

## Train Up a Child

By: Teri Miller Barker



I dedicate this commentary to my grandmother, Estelle Brown, who has been and will always be my idea of a true woman of God.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* (Proverbs 22:6). As far back as I can remember, I regularly attended church with my grandmother who made me go whether I wanted to or not. Going to church was not something that was negotiable or optional. I was not allowed to sleep in. I went to church every Sunday (sometimes twice), and occasionally through the week, especially during a revival. To this day, I still have certificates of perfect attendance for Sunday School. Even after I became an adult, or so I thought because, after all, I was a newlywed, I still had to go to church because Grandma didn’t drive and I had to take her.

She’s in her 90’s, and has Alzheimer’s now, but she is the person I credit as the most spiritually influential person in my life. And although Alzheimer’s has robbed her of most of her memories, it didn’t change her honest, humble, and loving spirit. I miss her wisdom, strength and insight especially during trying times, but she taught me invaluable life lessons and raised me to draw my strength from the Bible. As I fondly recollect my precious moments with her, I realize the foundation she laid prepared me to overcome any obstacle that may seem insurmountable because God is bigger than even my biggest problem. Second Timothy 3:15 says, “From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” As a parent, it’s now my responsibility to train my child, during these crucial, formative years, to rely on the Bible as a timeless, dependable source of faith, wisdom, and strength that will help influence her decisions and sustain her spiritually, physically and mentally as she inevitably faces life’s challenges.