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## *Your Child's Calling: How Can You Help Him Hear It?* by Beth Hempton

In today's world, there's such an emphasis on careers and finances that I think it's easy for us to miss the concept of God's call. In church, it's not unusual to hear sermons about how God calls us to service within the body and maybe to missions, but how often do we talk about being called to be lawyers, writers, jazz musicians or even stay at home moms? I notice many people expressing discontent in their professions and jobs. When this happens, I wonder how many of these people listened to God's voice when they accepted their jobs. Now, I am not writing this in judgment. Honestly, I feel very sorry for those who don't have the peace of what God has called them to be in this world. I am also convicted in those times about how I am serving God in helping my children to hear His voice and His call for their lives.



With one child in graduate school and another in high school, I have given tremendous thought, time and prayer over the years to how to lead my children to follow the path that will bring them the most inner peace and happiness...the path that God designed for them. One passage from the Bible that gave me tremendous hope during these times is:

*He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:27-29 NAS*

I realized from these verses that one of the things I can do to help my children hear God's calling for their lives is to **teach them to love Him**. God promises to cause all things to work together for my children's good if they love Him!

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According to Scripture, obedience to God demonstrates love for Him. Raising our children in obedience to Him shows the love that we have and that we want them to have for God.

As my children grew, I watched for gifts in them. I examined them for the ways that God has blessed them in order that they may give back to Him.

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,  
how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good  
to those who ask Him!*

Matthew 7:11 NAS



Clearly, no matter how much I love my children, my God loves them even more and according to this verse which is also repeated in Luke, I needed to **teach my children to ask God for what they need**. We lay all needs before God in our family, praying continually for the “good gifts” that He has in store for us.

Helping your children hear their calling also means leading them to understand that God has gifted them to do His good work. Recognizing these gifts and using them according to God’s Will offers your children the greatest hope of peace while here on earth.

*Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,  
each of us is to exercise them accordingly:  
if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;  
if service, in his serving; or he who teaches,  
in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation;  
he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence;  
he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Romans 12:6-8 NAS

As I raised my children, I **pointed out the various gifts of many different people within the body of Christ**. Examples provide a wonderful teaching tool

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and as my children observed others in service, in teaching, in leadership and more, I believe they became more aware of their own God-given gifts. I also placed my children in positions to assist others as they used their gifts, hoping that God would reveal my children's own gifts within themselves.

Finally, **I prayed that God would open my children's hearts to hear Him when He called and directed them.** I continue to pray that He will give them wisdom and discernment as they strive to find their footing in this topsy-turvy world.

I believe that God will honor all that I have tried to do for my children, in my own very imperfect way, and I am confident that He will honor your efforts as well. As we raise our children to seek and develop a personal relationship with Christ, I believe that every step we take in that direction will ultimately lead our children to hear the amazing work to which God has called them!

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit –  
fruit that will last.*

John 15:16

May God bless you in all of your endeavors to raise your children in the light of His Word.

*Beth Hempton has been homeschooling for many years with a daughter in college and a son in high school. As the owner of [Classes by Beth](#), she works daily with middle and high school students teaching literature, history and writing courses. She is also one of the authors of [Epi Kardia](#) curriculum (previously Elizabeth Harrell).*