

ways happy and smiling. But he was very sensitive to discipline.—All you had to do was look at him or point your finger at him and he'd stop.

37. **All he needed to know was that he was not on the right track** or you were displeased, because the last thing in the World that he wanted to do was to displease you and not have you love him, because he really needed a lot of love and affection.—A lot like Davidito. Some children are like that.

38. **Other children it doesn't seem to matter what you do!** You could beat them over the head, but nothing seems to impress them!—It's pitiful! But be careful: Too much harsh discipline and violence and corporal punishment is not good for a child!

39. (Sara: **It's just like you reap what you sow with a child.** But if anything, the parents seem to need some kind of encouragement that they should try through prayer and patience to fully understand the child's situation and respect him in such a way as to help him through his trials in the same way you would one another, knowing that spankings are certainly Scriptural and certainly needed in many situations.

40. (But on the other hand, put yourself in the child's place and you might have a better understanding of his problem.) (Maria: And think about how the Lord deals with us, too. He doesn't spank us every day and every time we turn around over every little mistake we make. He reasons with us and keeps on having mercy after mercy after mercy and warning us all the time before He finally lowers the rod. He's not giving us spankings every day.)

41. **The Lord doesn't give us a spanking every time we go astray.** He usually loves us up and loves us back into the fold or the Will of God, or He shames us sometimes. (Sara: Right! Love is so convicting! Because if you have Jesus, you try to get back on the right path and you try to show good fruits of repentance like Davidito did last night.)

42. **Violence is only a totally last resort when all else has failed.** (Maria: I think this is such a good verse I was just reading last night: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged".—Pr.16:6.

43. (That's a good guideline for discipline, mercy and truth,

like love and reasoning and the facts.)—Especially with a child like Davidito, who's a thinker and really analyses things and really judges a situation—and judges you and thinks about how things ought to be, how he thinks they ought to be.

44. **He has a very strong sense of right and wrong** and how he thinks things ought to be and what he feels is right, and if you don't treat him the way he thinks is right, then he gets really upset!

45. (Sara: Because his requests are not unreasonable, usually, you know?—Like if you just suddenly stopped him from his busy work and said, "Okay, time for nap!"—and abruptly start yanking his clothes off and popping him into the bed without sort of building up to the subject, then he's going to resist.

46. (But I think I would too!—If Alf came to my typewriter and said, "Okay, time for lunch!", and just ripped me away from the typewriter and didn't give me five more minutes to finish up! What if I said, "Alf, wait a minute, Alf!", but he just turns around and swats me and snaps, "Don't talk back!"

47. (Now that's not the way we treat one another, but yet in a way this is the treatment we give the children.) (Maria: Yes, there's such a double standard!) It's sort of a lack of patience, really. We don't take time to really explain and talk and reason or love, we just quickly want them to "Do it right now and don't talk back!—Just because I said so!"

48. **So really we need a lot more love and patience and prayer and reasoning with our children** if we're going to really teach them why they must do so-and-so and help them understand why it's necessary.—Not always just say, "Do it!" and swat them if they don't.

49. **"Train up a child in the way he should go."**—Pr.22:16.—It takes time and patience and understanding and lots of real love to train a child, instead of just knocking him around and violently forcing him to do things he doesn't understand or thinks are not right or unfair.

50. **You must love and try to show him why** and try to get his willing cooperation through understanding and reasoning with him as the Lord does us. Then only after repeated warnings and repeated wilful defiant disobedience and an absolute refusal