marriage, and He did. My mother in law and my husband's many strange women made my life unbearable. However, the Lord upheld me during times of distress and my situation has turned around. My husband is more attentive, contributes to the upkeep of the home and gave up his unfriendly friends. My life and the life of my family members have changed. May God continue to empower the ministers at GMHS.

So many things happened and I feel that a heavy load has been lifted off my chest. I attended the January 2015 Deliverance Program, and I am amazed at the blessings I have received as a result. My body has been cleansed, the violent animal in my dreams have been killed and my nakedness has been covered. Our God is awesome and greatly to be praised! I thank God for His wonderful work in my life and His work at MFM Bowie and GMHS. Praise the Lord!!

I give God the glory for His faithfulness and mercy upon my life and family. He has provided for us in amazing ways. During the last 70 Days Prayer and Fasting Program I prayed specifically for me to receive my green card before last Thanksgiving, and God answered my prayer. I thank Him for GMHS where I learned to pray and expect results. May the Lord continue to use our mother in the Lord and the prayer team for His glory, in the name of Jesus.

Calvary greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am writing to thank you and the ministers for all that you do on the prayer line – you encourage thousands of people all over the world. Please do not get tired and do not stop. May the Lord continue to bless you!!

Praise the Lord! Since I joined the praver line God has granted me my heart's desire. My children and grandchildren are doing well. My relationship with my children and their in-laws has improved. I want to thank God for GMHS and all the ministers.

I was hopeless until someone introduced me to this prayer line. My children are all doing well. I thank God for this ministry. May God continue to bless GMHS.

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It is springtime, the weather has warmed up, and it is happy time!! However, with almost every tree in bloom and allergy-causing agents like pollen, grass and ragweed everywhere, it is not pleasant for allergy sufferers. Allergy symptoms are varied and irritating and include itchy eyes, runny nose, sneezing, coughing and congestion. An antihistamine or nasal spray can help. Do not take antibiotics – instead, contact your physician for treatment. For asthma sufferers, it is wise to take your medication before going outside. Follow the advice of your doctor. Also visit regularly with the Great Physician, by Whose stripes ye were healed. Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:5; Proverbs 4:20-22.

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Without Ceasing

Prayer Points:

- 1. O Lord, empower me to be a godly example to my children, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. O Lord, give me divine wisdom to make my home a house of prayer and praise, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. O Lord, let ungodliness be far from my dwelling place, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. The fire of the enemy will not burn my children, in the name of Jesus.
- 5. My children shall be for signs and wonders, in the name of Jesus.



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Remember: Prayers are never outdated!!

Live the abundant life!!

In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." His followers, therefore, should be satisfied in every aspect of life. The following are some suggestions to help live the abundant life.

Be still and know . . . Today, due to the pressures of work, domestic and other affairs, many do not have time for relaxation and fellowship with the Lord. Consequently, the Christian life, which should be a balanced life is frazzled, full of unrest. Christians must be determined to spend time with God. Whether through Bible reading, prayer, praise, worship or meditation, that connection must be maintained. Jesus Himself set the example for us to follow. On several occasions, scripture says that Jesus went out into a mountain to pray (Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12). Since He is our Great Exemplar, we should do likewise. We must separate ourselves from all the hustle and bustle, be still, and know that God is God!

Let your light shine . . . Jesus' command in Matthew 5:16, Jesus says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Which is in heaven." The main aspect of the abundant life is to be Christlike at all times, a light in a dark world. However, it is impossible to do so in our own strength, but possible through Jesus Who said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me" (John 15:4). Only through yield-

ing to Jesus can we fully obey the command, "Let your light shine" and confidently say, "I can do all things through Christ Which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Be joyful, be happy . . . Because of unavoidable challenges which can cause distress, it is imperative that Christians strive to be joyful at all times. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4), is a command, not a suggestion. There are numerous Bible instances that can help us develop a joyful spirit and be happy. For example, after the crossing of the Red Sea, the Bible says that "Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea." (Exodus 15:20-21). Experience the joy and exuberance of the moment and sing along! Join Jehoshaphat and his singers in 2 Chronicles 20:21-23 as they sing and praise the Lord and see your enemies self-destruct. In the midnight of your sorrows, sing along with Paul and Silas in the Philippian prison and watch the foundations of your problems quiver (Acts 16:25-26).

Therefore, child of God, don't worry, be happy as you live the abundant life and rejoice in the Lord always!

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