

Volume 2, Day 17: Don't Try to Parent Adults

When our children reach the age at which they are able to make adult choices, it behooves us to change our role in their lives. It might be wise to follow the example of the Jews in their celebration of adulthood of their children. In this celebration (Bar Mitzvah or Bah Mitzvah) the father presents the son or daughter to God to report directly to Him as their parent. This may have been in our minds when we told our 12 year old daughter to consult God about a decision she was trying to make. It certainly took a lot of angst out of our teenage parenting.

Having experienced for the first time the challenge of approaching God as her father to advise her in making a decision, she actually chose to do what I would have preferred. But she would have been far more likely to push back against my wishes than she was with God. So, I asked, "What happened, darling?" She said, "I just got up and sat on my bed and I just said, "God, do you have a will here? Is there something you want me to do?" And it just seemed clear in my heart that he wanted me to do what I didn't want to do. And since I sensed what God wanted, I made that decision with great joy.

Listening to God is not complicated. He doesn't always speak what we want when we want Him to. If you've been asking God for weeks, months or years and He hasn't responded, as we've said before, "Relax. He'll let you know when you need to know. But the more you find quiet in spirit, the more you'll experience His peace.