

Growing Into Christ Our Head

“... we are to grow up **in every way** into him who is the head, into Christ.” Ephesians 4:15



How God Has Used
My Family

To Grow Me Up Into Him

Lessons



That my failures with my children in large part were because of the weakness of my relationship with the Lord.



My relationship with the Lord must be strong and growing if I am to produce good fruit

Hebrews
12:1-2

Let us run with
endurance the race that
is set before us, fixing
our eyes on Jesus...

Run
Because we are in
a race



Race
Difficult,
Strenuous, Agony



Endurance
Be Faithfull to
the Finished Faith

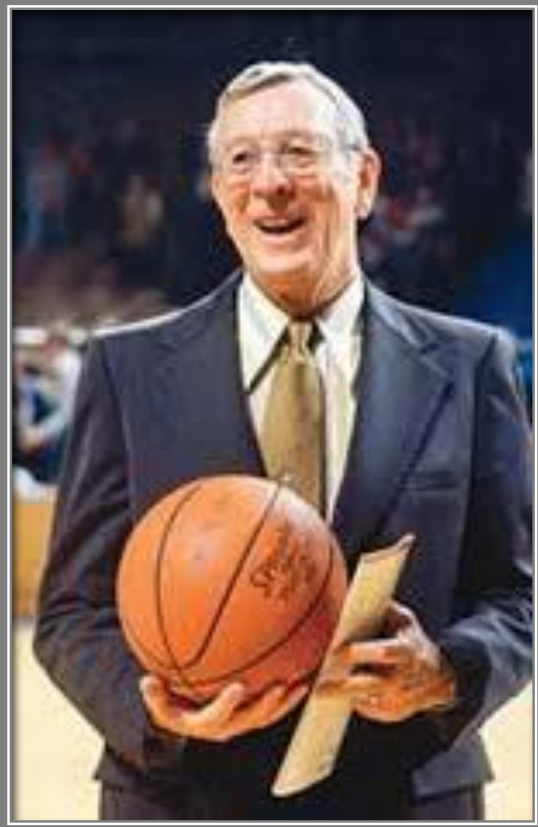
Our Journey of Faith

Our
Amazing
God

He Works All Things
Together for Good

Knowing and Understanding

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. Psalm 139:1-4



John Wooden

Some argue, the most successful coach that ever lived.



You Never Want to
Confuse Activity with
Accomplishment

John Wooden

Ephesians
5:15

Look carefully then
how you walk, not as
unwise but as
wise, making the best
use of the time, because
the days are evil.

Things I Realized

- *I had a lethargic attitude*
- *Bible Reading should be Bible Meditation*
- *Bible Reading and Meditation can and should lead to prayer*
- *I needed to continue Scripture Memory – Review of Armory for Victory*
- *Learning the catechism is important*

Lesson

Intentional focus on making the most of the time I spend with the Lord is essential in deepening all the other relationships in my life.

Building Relationships

Progress is an encouraging thing because it shows that God is at work.

When we see progress, we see that God has done something in us that we could not do our self and it puts thankfulness in our hearts to God.

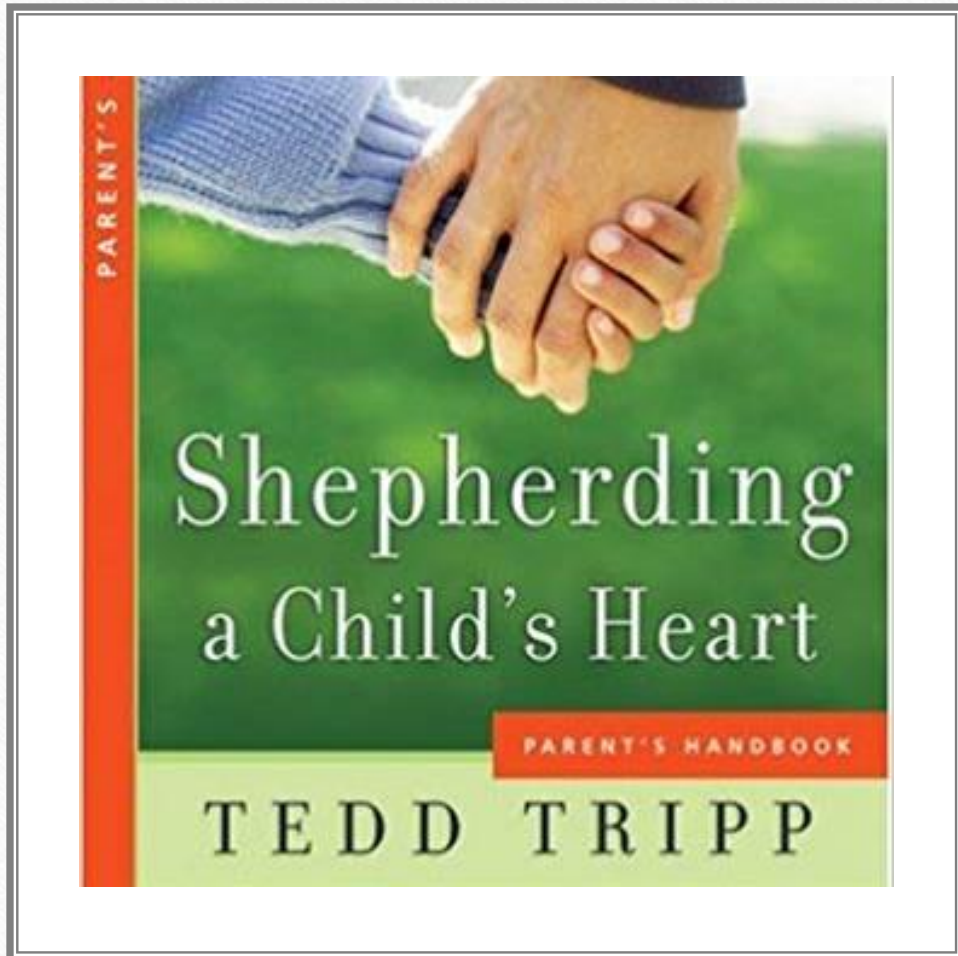
God Uses Multiple Teachers



Judson and Constance



Helen Keller and Ann Sullivan



God Uses Multiple Teachers

- *The Holy Spirit*
- *Shepherding A Child's Heart*
(written by Ted Tripp)
- *My Children*

I Missed the Obvious

- Must have intimacy of relationship
- Understand what makes them tick
- Know them and their inclinations

2 Corinthians
12:9-10

My grace is sufficient
for you, for my power is
made perfect in
weakness.

Lessons

- Because I did not listen, I did not gain understanding
- A harsh, impatient approach when correcting anyone will not foster a deep relationship

Stories

- Defending Damaging Behavior
- Answering Before Listening

Lessons

- God Listens - I Too Often Did Not
- The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out. Proverbs 20:5

Story

Watching My Adult Children Work With Their Children

Stories

Knowing
and
Understanding



Lessons

- Not Knowing and Understanding My Children Led To:
 - Missed Spiritual Opportunities
 - A Weakened Child/Parent Relationship
- The Past Matters – But the Future Matters More

Walter Payton

Chicago Bears from 1975-1987



My God is at work in me, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

Matthew Henry

- “*Both to will and to do: He gives the whole ability. It is the grace of God which inclines the will to that which is good: and then enables us to perform it ...*

John Gill

- ... notwithstanding the work of grace in us we would find very little inclination to, and few and faint desires after spiritual things; and less strength to do what is spiritually good; BUT God of his good pleasure goes on working what is well pleasing in his sight.

Growing Up Into Him

**Looking unto Jesus
the author and
finisher of our faith**

Hebrews 12:2

