



SESSION SIX Knowing the Child – Part 2

God's blueprint for being a good parent—a biblical parent—I think is obvious. And it's easy for me to tell you. It's easy for you to put it in your notes: "All I need to be is like God." It's something else to do it, but the grace of *God* will do it. Now, we want to press in more closely. See, that's all we'll do for most of the rest of the sessions. What is my Father like toward *His* children and that's what He wants to work again in *me* toward *my* children.

First I'm picking up on this; my Father *knows* certain things about this child. May I remind you, parenting *begins* not when you start spanking them. Parenting *begins* even, you know, young couples who don't *have* a child and you *want* a child, what are you going to get when you *have* a child? What is it? Is it a little plaything? Is it what most parents *have* in America? Something to please *me*? That's the reason there's so much tension because very few children will please you. I mean, you know. What are they? Brats? What are they? All right, my Father knows—now, review with me—my Father knows *this!* What? *They're very important!* The most important thing in your house is not your big-screen television! The most important thing in your *house*, next to your wife or husband, is that child. God thinks they are *very* important! So should you.

My Father knows they have needs—*indispensable!* My Father knows that they have that *capacity* and *responsibility*, and you *dare* not take it away from them. We'll get into this a little later. You *can't* take it away! God could, but He doesn't—that responsibility [for the child] to make his own choices.

Now let's move on. My Father knows a lot *more*. He knows *everything* about them. "But that's too high for me!" But He's revealed some *other* things. The Bible is filled with this, observations confirming *all* the time. The child psychologists will just give you *reams* of books on it. Turn with me just to one verse to get it before you: Deuteronomy chapter 4. I'll just pick up one [verse]. The book of Deuteronomy is filled with this. The whole Bible, overall, is filled with this. In a sense, that's the reason the Bible was given. But I'll just pick up one. Begin, just read verse 9, Deuteronomy chapter 4, verse 9. He says, "Only take heed to thyself and keep *thy* soul diligently" [emphasis Hatch]. Maybe this is applied to parents. Now, you'd better take care of yourself and be sure God's making you what you ought to be. "Lest *thou* forget the things which thine eyes saw, unless *they* depart from thy heart all the days of thy life"—now watch this—"but make them known unto thy children and to thy children's children." Do you know what He's saying? He is saying, "You have seen God *work!* You have seen some mighty *things!* You have heard God *speak!* You *know* Him; you know His *ways!*" Now He says, "You *have* to make this normal to your children." The Bible is *filled* with this. You've got to teach your children.

Now let's come at it from the *child's* angle. Why does he *always* say you've got to *teach* them? *Teach* them? Because my Father knows how He *made* a child. Child Psychology is clear on this. Sometimes we forget it, that a *child*, when he is born, do you know what he knows? Now I'm not going into deep philosophy, but I am deeply convinced of *this*. Do you know what your child knows when you get him? Now even after nine months some of this has taken place—not too much. But when you pick him up at nine months, do you know what he knows? He doesn't know *nothing!* A little ape can run rings around him. Do you know why? Because God has put in animals instincts which are, by translation, programmed behavior. So it works automatic. They don't have to learn it. God has put *none* of *them* in your child! He has no instincts. He has no behavior patterns that are hereditary. He has a few reflexes. Something gets in his eye, it will water. I mean, you tap his knee and it'll jerk. I mean, so what? A few little reflexes. That's not going to get him very far.

Do you know what that means? *Your child has to learn. I mean learn everything that is going to make him a human being* and to make him a spiritual human being he must learn, and learn, and learn! And some of us are tempted to think that little child—especially when he gets up so he can walk and talk, "He is a little Billy Graham." "Well he's my child; he ought—." "Well, where are *you?* How long have you been—? You've *learned* all this. He just started. The greatest learner on the earth, you'll just get out of his way.

It is God's plan that you learn, you learn, you learn! *Everything* that is called human behavior must be learned! Everything, all *spiritual* behavior must be *learned*. He must *learn* to pray. He must *learn* to trust God. He must *learn* all of it, poor kid. Aren't you glad you're not a two-year-old with all of that to learn?

My Father knows that and my Father's a wonderful teacher. My Father knows not only that he is important, and that he has needs, and that he has a choice; He knows that He's made him to learn. And he's got to go through a *lot* of things. And sometimes when he's ten you'll say, "He'll never make it." But wait until he gets 35! Then you'll say, "Well we can't be overwhelmed with our boys. Now they're well. How much they've learned! They've passed me." That's great. They've learned things I couldn't *begin* to learn. They're learners. That's the reason they've got to have parents. They're helpless until they've learned.

All right, let's turn to the last thing. Turn with me to that passage in which that verse to which I refer occurs, when the Psalmist says, "Such knowledge is high, I cannot attain to it." Psalm 139 tells me something else that my Father knows, and at least at this point He has revealed something to me. There are other hints in Revelation but I hope you realize that God doesn't have to reveal things that you can see around you and observe *without* a revelation. In my understanding, God *reveals* truth that you can otherwise not know—in most cases. But if you can know it, God doesn't reveal to you that you have to chew your food, does He? Can you give me a Bible verse, "Thou shalt chew your food..."? I mean God doesn't have to tell you that. It's just, you *know* you've got to chew. You just swallow, and it will choke you. So you *know* that. He doesn't *reveal* that. He doesn't reveal—. Now, God doesn't *have* to reveal this. But I'll tell you, the observations of the careful scientist have filled in the pages, but God tells me here. Psalm 139, I'm going to read just a couple of verses. Pick it up in verse 13. You see in the first part of the Psalm He has talked about in verse 1, "Thou knowest my downsitting. Thou understandest my thought." God knows *all* of this. Then verse 6 you see, "Such knowledge is too *wonderful* for me; it is *high*. I cannot *attain* to it" [emphasis Hatch]. But now He reveals to you certain things apparently He wants you to know about your child. Verse 13. Something my Father knows, He knows real well. "*For Thou didst form my inward parts.*" He made my body. He made all my parts. Do you think He understands them? Yes or no? Certainly! He made it.

In my old age I've gotten into the hobby of woodworking. My boys got together only some years ago and felt sorry for the old man. "He didn't have sense enough to play golf or go fishing, so we better give him *something* to do in his senility." So they bought me a ten-inch power table saw and set me up, and boy it's been fun to mess around and make a lot of saw dust. I'll tell you, I'll make some toys for the grandchildren, and when I make one, you think I *know* it? I know where those wheels came from. I know what hooks it together. *I made it*. That's what God's saying. "I made your body. I understand it."

But now watch what He tells you. Read on. "For Thou hast formed my inward parts. Thou didst..." Now I don't know how that verb is translated in your version. "Thou didst cover" is the old American Standard. The etymology, the real word so they tell me, is "Thou didst knit me together..." using a figure just like some of you women knitted something together and it came out a beautiful thing, it says God knit you together. Where? "In my mother's womb." Now you see where he's talking. He's talking about prenatal experience. God knew you before you were born. He's going to tell you something more fantastic! Read on. "Thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Thy works and that my soul knoweth right well. My frame was not hidden from Thee." Apparently he's talking about even the skeleton. The structure of the body—even in your mother's womb—was not hidden from Him. He knew it, you see. He knew it. He *made* it. "My frame was not hidden from Thee when I was made in secret." *Again* referring to in your mother's womb. What the scientists now call—He's talking about—embryology, the development of the embryo before what we call "birth." My Father knows that. My Father *knows* embryology.

I mentioned, I think, in a previous session that my father wanted me to go into medicine. And I had planned to go into medicine. [I] took pre-medicine at Duke University. I was planning to go into medicine and God saved me and turned me around and called me into His service. So back in those days in pre-medicine I took a course in embryology. *Fascinating!* They can observe it. I've had an occasional doctor or pediatrician or other doctors in my Child Psychology course and when we get to this I ask them, "Tell us about it." And they say, "The amazing thing, we doctors who are Christians, we get so *used* to it we lose the wonder of it!" One of the most *amazing* things that takes place is when that child—and *God knew it*—when he was growing in his mother's womb. That's embryology.

Now watch the next statement. "My frame was not hidden from Thee when I was made in secret and curiously wrought in the lowest part of the earth." Still in his mother's womb. Now notice verse 16, "Thine eyes did see..." Did He know it? Yes or no? Oh yes. Using a figure, "My eyes..." He *saw* what was going on *because He made it!* "Thine eyes did see"—now watch—"mine unformed *substance*." Now *that* is a miracle of revelation! That's

the way every human life begins. May I tell you what He's *saying*? All of you know this, but we've lost the wonder of it as that doctor told me in class last summer. You see it so often, the doctors do, and some of you that have 12, 13 children, maybe you have seen it so often. Maybe you don't see it. God tells you He *knows* it. He says it all begins in an unformed substance. Do you realize that this magnificent body which you are now beholding once was an unformed substance? Just one cell. That's all there was.

Read on. "Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, even the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were none of them." Now I don't think he's talking there—because of the context—about His purpose and plan, you know, for my life that God knew way back when I was fiddling around with medicine, that He wanted me in the ministry. I know that's true and other Scripture *teaches* it. I don't think that's what He's talking about here. I think He says, "My Father knew. He saw me when [I was] unformed substance, and He knew all of the days of this process were going to take place before any of it unfolded."

Now this is one of the wonders of the human body—that it starts as an unformed substance. Now watch it. It keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger. True or false? True or false? All right, then when he's mature he's like that, true or false? Well that's what you said. You said it keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger. It is *not* that. It is one of the *wonders* of God's creation. It starts as an unformed substance. The *process* that takes place, I'll give you what the psychologists call it. God expects you to *know* something about it. He's told you about this. And it's observable! You watch your child as he goes through it, but you need to know it and understand it. And when he comes out, this thing doesn't just get bigger and bigger and bigger; it comes out so that now he is six feet tall and weighs 175 pounds. And it *all* was in here. *That's a miracle!* That this unformed cell can unfold and the atheistic scientists, as they *see* it, they *know* that. They say it just follows a push inside that makes it unfold and they attribute it to some thing they call "evolution." But my Father *knows* that. Now that is what the child psychologists call "development." This child is not just *growing*! Now they grow, yeah, you see them and they get here, and you measure them and then they *grow*...man, it's *much more* than that! *He is changing!* It's a process of *continual change*—all *kind* of changes! See, if he just gets bigger and bigger—just growing—well, that's one thing. And he is! He's getting *taller*. He's getting *heavier*. But you know, that little baby face, isn't it cute? Ant then he gets big *ears*. And then the chin shape. You see, he's changing his whole *form*. And he's changing function. All of the *functions* of the body are changing. Then all of the sudden it's his *sexual* function. All that is this *amazing* thing; it's a progressive series of changes.

How many of you like *change*? If your car was like this, I'll tell you, you'd never be able to drive it. If one day, you know, it was a stick shift, you know, and one day "Reverse" was up here and the next day it was back here, well that's the way your *child* is. He's just *changing*, he's *changing*, he's *changing*. My Father *knows*. He knows that from an unformed substance this is developing an *amazing* thing, to a mature-bodied adult, with all of its form and function that a body has. That's what the child psychologists call "development."

Now this passage, obviously, is dealing with the development of the human body—like you need to *know* that. You don't have to have a revelation; all you need is books. Now, the woods are *full* of books. Most of them—. People ask me about a good one [written] on a simple level. I wish I had one to recommend. Most of the writings on the development of the child are so complicated and technical and theoretical that they are of very little help to the average person. But I thank God, my Father, knows this. He made it, He understands it, and He wants you to know that your child, when you pick him up down here...boy, my next to youngest grandchild, a little two-and-a-half year-old-boy, he's a doll, smartest kid who ever walked this earth—*no* question...I wish you could see him. He's not an *adult*. He's smart. He's smarter than I am, but he's not a little *adult*. He's got to keep changing, *keep* changing until his body [is mature].

I'm going to take a big step. Now follow me. Developmental psychologists can demonstrate this to you and you what it. Your child has gone through it. It's not just simple things! There's a *pattern* that it goes through. You know, even in his *size*. You're here and all of the sudden he'll stop growing and you think he's going to *die* because he doesn't eat. Well, he doesn't need to eat because he's not *growing*. And then all of the sudden he'll start shooting up and then he'll eat everything in your house, and maybe the house too. He'll shoot up and then all of the sudden his legs get big, and his hands get big, and his nose shoots out, and he doesn't know what's happening. But they *all* go through that. You all *understand* that. But I'm going to take a big step. Now watch me. My understanding of a human being, he's made up of a body and that's what we've seen, but the Bible also teaches that he's made up also of a soul. Now I'm not going into the issue of trichotomy and dichotomy, whether it's body, soul and spirit. I'm just going where the *battle* is. The battle is modern psychology doesn't believe there's anything but body. You'd better understand that. Whenever you read any psychologist, he comes with that presupposition that there is nothing in man but body. Now the big battle is, "Is there any thing—anything *else* in man except body?" Now that's where the theologians split halves over whether it's three or two. I'll not get into that. You theologians can settle that. But I *will* get into

this: There is another part that is distinct from his body; that's the soul. My thesis is—. May I have your undivided attention? My thesis is that the same thing that happens to the body happens to the soul.

Now if that's *true*—. Now, my reasoning on that—my proof for that—is this: the Scripture *hints* at it. It says about Samuel *and* Jesus that they grew in what? In body, *and* in wisdom, *and* in favor with God and man. That's not all body. That's body *and* soul. But the thing that is overwhelming to me is when the child psychologist observes this and he tells me that a child goes through the development as a person and his *mental* and his *emotional* and his *personality* development, he goes through the same patterns just as clear cut and observable as anybody. And when they keep telling me that, and they can demonstrate it then I'll say, "Well maybe God wants me to be aware of this."

Then I come to the last thing that indicates it to me. I've suggested to you certain analogies and I am convinced that God made us body. And see, could not God have made this body and planted in it an energy cell that would have lasted you 100 years so that you would never have to eat? Couldn't He have done that? Wouldn't it be good? I mean, why do I always have to feed it? Always have to feed my face? I mean, three times a day, at least two times a day, at least once a day, you've got to put in something. Why? I think God made this body to be a little picture of this because you *desperately* need to input into your soul.

Now I'm *reasoning* from an analogy that I see in Scripture between body and soul and therefore I take this big step and I just want to tell you my deep concern. If this is so, now here's what we have. I'll separate body and soul. They're never separated in experience. The Bible calls it if they are separated, that's death. At death your soul departs from the body and if you're a Christian, goes to be with the Lord. So I'm just going to separate it. I'm not going to kill you; I'm, just for the sake of this discussion, I'll put the soul down here. Now if that's so, the body—it's no question—begins as an unformed mass and then through a progressive series of *amazing* changes it becomes a body like this. Now watch. If the analogy is correct, then the soul begins as an unformed mass. Do you know what that means? It means what God intended—the kind of person God intended your child to become—is not there at birth. Now sometimes we use figures. Now, *you've* heard them: "He's like putty." Now you know your child is not like putty. I mean, you know, he's more like a cyclone. He's not a placid like a little piece of putty. Now what they're getting at is that the things that happen to this child can affect the kind of person he becomes. That's my deep concern. If that's true, now watch what happens. The soul, as a person, is not formed, but in these years of development—look—it *begins to be formed* and *then it becomes* the kind of person God wants him to *be*.

But watch. Suppose—I'm not trying to appeal for any sympathy; I got all of that long ago—but in recent months I've been thrilled with the idea that someday I'm going to heaven and then I'm going to meet Buck Hatch, the kind of person he should have been. I'm not talking about *spiritually*. I praise God I'll be like Jesus! But I'm talking about without these hang-ups. Do you know what happened to me? I don't know what kind of person God intended me to be. All I know is some things went wrong. Do you know what happened? That soul came out—I don't want to scare you—it came out all misshaped. That's what you call hang-ups. My emotional development was arrested. I'm not trying to scare you; I'm just trying to tell you what my Father knows. I'm trying to get before you what you need to know about the development of your child. He's not only developing physically in body, but he's also developing as a person. And if anything goes wrong, his emotional, his personality development can go askew and it can be arrested. Now I've talked, and I don't want to keep saying this, but I talk to students all the time. Now they come to me, obviously, because I share with them my struggles and they identify. So I get a selection on it. But their personalities, it goes askew. My Father knows that. *That is the reason* my Father has *insisted*—. *My father has insisted* that this family environment be such that that child can develop normally. [Are] you with me? That's the reason you parents *must* be increasingly what God wants you to be.

And as we wrap this up, our first thing, "What about my Father?" We are to be like *Him*. The first thing we've seen about Him [is] *my Father knows His child*. He knows! Obviously, He knows everything! He's not asking me to be omniscient, but He *does* ask me at least to be committed. I want to know more, I cannot know it all, but I think He wants you to know because He has talked about it. He wants me to know how important that child is, that that child has *needs*. That that child makes *choices*—has to! That child has to *learn*. And this child is developing. He's not just growing; he's changing *into* the person—body and soul—that God intended him to be. It's amazing.

When I look at it from the child's angle, and then I come, as we will in the next sessions, now what does God expect me *further* to be? "Oh, I see *why* now! Oh, so that—. Oh! I begin to see!" And it all fits together in a cohesive framework of principles, you see. Parenting, I'll say once more, parenting begins with your knowledge of this child. My Father *knows* and He wants *you* to know something about the child. Not everything, but the more you know, the better it'll be.

Next session we will go further in "God's Blueprint for Parenting."