



*Ladies of Grace*  
**Bible Studies for Women**  
*The Ministry of Womanhood Series*

*Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.*

## How To Raise Strange Children

This is the last study in our small mini-series on “What the Bible Has To Say About Raising Children”. It has been a good series, and one that will help you if you are willing to apply the truths from God’s Word that you have learned from it.

In this last study, I want to take you back to Psalm 144, and show you the kind of children that King David asked the Lord to deliver him and his people from ~ children that he called “strange children”. Who were these children? They were his fellow Israelites that behaved like the heathen people, rather than like the people of God.

Please turn with me to Psalm 144 and let’s read this whole chapter together again.

In verses 7-8 and again in verse 11, King David asks God to do two things for him in each of these passages:

1. *In Psalm 144:7-8, he asks God to, “Send thine hand from above; **rid me**, and **deliver me** out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”*
2. *In Psalm 144:11, he asks God to, “**Rid me**, and **deliver me** from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”*

What did he want to be doubly rid of and delivered from? The Bible tells us that it is STRANGE CHILDREN.

What are the characteristics that the Bible uses to describe strange children? They are people whose mouth speaketh vanity and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.





Let's talk a little bit about what it means to have a mouth that speaks vanity and a right hand of falsehood.

What does it mean to be a person whose mouth speaketh vanity? According to the Strong's Concordance, **it means to be a person that uses evil speech.** Let's look at what the Bible has to say about the characteristics of evil speech:

- ◆ Psalm 5:9: You can't believe a thing it says
- ◆ Psalm 10:7: It is full of cursing, deceit, fraud, mischief & vanity (emptiness)
- ◆ Psalm 36:3: It is sinful
- ◆ Psalm 55:21: It is hypocritical
- ◆ Proverbs 12:18: It is destructive

What does it mean to have a right hand of falsehood? **It means to be a liar, and to be the kind of person that shake hands with you about something, but doesn't keep their promises.**

As we unveil the true meaning of what characterizes 'strange children', do you find yourself thinking about someone that you know that is like this? Or worse yet, do you find yourself realizing that you may have raised someone that has turned out just like this?

Oh, that would be a terrible thing! But you know what? It is something that each one of us could do if we are not careful to raise our children according to the wisdom of God's Word, rather than the foolishness of our own thinking.

So, what DOES it take to raise strange children in this day and age?

1. **IT TAKES BEING RAISED BY STRANGE PARENTS.** What are strange parents? They are moms and dads who live sinfully and behave hypocritically. They are the parents who say one thing, but do another, who live one way, and expect everyone around them to live another way. It is the dad who smokes and drinks and cusses, but tells his kids not to, and the mom who gossips, yells, and watches TV all of the time, and then screams at her kids for doing the same.
2. **IT TAKES BEING TRAINED IN STRANGE SCHOOLS.** What are strange schools? They are learning environments that teach lies as truth and the truth as lies. They are places which elevate evolution over creation, the authority of the state over the authority of God and His Word, and the rights of the child over the rights of the parents who are raising the child.
3. **IT TAKES BEING RAISED IN A STRANGE ENVIRONMENT.** What is a strange environment? It is a place where good is called evil and evil is called good and things don't make sense. It is a place where TV programs picture sin as something pleasurable, children are taught to occupy themselves with video games, and where everybody is allowed to do what is right in their own eyes (rather than what is right in the Lord's eyes).
4. **IT TAKES BEING NURTURED BY STRANGE FRIENDS.** What are strange friends? They are people that are allowed to speak evil and deceitfully and get away with it. They are people that lure others away from following God, loving their family, and doing what is right.

*"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8*



In this day and age, what exactly do strange children and strange mothers look like?

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF STRANGE CHILDREN**

1. They look like people that don't tell the truth.
2. They look like people that curse and use inappropriate language.
3. They look like people that gossip about others and say mean things.
4. They look like people that cause trouble (for themselves and between others).
5. They look like people who say one thing, and then do another.
6. They look like people who will promise you one thing, and then never deliver.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF STRANGE MOTHERS**

1. They act like they believe the truth, but in reality they only do what is right in their own eyes.
2. They act like they love their family, friends, church, pastor, and boss, but behind their backs they grumble and complain about them.
3. They act like they are thankful about things, but they spend much of their time and energy coveting what other people have and wishing that things were different for them.
4. They act like they love what is good, but when no one is looking, they spend their time enjoying things that are bad.
5. They say they want what's best for their kids, but in reality they only give them what is most convenient for them.
6. They buy things for their kids that they can't afford, to try and make the kids feel like they are better off than they are.
7. They say that raising their kids is important to them, and then they leave their kids with a sitter everyday as they go off to work.
8. They feed their kids junk food, and junk entertainment and then blame the neighbors for corrupting them.
9. They allow their kids to play after school without making sure they do their homework, and then they blame the school teacher for the learning problems that their kids have.
10. They stick up for their kids when they know they have done wrong.
11. They say they believe in the rules, and then question the teacher every time he or she tries to enforce them.
12. They say that Dad is the head of the house, but in actuality, she is the one making all of the rules.

Of course these aren't exhaustive lists, but there are enough things listed to help us know whether we are heading in the wrong direction of being a strange mother or raising strange kids.

What do we do if we are on the wrong track as a mother and want to get on the right one? Repent of our sins. Tell God, our husband, and our kids that we are sorry for what we have been doing, and then turn from doing wrong and begin to do what is right.

# The Truth About Wayward Children

About three years ago, my husband and I met a very nice couple. They were in their middle age, and all of their children were grown. We met them at church, and to us, they seemed like fine Christian people.

One day as we were having lunch together, they began to share with us about their three wayward children. How it broke our hearts to hear about how these kids had grown up to reject God and turn their back on the way they were raised in their Christian home. For many months after this, we prayed for this family, and it always broke my heart when I thought about them.

Then a year later we met another fine couple who also shared with us about their wayward daughter. They claimed that she had been raised right in their home and that she grew up to rebel and do terrible things like take drugs, live immorally, and smoke cigarettes. How this broke our hearts, and how fervently we prayed that God would turn the heart of their daughter towards God and her parents, and away from the sinful lifestyle that she was partaking in.

Then a few months after that, we talked with another couple about their children that had grown up in their Christian home and didn't want to have anything to do with church. We thought that was so sad, and we spent a season praying that God would turn their hearts as well.

And then the other night, while I was out soul winning, I met a religious lady that was worried about her daughter who had grown up to become immoral and a drug addict. She wasn't sure what went wrong, but she thinks that it might have something to do with some other family member.

As I finished writing this Bible study tonight, I thought about all of these people and the strange children that they have raised, and I asked the Lord to show me what they might have done to hinder their kids from following Him and doing what is right.

Here are a few of the things that He showed me:

- ◆ Most of these people lived inconsistent Christian lives. They went to church when it was convenient, they obeyed God when it was easy, and they read the Bible and prayed only when they needed something from God or felt like it.
- ◆ All of these women worked outside of the home when their children were growing up. Even though each one of them would agree with the fact that God would have wanted them to stay home and take care of their kids.
- ◆ Many of them are rebellious wives and stubborn church members. They control their husbands and they make a fuss at church if they don't get their way.
- ◆ Most of them are complainers by nature. They complain about their husbands, the pastor, their kids teachers, and anyone else that doesn't measure up to what they think they should be doing.
- ◆ All of them are church members, but few of them work in the service ministries of the church. Each one of them seemed to want to be seen and heard so they could be followed and known by others.
- ◆ Most of them struggled with tithing and living within a budget.
- ◆ None of them wanted to take any responsibility for the way their kids turned out. They all blamed somebody else for making it happen, and each of them saw themselves as a victim in the situation.

After I meditated on the truth of most of their situations, I came to this conclusion ~ strange children are a by-product of dishonest, disloyal, and discontented people. They are what is reaped when iniquity is sown, and what is harvested when sinful living is planted.