

# ***GOD TOOK OVER MY HOME***

***BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS***

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***Impress (My commandments) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on your doorframes of your houses and on your gates.***

*Deuteronomy 6:7-9*

## **God took over my home**

When our little lad Antonio Michael made his grand entrance into our lives twelve years ago, our young married life changed instantly. Just like most parents, Christelle and I wanted to give him the best possible upbringing that he could have. We look back and see triumphs and failures, with some areas that we could have done a better job in. We now have a very busy home with five children, from teen down to a three year old.

My kids look at me intently learning and watching my every word and action. For many years, the example I had given them however, was very different than what we had started out in. Looking back now, my home had become a home of entertainment, not a home of prayer. God broke into our home and exposed how lethargic our home had become. Like I said this is not how we intended to start off, but over time we had become lazy and given ourselves over to a culture of entertainment, watching movies, TV shows, and video games. All the while, being desensitized by every worldview and sexual imposing lifestyle that the actors would portray.

Deep down we valued God as part of our life, but He was not the very essence of our life. He was NOT Lord of our life in EVERY area. We had given ourselves to the lesser pleasures of entertainment. Please don't get me wrong. Not all movies and shows are all bad. Not all video games are wrong, but when it becomes something that you cannot give up, it has become your god and your Lord. If something other than God reigns supreme, there is another god that you worship. And God simply cannot move on your life. God Himself is not given room to whisper to you, to reveal Himself and show you who He is. It took a media fast as family for an extended period of time to even realize the magnitude of how de-sensitized we had become and how like the world we were and our views were. The best part was how clear the voice of God was becoming and how fast He moved in our lives with our full attention and heart toward Him; we know first hand what God can do with a heart yielded to Him!

Many may think this sounds like legalism or extremism, but on the contrary it becomes an awareness of the true satisfaction that is found in living out Christianity with a wholeheartedness that says, *"whatever it takes to get as close as I can to you Lord I will do it."* We came to a place in our heart and lives that to have all that God has available we must walk in such a way that honors Him. This place of removing the distractions and things that numb is where the real longings of our heart began to get satisfied.

***"Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and know His will." (Romans 12:2)***

Moreover, entertainment is not only NOT satisfying us, but it is destroying us. The truth is these *temporal forms of entertainment are used by the enemy to dull us to sleep*, therefore God cannot move on our lives and families. The God of the universe cannot show Himself to us. **Most homes are feeding themselves a steady diet of entertainment that has numbed them to the reality of God!** It is tragic how we invest what limited passion

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we have in things that simply do not satisfy.

## **Here are some facts you should know:**

- Teens consume three hours of TV a day
- 70% of all TV shows contain sexual images
- Adolescence are exposed to 6-8 hours of mass media messages a day
- The average age of the first time viewer of pornography is 11 years old
- 3 out of 5 clicks into the internet are for pornography

## **CLEANING HOUSE**

We lived many years sitting in front of screens and listening to anything that we wanted. But we were in a serious dilemma. We needed God. Like I said, God called us to live a consecrated life before Him and before our family. Christelle and I took a black garbage bag and took every movie that was against the standard of the Bible. We immediately cut off cable and threw away every secular song that we owned on our mp3 players that did not honor God. If it did not honor and worship Him in our eyes, heart and ears, and if Holy Spirit did not feel comfortable, we wanted nothing to do with it.

We began spending time in prayer and the Word. We began calling our kids to prayer meetings and Bible studies, on a regular basis. Our home, step by step was changing. Without even realizing it, our family discussions were not about the latest movie or actor, but about the latest study or person from the Bible. The heroes of our home had become the heroes of the faith. God is so good! He awakened our home and gave us hope and the dreams we started out wanting, to have our home a house of prayer.

***I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth.*** 3 John 1:4

It is a vital mission that our children would know God for themselves. It is Christelle's and mine lifelong desire to see every one of our children walking with the Spirit, according to the Word and knowing their God.

There are many ways and trends on how to spend time together as a family. Spending time with God and my family gives me the greatest fulfillment. I know this is how we are to spend time together. Reading the Word, praying together, discussing various life lessons from the Word and praying over each other. It's a family culture built on the Word and prayer. I encourage every family to implement a lifestyle of the Word and prayer in your family. Once you do and taste how good it is and see how so many of the desires your looking for are answered, there will be no turning back!

Here are some things we love to do:

- Pray- Reading the Word
- Creating prayer lists and praying over them. Watch what God does together.
- Reading books of the Bible together
- Praying for one another
- Topical reading of the Word

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- Allowing the kids to teach the family the Bible (this is how we do it):
  - a) They choose what to teach
  - b) 2-5 minute teaching (we suggest they use notes)
  - c) Lead us in prayer, teaching the Word and sharing personal application
  - d) Rest of the room shares what they have learned

## **HOUSES OF PRAYER**

Whatever and however you create a culture in your home, center it around God. God is raising up a worldwide house of prayer. It is my conviction that He is building His house of prayer first within every family; within every marriage and every home. God is drawing homes to His heart, full of His presence where the Holy Spirit is comfortable. May the Lord give you the grace to build or strengthen your home where He reigns supreme.

**Let Him completely take over your home too and watch what happens!**