

Am I Qualified To Do This?

The starting point for all parenting begins with the Three - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All successful parenting is based in the Three. The Father loves the Son. The Son adored His Father. The Holy Spirit is the great coach and mentor. You are not the starting point. He is! He is the source of your parenting wisdom, the power of your love, and all the strength and patience you need.

Not only has He qualified you, but He has equipped you with all the tools you need. He will walk along the journey with you, guiding you, comforting you, and encouraging you.

**Jesus will never ask you to do
something you are not qualified to do.**

The foundation of this book is about being led by the Holy Spirit and making Him a part of your everyday parenting. To grasp each step, you will need to understand the role and relationship of the Holy Spirit in your life.

You may feel overwhelmed as you read this book and think it is above your ability to do. When you build slowly, one new item at a time, you will be amazed at how quickly it all adds up. We will discuss not trying to do too much too fast but building layer on layer and step by step. You can do this!

**This book is not a standard to live up to
but a possibility to live into.**

The Holy Spirit as your senior partner

Imagine you have just graduated from college and landed your dream job. Of course, you are nervous and do not want to make any mistakes. Going through the four-year degree taught you much theory, but now you are faced with real clients, real accounts to manage, real expectations from your boss, and serious consequences if you mess up.

You arrive at your desk the first day, nervous but not wanting to show how inexperienced you feel. You sit down, and the senior partner walks over to your desk. Immediately you jump up, wondering what he could want from you. Not only is this the senior partner of the firm, but his name is also on the front door of the building!

He comes over and sits next to you, very relaxed: smiles, and welcomes you to your new position. He leans in closer and says. "If there is anything I can do to help you succeed, I'm right here." You smile, assuming this is his formal welcome and that he will now leave.

Instead, he continues: "I am not going away. I will sit right here with you. I will answer any questions. I will describe each client to you: I'll tell you the best way to manage them, their idiosyncrasies, and their preferences. Each client is different, and you need to manage them differently."

You are too overwhelmed to respond to him. He takes out a pen and writes down his cell phone number, saying that you are

welcome to contact him twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, no matter what is going on.

I'm sure you have never had a boss or partner like that! However, you have a senior partner who wants to support you as you parent: He is the Holy Spirit. The day you became a parent, the Holy Spirit stepped right up and offered to be your senior partner.

He knows your child. He has truths about your child which He wants to share with you. He intricately understands your children and how each of them is wired.

He has wired you to be an excellent parent.

He never expected you to do this alone. He promises that He will never leave you; He will always be there for you.

Since the Holy Spirit was intricately involved in designing your child, who better to be your advisor and partner? Parenting is going to be an incredible adventure. Isn't that exciting?

Walking with the Holy Spirit

1. *Invite Him to be your senior partner.* Recognize your dependency on Him and acknowledge that He is on this journey with you. Luke 11:13 says:

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

2. Ask the Lord to teach you to walk in step with the Spirit so that you can live according to Galatians 5:25 says,

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

3. Learn to hear His voice. Be sensitive to God’s voice daily. In each situation, wait and turn to Him. Luke 12:12 says,

“for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Similarly, John 14:26 reminds us, *“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

He longs to share what He knows with you. It is almost like He has a secret that He wants to tell you. He is just waiting for you to ask.

4. Be prepared to do what He says. The Holy Spirit loves to tell you what is to come. John 16: 13-15

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you in all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears and tells you.”

Perhaps you are new to hearing the Lord’s voice or want to learn more about it; I have added some notes for you in Appendix A: How to Hear God’s Voice.

The Holy Spirit knows our children better than anyone else. Here are some practical ways to understand your child

1. Get a book to write down the thoughts and ideas you receive from the Lord for your child. You could have one

book for all your children or get a separate book for each child.

2. Ask the Lord for one word that describes each of your children.
3. Ask the Lord to show you what His favorite thing is about your child.
4. Don't focus too much on the wording, the exact scripture reference, or the logic of what you receive. Sometimes, you receive just one piece of revelation. As you write these down, a very clear picture begins to form over time. For example, my friend recently asked me to pray for her son, who was graduating and about to leave for college. As I closed my eyes and asked the Lord about her son, I saw a pile of stones. They were packed and leaning on a big rock. As I asked the Lord what that meant, I felt He said that her son would be like a rock that people could depend upon. As a mother, she did not need to fear for him as he went into college with all the temptations because his faith was solid, and others would depend on him. As you can imagine, this was very encouraging to my friend. It was an anchor for her to hold onto as she watched her son leave home.

Remember, the Holy Spirit wants to share His thoughts with you. He wants to reveal what He knows about your child. Just think: If your child came and asked you a question, would you keep quiet? Would you begin to use technical words? Would you go into a complex explanation? Absolutely not!

You would be quick to respond. You would think of the simplest way to answer your child's question using words they would easily understand. So it is with the Holy Spirit. When we ask Him something, He is always quick to respond. He loves to make His truth known to us. When we ask about our children, He wants to help us. He is the giver of all knowledge and truth.

Let's go back to the illustration of the senior partner sitting at your desk. How strange would it be if the senior partner sits at your desk, ready to answer any questions about your clients, and you lean over to a colleague and ask their advice instead? Your colleague is working on a different project, focusing on what is best for their client. Yet that's often what we do with our children. The Holy Spirit is ready to answer us, yet we go with more easily acceptable suggestions in our community. Decisions that seem more practical or easier to implement. All we need to do is lean on Him and ask Him. He knows our children intricately.

While books, research, and theories are helpful, there is nothing quite like going to the Holy Spirit and asking Him specifically about our children.

His thoughts will change the way you view your children and how you parent each of them. He takes the mystery out of parenting and brings His power, His wisdom, His kindness, His love, His peace, and His joy into the life of your child.

That sounds like a partner worth listening to.

Activation

- Take advantage of what the Holy Spirit is offering you today by starting a journal.
- Learn to hear His voice and write down what you hear or think you are hearing from Him.