

# 10 Promises for Parents

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You probably have a book mark somewhere with promises to pray for your children. You probably have good kid verses on your refrigerator about obedience and kindness and sharing with others. You probably have a few standby verses you share with the little ones when they start to get defiant and lippy. All good. But do you have any verses for yourself?

My kids need Bible promises, but on most days, I need them even more. I'm prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I want them to love. So here are ten promises from the Bible that every Christian parent should remember, especially the Christian parent writing this blog.

**1. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness"** James 1:2-3.

Since the verse refers to trials of *various* kinds, I assume that James is talking about more than martyrdom and death. Sleepless infants, tortuous bedtimes, muddy feet, spilled orange juice, moody teens—they all count too. And we should count them all joy, even when they feel like the biggest pain. God promises he's at work to produce steadfastness.

**2. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you"** James 4:10.

You're tired, scared, defeated, weary beyond all reckoning. Good. Get low, and God promises to lift you up.

**3. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain"** Psalm 127:1.

It doesn't depend on me. It's not about me. My kids are not for me. Stop freaking out. Stop trusting in horses and chariots.

**4. "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward"** Psalm 127:3.

They are. They really, really, truly, actually are. Whether you have one child or two or ten or twenty, God has given you those children because he loves you. The world thinks they are burdens. God tells us they are blessings.

**5. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"** Proverbs 15:1.

Yup, that verses is for parents too. The anger in our kids is from their hearts, but the mouthy way they learn to express that anger may be from our example. Why do I think my gasoline will help put out their fires?

**6. "Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city"** Proverbs 16:32.

The only way to be a strong parent is to be a parent with self-control.

**7. "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light"** Matthew 11:30.

Parenting is hard work. Period. But parenting up to the expectations of your (fill in the blank: mother, mother-in-law, girlfriends, next door neighbor, own little taskmaster) is impossible. Parent for Christ's sake. He promises not to weigh you down with impossible burdens.

**8. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God"** Hebrews 13:16.

God knows that you sacrifice your time, your desires, your sleep, your money, and often your own dreams for your children. He sees and he smiles.

**9. "Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox"** Proverbs 14:4.

Everything is a mess, all the time. What else did we expect? We have dirty oxen running around. But there's joy, memories, laughter, sanctification, and gospel growth from those wild animals too.

**10. "But he gives more grace"** James 4:6.

Ah, sweet grace. Grace to forgive your impatience (again) and your laziness (again). Grace to get you off the ground. Grace to get you walking. And grace to lead you home.