

A Mother's Day Tribute

Good morning and happy Mother's Day! Mothers play such a significant role in each of our lives. There is a reason why almost every person of accomplishment begins an acceptance speak with, "I want to thank my mom." Mothers are the first to ever carry the secret joy of knowing a new human life, and they bare the burden of nurturing that tiny soul through each stage of their journey. This sacred calling is close to God's own heart, as he states in Isaiah 66:13: "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you." Though this day is for many of us a day of celebration and thanksgiving for the important women in our own lives, it can also be a heavy and difficult, even painful day for others. In Genesis 16:13, Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, describes God in such a beautiful way: "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, "'I have now seen the One who sees me.'" Whatever connotations and weight this day holds for you, this I can say with certainty: You serve a God who sees you.

For the brand-new moms: You are tired, you are scared, and often insecure about your newly discovered mothering skills. You wonder will I ever sleep again? Am I doing this right? 2 Cor. 12: 9 says, "...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. "

For the woman who feels helpless or burned out raising her little ones: There is dignity in the undignified tasks of everyday life. In the kissing of boobos, the wiping of spills and snotty noses, and the prayers at bedtime, you are molding the character of future generations through your example of servanthood and faithfulness in the small things.

For the mom dealing with hormonal teenagers: "...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." For just like Joshua was instructed before going into battle, so we should hold firm to this truth as we raise up our children in the way they should go, as mighty arrows against the evil forces in the spiritual battle of this broken world.

For the mom who lost a child: Whether you carry the burden of grief from miscarriage, abortion, or the death of a child, you serve the "...Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction..." 2 Cor. 1: 3 & 4.

For the one whose heart yearned for life but it never came to be: "The Lord is close to the broken and saves those who are crushed in spirit." You have bourn a loss. Not the loss of a life, but a loss of a dream. Prov. 13:12 says, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life." God never wastes pain, but rather, its seed can sprout true faith rooted in the knowledge that God will fulfill our desires in His perfect way.

For the mom whose kids are grown: You have carried your children to the threshold of their adulthood, and now you bear the burden of an empty home, but God will fill it with the renewed purpose of releasing your children into God's care and taking part in the work of discipling those who have not yet walked your road. Though once you held your crying child in your arms, now you carry both their victories and their tears into the very throne room of God through your intercession on their behalf. Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

To all women today: Psalm 37:4-7: "Delight yourself in the Lord; And he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and he will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him..." And so, as you seek to weave God's love and His word into the lives you nurture, know that God is creating an intricate tapestry with your life that brings Him joy and honor. Happy Mother's Day!