

## Prodigal Teen: Importance of God's Word

Psalm 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

Oh, how many times a grieving parent has come to us seeking advice for their wayward teen. There is so much that must be done. Yet there is so little time. Like an hourglass with the last grains of sand sinking down, we must right this sinking ship and fast!

So, how can you turn a prodigal teen back to the Father God? Well, it will be impossible without first utilizing the word of God. A “young man”/woman's “way” is cleansed by heeding the Bible. Of course, your prodigal teen's way has been made filthy by not heeding God's Word. So how do you get them to heed God's Word?

You can never “make” anyone do right. You can't make your prodigal teen pay attention to the Bible. However, you can surround your prodigal teen with the Scriptures. This saturation of the Bible is exactly what God wanted every family to do with His Word anyway in Deuteronomy chapter 6.

vs. 7 “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

vs. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

vs. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

- Have sound Bible teaching, preaching, and music coming from your TV and music players around the house.
- Listen to Bible preaching and music in your vehicles.
- Place beautiful mementos and pictures specifically with Bible verses around your home.
- Have family devotions every evening that it is not a church night. When it is a church night, pray together before you go to sleep.
- Attend every church service at your church.
- Attend revival services at your church and at other Bible believing churches.
- Have your personal devotions where you can be seen. My teen years were rough with a broken home, but I still remember to this day my mother praying and/or reading her Bible in her room or the living room.

My friend, please remember Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Even if your prodigal teen leaves your home choosing his/her own way, all of your saturation of God's Word in that young person's life will not be in vain. Getting in God's Word will be good for both

your teen *and* for you.