

**Defining Successful Parenting: Tim Sanford**

Many people believe every parent's job is to make sure his or her children turn out "right." Even though most of us don't quite know what that standard means, we feel obliged to meet it.

But if it were true, it would mean God messed up.

In Genesis we read about a place called the Garden of Eden. It was a perfect environment, a perfect "home." In this perfect place there were two perfect people — God's children, Adam and Eve. Wouldn't that be nice to have perfect children? And there was a perfect God — the perfect parent.

There was also a rule: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:17). You've probably heard the rest of the story.

Adam and Eve chose foolishly, defying what God had told them. Our human decay and ultimate death are stark reminders of that wrong choice — made by perfect people in a perfect environment with a perfect parent.

So what did God do wrong? If He "trained them in the way they should go," why did Adam and Eve choose the other option? If Proverbs 22:6 is a *guarantee* of success for parents, why wasn't it a *guarantee* for the Author of the Book? Enter free will.

I'm talking about a God-given freedom to choose — part of being created in His image. Adam and Eve exercised it, and your teenagers exercise it today. "But I want them to turn out right," you say.

Yes. I agree with you. But that's not your job.

"But I want the best for them, for *their* sakes."

I won't argue with that. But it's still not

your job to make sure they do.


If controlling your teenager isn't your job, what is? This article series will help answer that question.

We need to figure out what your *real* calling is — to help you stop doing what *isn't* your assignment. A blurry job description makes it easy to wander into the overcontrolling side of the delicate balance between control and influence.

Your essential task depends on whether you're a mom or a dad. If that sounds like stereotyping, bear with me. I'm not talking about aprons and rolling pins and dragging cavewomen by the hair. I'm talking about doing what you tend to do best, and what your teen tends to need most from you.

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# FCC Times of Refreshing

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**A Time of Refreshing - Pastor Chris Kirkendall**



**Ps 16:11**  
**You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Enclosed in this scripture is the promise that our path and joy are inseparable from God Almighty! The psalmist explains to us that it is in the presence of God is a fullness of joy! I like the word fullness. It means adequate, overflowing, and not lacking. Yet in our society many people turn to sinful and hurtful things to find joy. This results in damaged lives that take years to heal and repair.

In the word of God we are reminded many times of the refreshing that comes from God. I believe with all my heart that this is the answer to the oppressive atmos-

phere in our nation. Prescription drugs, sexual addiction, pornography and alcohol are not the answers. The answer lies solely in the refreshing power of God.

**Acts 3:19-20**  
**Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**

The key to a full life, the abundant life that is found **only** in Jesus Christ, comes when a person repents of sins and turns to God for a relationship with him. In both scriptures it is understood that it is in the **presence** of God that we are fully and wholly satisfied. Moses declared to the Lord; "Show me your Glory." (Paraphrased) He understood what is paramount to a full life in Christ; that joy and refreshing comes from the presence of God.

As we press on in prayer, worship services, Sunday school, and other activities; we can see the evidence of times of refreshing.

During the past two months as we have prayed we have witnessed the power of God answer prayers! This indeed has been a time of refreshing. The Lord has spoken powerful to my heart that great times of prophetic movements is about to be released into our county. I believe that right now, anything miraculous could happen. **Ps 92:10 10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.**

Your breakthrough moment will come from the presence of God. In fact God is not going to let you stay stuck in the stale oil of the past, he is going to anoint you with fresh oil. One of the definitions to fresh is: not previously known! God is about to do something new in your life that is going to be powerful and not previously known. I bless you with many refreshing days ahead.

Jeri and I love you! Have a wonderful July!

**Times to Remember:**

<b>Sunday</b>	
Sunday School All Ages	9:15am
Sunday Service	10:30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Mid-week Service	7:00pm
Pioneers Club Youth	

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**Let Go - Justin Kirkendall**

**"A refusal to let go is a refusal to live free."**

I remember being a little boy playing on the swings during recess- competing with all of the other kids to see how high we could swing- and of course it wasn't enough to just swing high.

Then, it became about who could jump out of the swing in the coolest way. I remember the thrill of swinging through the air getting higher and higher... and then the realization the ground is hard- and if I hit the ground from this high up in the air and gravity acting that fast on my body- it won't be good.

So there came the tension. The silent debate whether or not to let go of the swing and hurl myself across the sky or play it safe- slow down the momentum and get off the swing like a normal (sane) individual. In that split second, panic and excitement begin to set in. Decisions.

Lately, I've been thinking about how we go about living our lives and why we never seem to live up to our potential. It always seems that there's something holding us back. Whether you'd like to admit it or not we all have stuff that just trips us up and we struggle with it; but we all have the tuff that WE can control- that we voluntarily keep around in our life... we sabotage ourselves because we refuse to let it go.

Lately one of the scriptures that keep popping up everywhere in my life is Proverbs 4:23 "Keep your heart with all diligence for

out of it are the issues of life." Most of the time we see the word "keep" and think of "guarding things out...keeping things in" But if what we've got in our hearts isn't good in the first place- we shouldn't be keeping it. We should let it go so that our dreams, desires, and vision can flourish.

What in the world could we possibly just keep around in our hearts that would hold us back from living a free and faith filled life? Let's see:

- Pride.
- Ego- it's not about us all the time.
- Our Plans- we forget that we don't always know what's best for us.
- Hate.
- Bitterness- if you bring it up- even for reference purposes- you're probably not over it.
- Inattention/Laziness
- Failure
- Fear
- Hurt
- Past successes- sometimes our past successes can hold us back from moving forward
- Insecurities
- Cynicism.
- Skepticism.
- Unforgiveness.
- Memories.
- Words.

Back to the swing set...

So the choice was mine. Stay put or let go. I could have let the fear. the skepticism. the failure of past attempts keep me from experiencing the excitement and thrill of freedom or I could have decided to jump.

So many times in our lives- we keep ourselves in the swing set- afraid of what it may look like if we decide to let go of our hate, our memories, our skepticism, those words, our hurts. We don't want history to repeat itself- so we use the old adage "forgiven but never forgotten" (If that is the case- did we ever really forgive? When Christ forgives us - He forgets and removes it from memory.



(Psalms 103:12) Think about that) We're afraid that the ground is hard- and if we hit it- it will break us down. So in reality we're 100% depending on our abilities- not God's. We're depending on faith in ourselves- not faith in God.

Why? Because we have to **let go?** Without letting go- we don't ever get to feel the exhilaration of jumping... of living the way we were created to live : free!

**Who Is Winning the War of Our Teenagers? - Pastor Chris Kirkendall**

In America our families are in a state of emergency. Fewer and fewer children are reared in a family where mom and dad are married or have stayed married to the same spouse. This culture of split family has created an environment that is stressful and confusing to kids. Along with this and many other issues including the lack of mentors and moral leadership has led our kids down a slippery slope to failure.

George Barna a respected Christian pollster states that how teenager's faith practices are changing. Barna states that "teenagers are much less inclined toward spirituality than were teens a dozen years ago." The study assessed that six religious activities are at their lowest levels since Barna began to track such teen behaviors.

These activities include small group attendance, prayer, Sunday School participation, donations to churches, reading sacred texts other than the Bible, and evangelism by teens. (George Barna – "How Teenagers' Faith Practices are Changing.")

I don't know about you, but I find this disturbing. Further-

more, unless God captures the heart of teenagers we could lose a generation of kids to substance abuse, early pregnancies, suicide and other maladies. We need a move of God among our teenagers! Is your teenager or the teens of your friends and loved ones worth investing in?



Consider the word of the Apostle Paul:

**2 Tim 3:1-2**

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*

**2 Tim 3:4-6**

*traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

**2 Tim 3:9**

*but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifested to all, as theirs also was.*

**1 Tim 4:1**

*4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

Teenagers need to be mentored in this day and time. We are taking steps forward to be involved with the teenagers who worship at Faith Christian Center. Our Youth Leaders; Bob and Jamie Cullen and I are reworking the way we conduct youth ministry.

Our focus is gearing more toward youth mentoring rather than youth ministry. I hope to explain more of what I mean in the coming articles. Our desire is to see our youth develop into maturing Disciples of Christ who can handle crisis in life when they come up and that they will not be sifted as wheat by Satan, but that they may stand strong in the Lord and the power of his might! You can invest in our youth by praying daily for them and their leaders.

**Upcoming Youth Events**

Partner with us and help us pray that lives will be touched during these upcoming events

Event Name	July
Youth Beach Retreat	17-20
Y-FM: Youth Service	24
Y-FM: Youth Service	31