

**Pearls for Parenting**  
**November 19, 2017**

## **Character and Motivation**

From last week: Daniel Taylor, Letters to my Children.

A Short video clip of him reading the story at [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org), “The Life-Shaping Power of Story” starting at minute 42.

### **From Paul Tripp:**

“Not all of the wrong your children do is a direct rebellion to authority; much of the wrong is the result of a lack of character.”

Our job is to make connections for our children between character and worship.

Not so much character management as it is worship realignment.

### **Motivation—How to:**

Dan Allender—“The most common black-and-white approach to parenting assumes that following the correct rules guarantees the desired results. Our children will turn out well if we take them to Sunday school, have regular family devotions, prayed for them, and support the right religious and political causes... this is a rote, color by numbers parenting, and it fails to reflect both real life and the character of God. The vertical pattern for parenting is strewn with mystery, paradox, failure, redemption, and reconciliation—it is always both/and, never either/or. Meeting our children in the middle of God means we are willing to be thrown about by the wild, woolly depths of his character.”

2 Tim 3:10-17 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings... Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Motivation by: Relationships, God’s Word, A Greater Cause, Joy (2 Cor 1:24, Rm 15:13)

John Piper—“People don’t get excited about burdens being laid on their back, they get excited about a burden-lifter. They get excited about a God infinitely worthy of their allegiance and their worship. So my counsel is, put very little emphasis on programs in the church. Rather, put a huge emphasis on heralding and exulting over the greatness of God, the unsearchable riches of Christ, the glories of our salvation, the wonders of the Bible, and weave into that a life of prayer for your people that God would give them a taste for this glory so that they don’t feel forced. You don’t want service because you have twisted their arm into it. You want service that is overflowing out of joy in God.”