

## CHAPTER 17 - Staying Attracted To Holiness and Purity from The Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian

**Children who are taught to live in purity and holiness have distinctly radiant faces and a compelling attractiveness.** The Bible says, **“Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).** We want our children to be known for their goodness. We want our children to be attractive to others because of their purity. **This doesn’t just happen. It must be taught.** And although we can do much to teach our children about living purely in the ways of the Lord and model this to the best of our ability, the real teacher is the Holy Spirit.

**Holiness begins with a love for Him. “Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22),** the Bible instructs us. That’s a hard assignment for anyone, but especially for a child. It can only be accomplished by total submission to God and His law and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

When my son started his senior year in high school, he was at a new school, in a different state, and in a different culture—a tough assignment for any young person, no matter how grounded or godly. The school he attended was a small private Christian school, so within the first week he had met all the senior boys. One of the young men stood out, however. His name was Sandy, and he was a sports star, excelled in his studies, and had received award after award for outstanding achievement. But Sandy was outstanding in another, more important way: his words and his actions reflected his deep respect for God and His laws.

One day at lunch when all the guys were together, one of them told an off-color joke and everyone laughed. Everyone, that is, except Sandy. My son admitted that he laughed, too.

“I was the new guy and I didn’t want everyone to think I was from another planet,” he sheepishly explained when he told us about it later.

What Christopher soon came to realize was that Sandy never laughed at obscene humor. Nor did he smoke or drink or use bad language. Yet, amazingly, everyone liked and respected him.

One day, shortly after a parents’ meeting at the school, I came home and told Christopher about a wonderful woman I had met there.

“She stands out,” I told him. “She’s very warm and loving—a godly woman with a wonderful sense of humor. And she made me feel so welcome, like I’ve known her forever.” As I went on to describe her, I mentioned her name.

“That’s Sandy’s mother,” he said.

“Of course,” I replied. “I should have known that Sandy would have strong, exceptional, believing, and praying parents. No child turns out like that by accident.”

Throughout Christopher’s senior year we observed that whole family and saw how exceptional each member was; and we noticed that people were not turned off by their goodness. Why? Because the way they lived was not a legalistic attempt to be perfect or to impress others; it was done from hearts that had a deep reverence for God and a desire to live His way—in holiness and purity.

My son is no longer at that school and we don’t see Sandy or his family any more because our lives have gone different directions. But we will never forget them. They raised our personal standards, gave us something higher to aim for, and allowed us to see how attractive holiness is.

**Let’s pray for our children to be attracted to holiness and purity like a magnet, so that when anything entices them that isn’t holy or pure, they detect the pull immediately and are made uncomfortable enough to thoroughly reject it. “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness” (1 Thessalonians 4:7).** To live purely within the boundaries of God’s law is to find wholeness in the total person. That wholeness is what holiness is all about. Children

who have a desire for holiness and seek God's enabling power to help them achieve it can never be anything but blessed and fulfilled.

Sandy exemplified the Scripture that says, **"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12)**. There is nothing more compelling than children who walk in holiness and purity. Let's pray for our children to be among those who do.

## **PRAYER**

**Lord, I pray that You would fill (name of child) with a love for You that surpasses her (his) love for anything or anyone else. Help her (him) to respect and revere Your laws and understand that they are there for her (his) benefit. May she (he) clearly see that when Your laws are disobeyed, life doesn't work. Hide Your Word in her (his) heart so that there is no attraction to sin. I pray she (he) will run from evil, from impurity, from unholy thoughts, words, and deeds, and that she (he) will be drawn toward whatever is pure and holy. Let Christ be formed in her (him) and cause her (him) to seek the power of Your Holy Spirit to enable her (him) to do what is right.**

**You have said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). May a desire for holiness that comes from a pure heart be reflected in all that she (he) does. Let it be manifested in her (his) appearance as well. I pray that the clothes she (he) wears and the way she (he) styles her (his) hair and chooses to adorn her (his) body and face will reflect a reverence and a desire to glorify You, Lord.**

**Where she (he) has strayed from the path of holiness, bring her (him) to repentance and work Your cleansing power in her (his) heart and life. Give her (him) understanding that to live in purity brings wholeness and blessing, and that the greatest reward for it is seeing You.**

## **WEAPONS OF WARFARE**

**Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Psalm 24:3-5**

In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:20-21

**Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:2**

**A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.** The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray.. the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:8-10

There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness. - Proverbs 30:12