



## An Act of Balance

Let's imagine that you`re that man walking on the tight rope, trying to get to the other side of the lake.

While you're moving forward, you have to watch your balance, and consider that if you move one inch to one side it causes an imbalance and you may fall.

Suddenly, a strong wind blows and you have to react quickly to adjust your weight again. You start to feel the drops of sweat running down, your muscles are starting to feel cramped. But you cannot stop, if you do you may fall. You're too far from the shore and you can only just keep going.

And that's very close to what life is, even more when you have children or teenagers that are unbalanced internally and externally. You cannot run away, even though you may want to at times, and you cannot magically make them disappear. You must go on. But how?

Some parents with faith in Christ may fall to the temptation of using rebukes, sermons and even Scripture as the only way to reprimand, teach and correct, thinking that in itself is the only way of relating with children as spoken by God. (And it's true, the Word of God tells us it is useful for all those things). *However, a*

quick attitude to correct or punish instantly, based on rules and laws, does not allow the opportunity to enjoy a relationship. Even as an adult, it is very hard to enjoy a relationship in the midst of only rules and reprimands.

Other parents or adults tend to err on the side of "cheap grace". Driven by the very difficult stories of their children, they do not want to ask too much. Tragically this permissive relationship does not generate the trust their children need desperately.

That is why we want to remind you and point to you another path, one that we consider better and we're certain it will help reflect better God's heart for us as adults and His loving heart for the children he has given you and the children he has put in your path.

### **They need a balance between nurturing and providing structure.**

The only people Jesus spoke harshly to, were those who thought they knew it all, and based their lives on following rules. They thought if they followed the instructions diligently, they would be "good enough." But, what happens if I only focus on a 'to do list'? I may forget about the fact that behind my list, there's a human with a heart that has needs and the reality that this human needs someone to connect to, and show him or her love.

Let's remember that when someone experiences fear, of any kind, they tend to use the mechanism of control to defend themselves. Even though it may not make sense, they seek to protect themselves from that which their brain perceives as an attack or danger. That is why when we yell or rebuke without coming close with gentleness, they withdraw and do not respond appropriately to what you're asking.

### **It is crucial that we draw near them with compassion, and give them new opportunities, as many times as necessary.**

*After all, how many opportunities have we received?*

Rules, guidelines and structure are very important, but we cannot forget to keep a balance between those and our nurturing presence as we do it. The tone of our voice, eye-contact and gentle physical touch send a powerful message along with our words.

Jesus did not only preach with words, he preached with His life, with his example. After all, He was the Truth, always speaking about the Truth. He was attentive to the whole needs of those he interacted with.

When Jesus taught a hungry multitude, the compassion in his heart also led him to feed them and heal them physically and spiritually.

Just as Jesus taught His disciples, scriptures are filled with examples of how he used stories and parables about nature and human behavior to relate and connect to their hearts and minds.

When he was with Mary and Martha, close to Lazarus' tomb, he cried with them, even though He knew he would raise him up from the death. Jesus spoke the Scriptures often, at the same time using stories about life and creation to instruct his followers in tangible ways so they could understand and apply. Even on his last days on earth, Jesus focused on connecting with those around him, to bring about the most important connection, between humanity and the Father.

The purpose of sharing this is you help you think and do a little bit of insight. To what side are you leaning toward the most? To the side of rules or the side of nurturing? There is nothing intrinsically wrong with either, but there must be a balance.

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Do you remember the man from the picture above? If your body leans more toward one side, you can fall. And looking behind will only make you lose your focus on the goal and your balance on the tight rope will be lost.

Take a look at the relationship with your children today. To what side are you about to fall to? If you've been looking behind you, refocus your vision. Put your eyes on the goal. The Author of Faith will help you and He will complete what He started in your life.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

*Hebrews 12:2*

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 1:6*

**It is never too late to fix your balance.  
After all, without connection there cannot be correction that endures.**

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