

# mercEmail

A Weekly Devotional from the  
South Green Street Church of Christ

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## A Dedicated Father

by Steve Higginbotham

**H**ow dedicated are you as a parent? Do you ever feel you're just killing time until your children grown and out of the house? Do your children seem to be an inconvenience to you? Do days, weeks, or months pass by without any meaningful instruction, guidance, or training?

Consider one family I once read about. Each year on the boy's birthday, he runs to the mailbox with anticipation of reading a letter that is addressed to him from his father. He's been doing this every year for as long as he can remember. What's so special about this letter is that this little boy has never met his father. You see, this boy's father died from cancer prior to his birth. However, the father, in spite of his limitations, wanted to be the best father to his son that he possibly could be. So, before he died, he wrote 18 birthday letters to his son and left instructions with his wife to see to it that these letters were mailed each year. He also wrote a couple special letters for when his son turned sixteen and would begin driving, graduation, and for when he was to be married. These letters were letters of instruction, advice, counsel, and love from a father who took parenting seriously.

You have to love the heart of this father, and you can understand why this boy runs to the mailbox to receive his letters. How special and how treasured the words of this boy's father must be to him. But it should be no different with those of you who are reading this and who have been blessed with good health. The words of instruction, training, counsel, and love that you can give daily are just as important to your children. It may not seem like it at the present, but as your children grow and develop into adults, they too, will treasure the instruction, counsel, and love that you offered them, which also helped to mold them into who they will be.

May we all learn from a father who was not blessed in the same way we have been blessed, but who did the best he could to be the best father he could be to his son.