

A Firm Foundation

I. Introduction

“We will constantly assume these two truths. God is sovereign, but parents are responsible. God’s sovereignty is our hope. Parents are utterly dependent on God . . . It is fatal to presume upon God’s sovereignty by neglecting parental faithfulness” (William Farley, *Gospel Powered Parenting* pg. 23).

II. Dependence on God.

“But parenting formulas not only don’t deliver the promised outcome (safe, happy, never-in-trouble kids), they keep us from parenting by faith” (Julie Lowe, *Child Proof* pg. 1).

What are some characteristics of dependence on God?

1. Abiding with Christ.

“**Abide in me** means to continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, obedience, and joy” (ESV Study Bible pg. 2054).

“We turn each truth that we **learn *about* God** into matter for **meditation *before* God**, leading to **prayer and praise to God** . . . Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* pg.23).

2. A Fervent Prayer Life.

III. Parental Faithfulness.

“So in moments of discipline we get loaded for bear; we get cranked up emotionally and think if we are stern enough and loud enough, and make threats that are big enough, we will win, and our children will instantly change” (Paul Tripp, *Parenting* pg. 85).

IV. Conclusion

V. Discussion Questions

1. What did you find most helpful or encouraging from this talk?
2. What did you find most convicting from this talk?
3. Which do you find more difficult to live out and why – depending on God with your children or being faithful as a parent?
4. How has your upbringing with your parents affected your parenting? Have you found what they did helpful or harmful or both in the raising of your own kids?

