



"A Deep Breath"

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

Sunday | February 19th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

(See also Ecc. 12:12-13, 1:9, Eph. 5:15-16, 2 Pet. 1:3, Deut. 6:6-9)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[R. Paul David Tripp] "If you are going to be what God has designed you to be as a parent and do what he's called you to do, you must confess one essential thing. This confession has the power to change much about the way you act and react to your children. It is vital that you believe and admit that you have no power whatsoever to change your child. Now think again from the perspective of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the central theme of the book that is our most reliable parenting guide. If any human being possessed the power to create lasting change in any other human being, again, Jesus would not have had to come! The incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus stand as the clear historical evidence that human power for change does not exist. The reason God went to such an extreme and elaborate extent in controlling the events of history so that at just the right time his Son would come and do for us what we could not do ourselves, is because there was no other way.

Parenting is not about exercising power for change in your children. Parenting is about your humble faithfulness in being willing to participate in God's work of change for the sake of your children."¹

DISCUSS

1. On Sunday morning, how and what did you feel when the band awkwardly stopped playing and exited the stage? How did this relate to Pastor Patrick's hope for this parenting series?²

2. How do you feel about how you're doing as a parent? And if a Grandparent, how do you feel about how you did? If you currently do not have children, imagine where you might struggle as a parent?
 3. What do you want most for your kids (*i.e. grandkids*)? See Deut. 6:6-9. What competes with desire culturally?
 4. Read the portion of Tripp's book above and discuss.
 5. As a parent (*or grandparent*), how does it make you feel that you do not have the ability or power to change your children (*or grandchildren*)?
 6. How does the Gospel transform and inform our parenting?
 7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?
- Notes:

¹Paul David Tripp, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), p. 60-61.

²Pastor Patrick's hope with this series is to interrupt the cultural pattern of how and where we look for answers to the questions we have as parents (in an age of book, conferences and "mom blogs," see Ecc. 12:12-13).