

ESF, Lord's day message (Mother's Day)
5/14/ 2017

God's Blessings Through Our Mothers

Text: Selected Scriptures

Mothering is the most challenging job of all, because while a mother gives birth to a child and takes care of her child, she has to face many dangers, obstacles and trials. But it is also the most rewarding and blessed job in this world, because there are special blessings which God dispenses through mothers. God dispenses His love through different ways. But through mothers God dispenses His love better, deeper, wider, and higher than He does through any other way.

God in the Bible is called the Heavenly Father. But when we look at the Bible carefully, we see that God also identifies Himself with earthly mothers, especially when God shows His tender compassion and sacrificial love.

Tender Compassion

One of the blessings God gives us through our mothers is compassion. Isaiah 49:15 says: *Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!*

When babies wake up in the middle of night and cry, fathers may help out some what but it would be very difficult for them to show more tender compassion for a crying babies than their mothers. Tender compassion of our mothers works in our lives like a powerful healing balm. God brings His comfort and healing grace to us through our mother's compassion. Isaiah 66:13 says, *"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."*

During World War I, an American soldier was wounded on the battlefields of France. He was taken to a hospital, and finally brought back to America. He was in critical condition when he reached an American

hospital-his eyes blinded, his mind beclouded, and his body mangled. His old mother traveled many miles to see him. When she arrived at the hospital she sat at his bedside and silently laid her hand on his brow. Instantly he said: "It's my mother's hand! I know it anywhere!" The mother had not spoken, but he knew the touch of her hand!

Our mothers' tender compassion brings enormous patience.

Once a very poor girl from a small town went to the big city to earn some money to support her old mother. Soon after her arrival, she realized that an attractive girl could earn more money doing little work rather than doing much work. Recognizing her own assets, she became all too successful. She pleased men and soon had money, jewels, and a life of revelry. Her mother was forgotten. Years passed by.

One day she was stricken with remorse and asked herself, "I wonder how my mother is. I have neglected her completely." She took the first train to her village, arriving late at night. To her amazement, she found the gate of her house wide open. She knew her mother was always careful to lock it at night. Then she saw a light burning in the window of her mother's bedroom. "A lamp is burning so late? Mother usually went to bed early. Might she be sick?" When she crossed the threshold, she heard her mother's voice: "Joan, is that you?"

"Yes, Mother," she replied. "But how is it the gate is wide open so late at night?" "Since you left, the gate has not been closed."

"But why is the light burning so late? Why aren't you asleep?"

"Since you left, it has never been extinguished. A loving mother's heart waited for you."

Children! Be thankful to your moms for their tender compassion and long suffering patience for you.

Mothers thank God for His gift of compassion and patience dispensed through your motherhood.

Sacrificial Love.

God dispenses His sacrificial love to us through our mothers. Most mothers love their children more than they love themselves.

Most mothers are willing to sacrifice their own lives to protect or save their children's lives. When Moses mother gave birth to Moses, she was living in Egypt. At that time the Egyptian king ordered that every newborn boy of the Hebrews should be killed. Nobody could disobey the king's order. If anybody disobeyed the order, the person would be executed. But Moses mother disobeyed the order and kept Moses for three months. To save her child's life, she risked her own life. She was ready to sacrifice her life for her son.

When we remember our mothers, we remember their genuine sacrifice for us. In their sacrifice, we have received the unfathomable love of God.

Some years ago, about 6:00 A.M. on a Wednesday morning James Lawson of Running Springs, California (in the San Bernardino mountains) left home to apply for a job. About an hour later his thirty-six-year-old wife, Patsy left for her fifth grade teaching job down the mountain in Riverside, accompanied by her two children, five-year-old Susan and two-year-old Gerald. She planned to drop them off at the babysitter's.

Unfortunately, they never got that far. Eight and a half hours later the man found his wife and daughter dead in their wrecked car, upside down in a cold mountain stream. His two-year-old son was just barely alive in the forty-eight degree water.

But in that death the character of a mother was revealed in a most dramatic and heart-rending way. For when the father scrambled down the cliff to what he was sure were the cries of his dying wife, he found her locked in a death grip, holding her little boy's head just above the water in the submerged car. For eight and a half hours Patsy Lawson had held her beloved toddler afloat and had finally died, her body almost frozen to death in that position of self-giving love, holding her baby up to breathe.

She died that another might live. That's the essence of a mother's love.

And that is the essence of Jesus' love for us. He died so that we might live. *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.* (I Peter 3:18)

Mothers! Have you ever sacrificed for your children? Praise God for it. Because that is the most blessed privilege that God has given you. Through your sacrifice God is pouring out His love to your children. While you love your child sacrificially, you receive God's sacrificial love for you. You understand why God sacrificed His Son, Christ to love you.

Your children may not understand your love now. They may not appreciate your sacrifice now. They may be rebellious now. But in the end they will understand. In the end, they will appreciate it. Your sacrificial love is the essential nutrition for your children's soul even if they cannot recognize it now. Most of all God knows your heart and He will bring comfort and reward to you for your sacrificial love of your children.

Children! Have you ever recognized the precious value of the sweat and tears of your mothers who have sacrificed so much for you? Nourish your hearts with their sweat and tears. Show your heartfelt appreciation to them for their sacrificial love now. Show your thankfulness for their sacrifice before it's too late.

Faith and Prayer

God dispenses His blessings through faith and prayer of our mothers. Hebrews 11:23 says that God's blessing in Moses' life was formed by his mother's faith: *By faith Moses' parents (mother) hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.* Through the faith of Moses' mom, God raised Moses to be a great leader for the nation of Israel. God builds children's faith through their mothers' faith. Paul reminded Timothy of this truth in 2 Timothy 1:5 *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith,*

which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”

God also listens to a mother’s prayer for her children with special attention

There was a woman whose daughter was very sick. The sick daughter was suffering terribly from demon-possession. The mother was a Canaanite, gentile woman, whom the Jewish people thought had no right to receive God’s blessing. But she came to Jesus and earnestly asked Him to heal her daughter. But Jesus tested her faith by saying that He came only for the Israelites. Jesus even said that to listen to her prayer and heal her daughter was like taking the children’s bread and tossing it to the dogs. But she did not give up. She humbled herself before Jesus and kept asking, “Yes. Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then, Jesus answered, “*Woman, you have great faith! Your requested is granted.*” And the daughter was healed from that hour (Matthew 15:21-28).

Mothers! God wants to bless you and your children through your prayers for them. Don’t be discouraged even if you are not rich or don’t have what this world can offer. You can give your children the best blessing through your prayer. You can be the best mom when you live by faith in God and pray for your children.

There was a mother who was praying day and night for the safety of her son who was on the battle field. One day her son was with other five soldiers in a trench. In the trench, they were trying to protect their bodies from flying bullets and bomb explosions. At one point a bomb shell landed where the six soldiers were. It was very close to them. So all of them could have been killed instantly if the bomb had exploded at that spot. But the bomb shell did not explode because the place where the bomb shell hit had deep mud and the shell buried its nose into the deep mud. After tense silence, one of them said: “Our mothers have been praying for us.”

Mothers! You may not be able to see the results of your prayers for your children for a long time. When your teenage children are still rebellious against your instructions, although you are constantly praying for them, you may be tempted to stop praying for them. But you should not give up on praying for your children. Pray persistently. Because God will never ignore your persistent prayer for your children just as He did not ignore the persistent request of the Canaanite woman.

Children! If you have moms who are praying for you, be grateful to them for their prayers. Because you receive God's greatest blessings through their prayers. If your mom is a believer and prays for you, you have to know that you have the most wonderful gift through your mom. God directly blesses you through your mom's prayer. Don't compare your mother with anything or any person in this world. If she lives by faith and if she prays for you, her faith and prayer is God's greatest blessing for you. Be thankful to your mother for her faith and prayers for you.