

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



May 1, 2014 - Vol. 11

Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers around the globe.

May 11th is Mother's Day, but maybe we should dedicate the entire month to mothers. You will notice that this month's articles focus a lot on children and discipline, spending time with the family and learning and teaching of wisdom. This was not something I planned, but as I started writing, these thoughts came into my mind. As a mother – a single parent like so many others, the role of disciplinarian often rests with us, and I want to encourage all mothers, but single mothers in particular, to be more vigilant with their children. Many are lenient, hoping to make up for what the fathers should have done or should be doing – BAD MOVE! No matter if you are single parent by choice or circumstance, we are ordered by God to discipline our children, to train them up in His way, to never spare the rod and spoil them, for if we fail to bring them up in the right way, they will find it much harder to find their way as adults. How gratifying it is for a mother to see her child all grown up and settled into a life of his or her own? What better gift could a mother ask for on Mother's Day. Every mother's dream is to live to see their children grow up to be healthy members in society, and from inception, the role of motherhood is engraved on us. Some of us take that as a proud stamp of approval while others dismiss it as a trial mark for life. But, it need not be, it

should be an in-road to groom a new life wherein Christ dwells, to foster and care for so that it will mature and bloom. Children are or reward and or job is to help them achieve their rewards. Here is a poem for mother, from a grateful child:

I AM WHO I AM BECAUSE OF YOU

Mother, I learned love from you from the first day I came into this world,
You hugged me and kissed me, you fussed over me and prayed for me,
As I started to grow you showed me how to live, by showing me how you lived,
I learned good values from you, that I carry with me through life,
Now that I am grown, I could stand on my own,
But I never will forget, that it was because of the love you've shown from that first day I was born,
I am who I am because of you.
Mother, you never told me that every day was going to be easy,
You never encouraged me to go after what was easy,
You instead pushed me beyond my limits,
You ran along side me to show me I could do it,
And rewarded me for every hurdle I came through,
So Mother, I know that it was because of the love you've shown from the first day I was born,
I am who I am because of you.
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

A LOOK INSIDE

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PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

We need to get our priorities straight if we are going to be better parents.

Eli did well in teaching Samuel, but he failed with his own sons. Many of us are like Eli, we could manage other people's children, but not our own. Many are quick to correct other people's children but fail to see the bad habits of their own children. Many parents are so busy making a living that they spend little time in making a home. Nothing should keep us from spending quality time with our children, for in these moments we understand what is happening in their lives, we get to listen to their concerns, to advise them or admonish them. But, because of the demands, carving out time to spend with the family is often pushed on the back burner. This makes it easy for our children to begin spending time elsewhere and getting involved in bad habits that we are the last to know about. Once we ignore the wrongs in

the lives of our children, it becomes easy for us to rationalize those behaviors in our own lives. Whenever we compromise the truth, we weaken its influence. Clearly Scripture teaches that training children to know and obey God is the basis for pleasing Him and living victoriously in His grace. Discipline is an integral part of raising godly children. Eli was a great priest and he was busy in the temple all day, when he should have been spending more time with his family and as a result, he was busy grooming Samuel, while his own children were developing bad habits without his supervision. Eli's focus on Samuel was good, but his priority was misplaced, and like many of us, it may be too late to save our children and ourselves. If we are guilty of having misplaced our priorities, it's time to refocus and take our families back.



Get it right!

How could we raise godly children when we are walking out of God's way?

As parents, many of us have rebellious children because of the discipline we gave to them, while some of us have thankful children because of the discipline they received from us. We are just the same way with our Heavenly Father, some of us are rebellious and some of us are thankful. We are rebellious when we don't get our way and we are not thankful for any blessing we have received. But scripture reminds us in the book of Proverbs that the Lord disciplines those he loves, and that we should not resent his rebuke. So then, why are we afraid to discipline our children whom we claim to love? Maybe we have grown so accustomed to seeing our children misbehave that we turn a blind eye. But, we should be mindful, that

we are accountable for the way in which we raise our children. God desires that we train our children in His ways. But, how could we raise Godly children, children who are walking in His way when we ourselves are rebellious and unthankful, and continually walk out of God's way? Let us pray to God to instill in us the will to serve him so that our children could learn from us, so that we could set good examples for them to follow, for when we fail to train ourselves and our children in the ways of the Lord we all become evil and vile, and God will intervene and discipline us as well as our children, because no matter what, He loves us and His will for us is not to suffer, he died to make us good.



God's way leads to life everlasting!

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Songs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Written by: ***Rhea F. Miller—1922***

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have riches untold; I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands; I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain, and be held in sin's dread sway; I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause; I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause; I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame; I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain, and be held in sin's dread sway; I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today.

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom; He's sweeter than honey from out the comb; He's all that my hungering spirit needs; I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain, and be held in sin's dread sway; I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today.

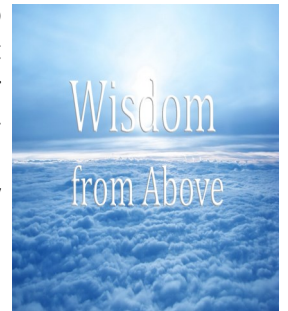


PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Nothing our children desire could be more profitable than wisdom. It is better than silver and yields more returns than gold.

Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. If then, wisdom is so wonderful why do so many run from it, why do we seek our own understanding when it is worthless? I want to encourage you to seek wisdom and you will find it. If this wisdom is so profitable, so precious, we should be seeking her at every turn, we should be surrounded by her all day long. But do we know where to find her? Wisdom is found in God's words, we should meditate on her morning, noon, and night. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived and this is his advise to us regarding wisdom. "Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor, her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace, she is a tree of life to

those who take hold of her; and those who hold her fast will be blessed. My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion, they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck, then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet, you will have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared. Blessed are those who find wisdom and those who gain understanding.' Let us teach wisdom to our children and our children's children, for nothing they desire would ever compare with her.



More precious than silver or gold.

Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways. Let us teach our children to be stable-minded.

Many people are envious of the possessions of others and will stop at nothing to achieve it. But scripture reminds us that while all things may be good for us that all things are not lawful for us. But do we get it? No! We feel that if the Jones' could have it then so could we, but at what cost? Should we follow the perverse and evil ways of the wicked and lose out on God's blessings, or be content with the blessings we receive from God and be happy? Evil people are not happy people, nor are those who are not content. For this reason they have to work harder at everything. It may seem like all is well with them, but their lives are constantly embattled with

lies and schemes, corrupt behaviors, malicious intent, robbery, murder and covetousness. Is this the life you want to live, or the example for your children? "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure with trouble. Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways, for the Lord detests the perverse and takes the upright in his confidence." Let us encourage our children to be stable minded, pray for them to walk uprightly, help them to understand that because John has this that he does not have it get it too, and to walk away from the ways of the wicked, for the Lord detests the perverse, but takes the upright in his confidence.



Walk in it!

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

Many are quick to correct other people's children but fail to see the bad habits of their own children.

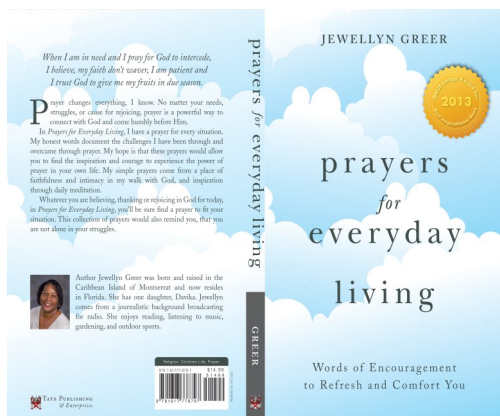
Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. If then, wisdom is so wonderful why do so many run from it?

Should we follow the perverse and evil ways of the wicked and lose out on God's blessings, or be content with the blessings we receive from God and be happy?

Whatever things were gain to us in sin, count them loss for Christ. If you profess to be a Christian, act Christ-like at all times.

Shame is the fruit of sin. Eat all you can and you will still be hungry.

Evil people are not happy people, nor are those who are not content.



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Our spotlight is on you: Shame is the fruit of sin, eat all you can and you will still be hungry.

Where sin abounded, GRACE abounded more. What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Shame is the fruit of sin. We read in Romans chapter 1 that they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Yes we do, we turn a blind eye to the sins of our friends, for fear of being cut off, but the only thing you would have gained is sin and shame. We read in Jeremiah 12:13 that they will sow wheat but reap thorns; they will wear themselves out but gain nothing. They will bear the shame of their harvest because of the Lord's fierce anger." Wake up my brothers and sisters in Christ for whatever things were gain to us in sin, count them loss for Christ. Let us proudly say, 'I have sinned, I have perverted what is right, but I did not get what I deserved. What did you gain by doing those things? I am ashamed of what I used to do because it ended in death, but now having been freed from sin and enslaved

to God, I derive my benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.... Brethren, I count not myself to have been apprehended: but saved, and this one thing I will do, is to forget those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I now press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Before, I was eating the fruits of shame, and I kept eating because I was never full, I was convinced that the more I sinned the more GRACE would abound, but, thanks be to God that I now can see the light, no more will I sow wheat and reap thorns, no more will my harvest be full of tares, for I have learned how to sift the tares from the wheat and gather into barns that will be used for the glory of God. If you are eating the shameful fruits of sin, you will still be hungry, you will be always searching, so make it your aim to drink from the life-giving well of Christ that will never run dry. Count as loss all those things you gained in sin and embrace Jesus Christ within.



**Don't be charmed—
REBUKE SIN!**

Children's Corner: A Poem for Mother. Thank you Mother for all that you do.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

I could give you diamonds and pearls
I could take you dancing on stars
I could build you castles on mountains
I could charm you with good food and wine
I could give you all of the brightest flowers
But this will not make you happy
If I fail to shower you with the same genuine
love you have shown me all these years
I LOVE YOU MOTHER!

THANK YOU MOTHER

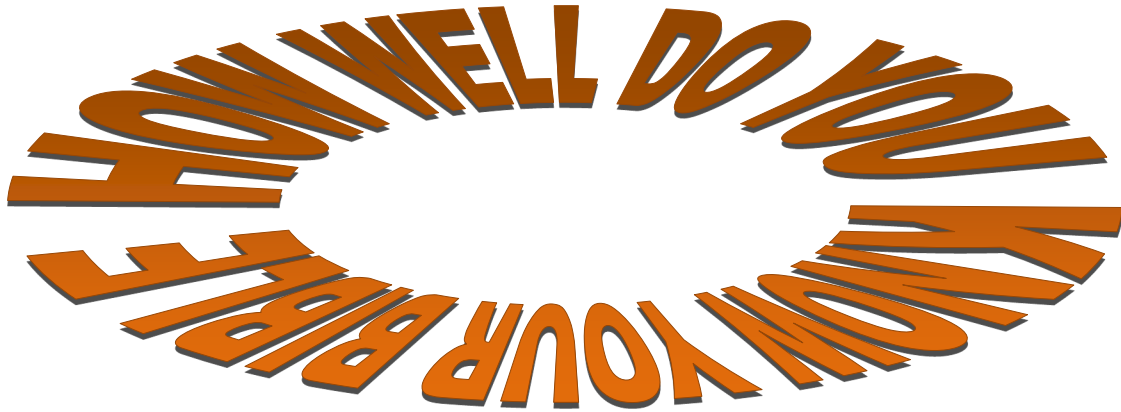
M— Thanks Mom for forgiving my MESSSES
O— Thanks Mom for OPENING your heart
T—Thanks Mom for TEACHING me about God
H—Thanks Mom for HUGS of comfort
E—Thanks Mom for EVERYTHING you do
R—Thanks Mom for always being the REAL you
You are the world's best Mom, and you are
loved today more than you will ever know.
I LOVE YOU MOTHER!



**Today, MOM,
It's all about
YOU!**

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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Which prophet anointed David as king?	Ten
Which is the last book in the Old Testament?	Noah
How many days did it rain during the great flood?	Mary
How many plagues did God send on Egypt?	Moses
Who built the ark?	Samuel
Who was Jesus's mother?	Forty
Who was the baby's whose mother hid him in a basket?	The Ten Commandments
Honor thy father and mother is listed in the Bible as part of this?	Malachi



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Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

Jesus Is Calling The Children Written by: *Ulysses Phillips*

Refrain:

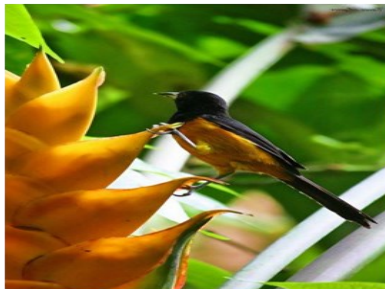
Beautiful way, beautiful way, Walk in the beautiful way.

Jesus is calling the children, calling, yes, calling today;
Oh, will you walk in His footsteps—walk in the beautiful way?
Jesus is calling the children, those who are going astray;
He wants to lead you to heaven, along the beautiful way.
Jesus is calling the children, come to Him now while you may;
He'll fill your heart with His gladness, walk in the beautiful way.
Jesus is calling the children, will you His sweet voice obey?
Come, let Him lead you to heaven, along the beautiful way.

Jesus is calling the children, those who are going astray;
He wants to lead you to heaven, along the beautiful way.

Refrain:

Beautiful way, beautiful way, walk in the beautiful way.



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