

P A R E N T I N G

ready or not!



52 devotions and
tips for new parents

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REGULAR BAPTIST PRESS
1300 North Meacham Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4806

PARENTING: READY OR NOT

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www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

RBP1022 • ISBN: 978-1-60776-353-6

Now what do I do?

You probably ask yourself that question several times a day now that you have a baby. Be encouraged! You're not alone in your quandary. Every parent, whether new or experienced, faces times of uncertainty.

Parenting ▶ ready or not! offers you verses of Scripture and practical advice to encourage you in your parenting role. The devotionals are arranged according to parenting themes for your easy reference. The Scriptures in these devotionals apply directly to your parenting role. You will discover parenting tips to assist you in working with your child. You won't find sugar-coating on these parenting thoughts; they come from real-life situations!

Pick this book up during a quiet moment while your baby is sleeping or during a stressful time when you are feeling overwhelmed. As you read, you will find support for your parenting. Some of those parenting questions might just go away!

Relying on the Holy Spirit

Scripture ▶ *Galatians 5:22, 23—The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Devotional thought ▶ In those initial moments after your baby's birth, you feel the rush of euphoria. You can't imagine ever being upset with this beautiful newborn. Then you bring your baby home and begin the grueling routine of feeding, burping, diapering, and rocking. You find that impatience and frustration quickly replace your beginning bliss.

The demands of parenting can be overwhelming! To live in a Christ-like manner, you need to access the power of the Holy Spirit. Your actions, words, and attitudes form the beginning concepts of your child's view of the Heavenly Father. In your natural state, it is easy to lose self-control, become negative in outlook, or angry in disposition. By keeping a close relationship with the Lord and allowing His Spirit to reign, you can respond to your baby in a positive, loving manner. Keep your channel of communion open with the Lord. Ask for His help as you care for your baby and for His Spirit to control your responses.

Parenting tip ▶ Your baby is not responding to any of your efforts to calm him. Your temper is mounting in proportion to the volume of his crying. What can you do? A respected Christian parent with over fifty years of parenting experience was asked how she kept from losing her patience. She explained, "Before responding in an angry way, I begin counting back from one hundred and pray!" In the next pressure-filled incident with your baby, begin counting (maybe from the number ten) and praying! Allow time for your sinful self to exit and the Holy Spirit's control to enter.



1. Think about your interaction with your baby in the past twenty-four hours. Do you need to ask the Lord to forgive an angry or impatient response?
2. How can you prompt yourself to ask the for the Holy Spirit's help in controlling your responses?

◀ Questions