

**We have all faced doubts.
Our children will all face doubts.
We will yet face doubts.
Doubt often comes unsolicited.**

2 Kings 18 - 19
2 Chronicles 32

Isaiah 37:33 – 34

"Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:
He will not enter this city
Or shoot an arrow here.
He will not come before it with shield
Or build a siege ramp against it.
By the way that he came he will return;
He will not enter this city,"
Declares the Lord.

The Destruction of Sennacherib BY LORD BYRON (GEORGE GORDON)

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,

The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

“Preparation – But there is much to be done beforehand, though nothing when the time comes.”

Charlotte Mason, *Parents and Children*, p 43

Proverbs 22:6

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” (NIV)

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (ESV / NASB / KJV)

“Point your kids in the right direction – when they’re old they won’t be lost.” (the Message)

“Teach your child right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right.” (CEV)

“All proverbs are true. But they are not always true in every situation.”

John Piper

Parents, Revealers of God to their Children — It is probable that parents as a class feel more than ever before the responsibility of their **prophetic office**. It is as revealers of God to their children that **parents touch their highest limitations**; perhaps it is only as they succeed in this part of their work that they fulfil the Divine intention in giving them children to bring up—in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Charlotte Mason, *Parents and Children*, p 41

“It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It’s the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. **Wonder can’t be packaged, and it can’t be**

worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement.”

Eugene H. Peterson

How to Fortify them against Doubt — How to fortify the children against the doubts of which the air is full, is an anxious question. Three courses are open: **to teach as we of an older generation have been taught, and to let them bide their time and their chance**; to attempt to deal with the doubts and difficulties which have turned up, or are likely to turn up; or, **to give children such hold upon vital truth, and at the same time such an outlook upon current thought, that they shall be landed on the safe side of the controversies of their day, open to truth, in however new a light presented, and safeguarded against mortal error.**

Charlotte Mason, Vol 2, p. 41

FIRST PATH - to teach as we of an older generation have been taught, and to let them bide their time and their chance

“when the attack comes, they find themselves at a disadvantage; they have nothing to reply; their pride is in arms; they jump to the conclusion that there is no defense possible of that which they have received as truth; had there been, would they not have been instructed to make it? **They resent being made out in the wrong**, being on the weaker side—so it seems to them,—being behind their times; and they go over without a struggle to the side of the most aggressive thinkers of their day.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 2, p. 42

SECOND PATH - to attempt to deal with the doubts and difficulties which have turned up, or are likely to turn up

“Evidences” are not Proofs

“Children should be taught Bible history with every elucidation which modern research makes possible. But they should not be taught to think of the inscriptions on Assyrian monuments, for example, as proofs of the truth of the Bible records, but rather as illustrations of those records; though they are, and cannot but be, subsidiary proofs.”

Charlotte Mason, Vol 2, p. 42

THIRD PATH - to give children such hold upon vital truth, and at the same time such an outlook upon current thought, that they shall be landed on the safe side of the controversies of their day, open to truth, in however new a light presented, and safeguarded against mortal error

Vital Truths

Now, of the vast mass of the doctrines and the precepts of religion, we shall find that there are **only a few vital truths that we have so taken into our being that we live upon them**—this person, these; that person, those; some of us, not more than a single one. One or more, these are the truths we must teach the children, because these will come straight out of our hearts with the enthusiasm of conviction which rarely fails to carry its own idea into the spiritual life of another. There is no more fruitful source of what it is hardly too much to call infant infidelity than the unreal dead words which are poured upon children about the best things, with an artificial solemnity of tone and manner intended to make up for the want of living meaning in the words. **Let the parent who only knows one thing from above teach his child that one; more will come to him by the time the child is ready for more.**

Charlotte Mason, *Home Education*, p. 346

The Essence of Christianity is Loyalty to a Person - *Christ, our King*

Here is a thought to unseal the fountains of love and loyalty, the treasures of faith and imagination, bound up in the child. The very essence of Christianity is personal loyalty, passionate loyalty to our adorable Chief. We have laid other foundations—regeneration, sacraments, justification, works, faith, the Bible—any one of which, however necessary to salvation in its due place and proportion may become a religion about Christ and without Christ.

Charlotte Mason, *Home Education*, p. 350

Essential and Accidental Truth

Essential Truth.—The thing that matters to us in the Bible stories is their essential Truth. All godly people have known the walls of Jericho to fall before their faith and the trumpet-blast of their prayers. They have known seas of difficulty, which threatened to overwhelm them, divide to let them go forward. They have heard the voice of the Lord in the cool of the evening speaking to quiet and obedient hearts; and they know out of the experience of their own lives that by means of song and story, psalm and prophecy, the Bible reveals the ways of God with man, and all that there is in the heart of man. These are the things that matter; so they are quite ready to wait the verdict of the critics as to whether a certain narrative records facts that took place in a given year; whether such a book was written by one man, or by two. All this is deeply interesting, but has nothing to do with the essential, permanent Truth, the revelation of the otherwise unknown about God and about man which stamps the several books of the Bible with the divine seal.

Charlotte Mason. *Ourselves* book 1 p. 161

As for whether such and such a narrative be a myth, or a parable, or a circumstance that has actually occurred, such questions do not affect the sincere mind of a child, **because they have nothing to do with the main issues.**

Charlotte Mason, *Home Education*, p. 249

Charlotte Mason. *Ourselves* book, chapter 14 “Some Instructors of Conscience: Theology”

Vital Truths in Home Education, volume one...

Father & Giver

Loyalty to a Person

Christ, our King

Jesus, our Savior

Indwelling of Jesus

The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped — it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him.

Eugene H. Peterson

“The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways
That Jesus Is the Way”

Reading Resources:

“The Bible Story Handbook” by John Walton & Kim Walton

“How to Read the Bible For All It’s Worth” by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

“How to Read the Bible Book by Book” by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

“The Lost World of Genesis One” by John Walton

The Bible Project - <https://bibleproject.com/>

Blue Letter Bible - <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>