



THE PASTOR'S VOICE

Insights from Church Leaders

The Pastor's Voice Podcast: Episode 7

Transcript: Parents Are Rising Up and The Role of Suffering

Reuel Sample: What do we need to do to get this worldview training at all levels, but we're specifically talking about kids, back on track.

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, there's a school called Central Christian Academy in Indianapolis and I met with them. Gosh, it hasn't even been a year ago, probably eight months ago for the first time, and they are wanted to change the way their school is running. They want to have the Christian influence, and they want biblical worldview school. They want a Christian worldview school. I said, Well, OK, it's going to be a journey. So I met eight weeks with a staff. Train them. They went online and I met with them every week to answer the questions and how this relates to running a school. Then we took their whole staff through it. They went online. I met with them every week to answer questions that they have. And what does this mean to teach math, social studies, geometry, science, whatever it is so they could integrate worldview into their system? And I can tell you, we had 100 percent participation from staff and the exec team, including some of the board. But I will tell you, the whole dynamics of that school have changed. I talk every other day, maybe to the the head CEO of that school, because I'm very interested to see how this is changing the way kids are learning. And he said it's a whole new world over there. And so that's one thing we can do. We've got to train the heads and we have to train the staff. And the same goes not only for Christian schools, but the churches. We can no longer be content. The parents have to rise up and the grandparents have to rise up and aunts and uncles saying no more are

our kids going to waste their time in a church, playing games and doing crazy stuff? They want to learn.

Nancy Fitzgerald: We have to teach them biblical worldview. We must insist that our kids are being taught worldview. And if they want to start with Anchors Away, great, do it go online, anchorsaway.org or find something else? But I am telling you we need to hold our pastors and our church, the people that are influencers in our church accountable. They don't know this stuff. We they can learn it online instantly. They can begin as to what we are doing because we see this need is huge and we know there are many pastors out there that want this stuff. They want to learn it. And I don't think they're happy with where their churches are in their growth.

Nancy Fitzgerald: But again, if you don't know who Jesus is, how do you trust them with your life? And when times get tough, if you don't know who God is, how do you deal with suffering if you don't understand? God is always good. He's always for you. In that suffering and his economy, he knows full well. He's suffered and died on a cross, and he knows for us to suffer brings us closer to God. It makes our hearts yearn for God, yearn for his peace and and so we can better understand these things. But without worldview training, where do you go? You do self-help stuff. I think therapeutic gospel or, you know, I don't know.

Reuel Sample: This whole idea of suffering goes against a worldview that is very prevalent. That suffering is to be avoided, that we need to be safe all the time, that we need to avoid pain. We need to avoid all of those things that we're told in scripture suffering produces a level of spirituality that can only be obtained through the stages of suffering and grief and perseverance and patience. And the world that we live in today tries to shortcut all of that.

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, what happens to, I think, is that we suffer. We've all suffered. But God will take that as Johnny Erickson Tata said, you know, God will allow what he hates to bring about what he loves. And this whole thing is that suffering or bullying or loss of job or friendships or whatever that suffering looks like, God says this is because we live in a broken world. In this world, you will have suffering, but I have come that you might have peace, you know, through it all, I will give you what you need. This is all the better this world is going to get my friends, but a time is coming. We jump to Revelation

21. You know this heaven, I'm going to create something new for you. And there's no more pain, no more suffering, no more death. That's what we have to look forward to. It is just awful what is happening, but that doesn't have to stay that way. That's the good news of this and this training we do. You can do it in a matter of weeks and begin to change the way your family thinks and your small groups and hopefully your church community and and it goes out from there.

Reuel Sample: As you were talking about, God does things that he hates to bring about the things that he loves. It strikes me that that's really the story of your life is that he hated that you lost what you did and that you hated what you went through. But the things that you are doing, you are a powerful servant of God and doing the things that God loves. That's a story of your life.

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, it is. And you know, it's so, so interesting to me to really ingest the stuff which which we teach people how to do. I remember about five years ago I was teaching when my classes and there were about 40 kids in there. I still like to teach because I like to get the pulse of the culture because it changes so much in these kids. Just give me, you know what fork, you know, because I can I could get to probably know them better than they know themselves. But I love to see how the trend is and their learning and this and that and the other. So I just been diagnosed with breast cancer in March that year, and I hesitated whether or not I should teach my tell my kids this because we pray and we ask for prayer. And I thought, I feel like such a hypocrite for not, but I'm older. I'm their their teacher and a lot of them. I'm counseling and helping, and I don't know if this is appropriate, so I decided I wouldn't do it. And as I was closing prayer, I asked the kids to to close. We'll close down tonight in prayer, and then I heard myself saying, But before we do, I'd like to share something with you. And obviously, God saw fit to intercede for me in this regard because I wasn't really looking forward to this.

Nancy Fitzgerald: But anyway, I proceeded to tell them that I think I'm going to be OK. But this is what I have, and I appreciate your prayer in this. They were beside themselves. And then I said, you know, we have a choice when we suffer. We've studied the suffering lesson and we have a choice to suffer well or to suffer poorly. We have that choice because we're Christians. God allowed this to happen for his glory. So my job in this is to see God working in how I can strengthen my own faith and how I can

give encouragement to other people. That's what suffering well is all about. If they only see us Christians and leaders as happy pretend to be happy all the time, people that have it all together, which we don't kind of people. Now you've got one that potentially could have taken my life and didn't. But in this case, it was a great teaching opportunity. And I'm telling you this story because at the end of the last day of class, I said, OK, so what? What was it that you learned in here that really changed your life? You know, we usually get through about 15 of the 21 lessons. And so I asked them and one boy raised his hand. He said, You taught us how to suffer well.

Nancy Fitzgerald: He said. I'll never forget that. And they all chimed in, he said, Yeah, we're all in agreement. You taught us how to suffer well and I'm going, Are you kidding me right now? I mean, do you know the hours of time that we spent teaching you the all these all these awesome, juicy worldview lessons? But it was that one. And you know what? It hit their heart. It hit their soul. And if we can be those people to be vulnerable within guidelines vulnerable to them and teach them practically how Christ intercedes at our scariest moments, that he gives us that peace and he gives this opportunity to encourage others when we're looking for people to feel sorry for us, or or rightfully so as Christians to pray for us, let's remember that God gives us his strength, inward strength to be able to encourage others in their walk as we are suffering ourselves. But that's pretty much a capsule of what these kids leave with. They hear it. They hear with their heart. Yes, they learn with their mind, but they're here from their heart and their soul. And that's why biblical worldview forever changes people. If it's taught well, if it's a relational, apologetic kind of experience that they they're not learning about other governments, we're learning about how to know ourselves as God sees us, how to better understand God, how to prove that the Bible is indeed written through the work of the Holy Spirit, who inspired men to write this thing that it is true.

Nancy Fitzgerald: It is truly the word of God. And then how then do we love one another? And that is pretty much what we're about, and I think that is what could change the course of history of these churches and these youth groups if if pastors would just open themselves up to learn. And in the meantime, if parents would say, You know what, I've relied way too hard on youth group or a Christian school, I'm going to put the exclamation point on that. I'm going to take my kids through the Unanswered, Smoke Mirrors and God, or I'm going to do even a video series of the The Worldview course that we offer. So we have a lot of options. It's not because they don't have options to

make their choices to make. We are finally able to offer this all online. So I don't know. I'm so encouraged to know that there are people like you who care enough to speak in to pastors and let them see that it doesn't have to continue this way because if it does, we are no longer, by definition, a Christian country, that's for sure.

Reuel Sample: Throughout scripture, there are two institutions that are entrusted with passing on the faith. It is the family and it is the church, whether it be the Old Testament synagogue, the New Testament Church, and if both of those are failing, then no wonder our kids are being mowed over and our older adults are getting mowed over because there's no foundation, because the churches. And you and I are not anti church. You and I are actually Pro Church. We want the church to start doing this stuff again, and it's just not. We want families to start doing this again and Anchors Away is is giving them the tools to do that.

Reuel Sample: The website is AnchorsAway.org, where they offer online training, as well as packages that they can send out to churches and people who want to get involved in this. It is a way to discover your own faith. You don't have to be an expert in worldview to do this. The best teachers are the ones who are learning as well, and so Anchors Away.org. Great, great ministry. It is. It's fired by a fusion bomb at the middle of it. That would be Nancy Fitzgerald, so that's not going away anytime soon. Nancy, thank you so much for being on the podcast today.

Nancy Fitzgerald: Well, Reuel, thank you and I love that. You were made for this, for sure. And I'm so grateful for what you're doing now, and I just know you're going to touch so many hearts and change lives and and have a big impact on changing culture. And I really mean that. So thank you for your obedience and doing what you're doing so well.