

The development of hearts (young and old) matters to God (Deut 29:29). Children don't come into this world as believers. They must be taught, molded, equipped, and led to form faith of their own (Prov 1:2-3, 8-9). In Psalm 144:12, God has given parents two powerful, everyday metaphors to understand what we're aiming for:

"May our sons in their youth be like ______full grown, our daughters like corner ______cut for the structure of a palace."

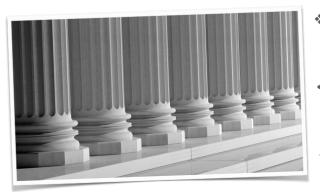
Trees and **pillars:** rich metaphors used throughout the Bible for health and strength:



- Psalm 1 "...he is like a _____ planted by streams of water"
- 1 Peter 2:4-5 "...you yourselves like living ______ are being built up as a spiritual house"

What Do Our Children Need "Inscribed" on the "Tablets" of Their Hearts?

- A grasp of the _____ of the Bible (Acts 8:30-31)
- Respect for _____ (1 Pet 5:6)
- A sincere commitment to personal _____ (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- Solid reasons for ______ & _____ (1 Pet 3:15)



- The ability to make wise ______(Prov 3:13-14)
- A "_____-first, _____-next" way of thinking (Matt 22:37-39)
- A developing connection with ______
 (John 15:4-5)