

Blessed is the Mother who Clings

Recently I was in Texas to get a good dose of the grandchildren. It's been a long time since I've had small children in the house, so the dynamics of having children all around brought back memories of exhaustion, laughter, and lack of solitude. One morning I was in the bathroom trying to get dressed for the day. About every two minutes there was a knock at the door, "Grammy, will you throw the football with me?" Then another, "Grammy, will you play hide and seek with me and the big rubber ball?" Oh, the sweet voices of a 6 year old grandson and a 5 year old granddaughter, competing for my attention behind closed doors.

When I finally opened the door, there stood three children. My six year old grandson holding a football, my five year old granddaughter holding a big rubber ball, and my one year old grandson holding a balloon. Immediately I was bombarded with, "will you throw the football with me?", "will you play hide and seek with me and the big rubber ball?" and "balloon!"

Then I quickly remembered the part of motherhood that involves clinging children. Clinging to the legs, the purse, the apron. Never letting go, always holding on, always needing something.

My daughter recently read an article that stated the lives of children between the ages of birth and six years old revolve around their mother – the mother is the center of their universe. Around the age of six, the child begins to pull away from their mother and become more self-sufficient. So around the age of six, the child stops clinging to their mother and needs something else to cling to. Ponder that.

Recently I was asked to lead a devotional for a baby shower. The Lord gave me the verse from Proverbs 31:28, which says, "Her children arise and call her blessed." I responded, "Oh Lord, not Proverbs 31. No woman can live up to those standards", to which the Lord replied, "I didn't say Proverbs 31. I said Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise and call her blessed." I then understood that the devotional was about the spiritual role of mothers in the lives of their children.

I contemplated what this verse really meant in terms of mothering. "Her children arise and call her blessed." The dictionary defines blessed as held in reverence, respected. I reworded the verse to say, "As her children grow, they will respect and revere their mother."

But how do we know how to raise our children? How do we know what is right and what is wrong? And if we mess up, how do we know not to throw in the towel? Where does our wisdom and strength and perseverance come from? Being a mom is the hardest job in the world. How do we know that we are doing it right? Are there blessings from God available to us as we raise our children? I began researching scripture to find the answers. The verses usually said, "blessed is the man", but I know that in God's terms, He is referring to humanity, so I took the liberty of inserting MOM in place of MAN. Look at these verses (for more, see the attached .pdf file).

"Blessed is the mom whose delight is in the law of the Lord."

"Blessed is the mom who puts her trust in the Lord."

"Blessed is the mom whose sins are forgiven."

"Blessed is the mom whose steps are ordered by the Lord."

"Blessed is the mom who treasures the lives of her children"

"Blessed is the mom who perseveres"

"Blessed is the mom who disciplines with consistency"

I remembered how children under the age of six watch everything that we do and learn from our example. These young children cling to us for life, sustenance and direction. As moms, we cling to the

Lord for life, sustenance and direction. As the child clings to our leg, we cling to the Lord's leg, so the child is benefitting from our clinging to the Lord because she is a direct recipient of the Lord's teachings – coming through us! Picture it – the Lord leads the way, the mom clings to HIS leg, and the child clings to her leg. As the Lord leads, the mom follows the Lord and the child follows the mom. As long as the mom continues to follow the Lord and cling to Him, she will not be led astray. Same for the child; as long as the child clings to the mom who is clinging to the Lord, the child learns the ways of the Lord.

As the child clings to the mom who is clinging to the Lord, look at those same verses,

“Blessed is the child whose mom's delight is in the law of the Lord”, for the child will learn to enjoy reading and studying God's Word.

“Blessed is the child whose mom puts her trust in the Lord”, for the child will learn that the Lord is trustworthy and faithful.

“Blessed is the child whose mom's sins are forgiven”, for she will learn about God's grace and mercy.

“Blessed is the child whose mom's steps are ordered by the Lord”, for the child will learn to yield their life and direction to the Lord's guidance.

“Blessed is the child whose mom treasures the life of her child”, for the child will be raised with love, correction, guidance, wisdom and understanding.

“Blessed is the child whose mom perseveres”, for the child will learn to press on through tough situations and lessons, never giving up.

“Blessed is the child whose mom disciplines with consistency”, for the child will learn that there is a difference between right and wrong and God's ways are best.

What about when the child reaches age six and releases her clinginess from her mother and tries to find her own way? Because she has learned by example, she will loosen the grip from her mother and tighten her grip on God. Now look at these same scriptures in that context:

“Blessed is the child whose delight is in the law of the Lord.”

“Blessed is the child who puts her trust in the Lord”.

“Blessed is the child whose sins are forgiven.”

“Blessed is the child whose steps are ordered by the Lord.”

“Blessed is the child who treasures her own life.”

“Blessed is the child who perseveres”

“Blessed is the child who receives discipline and teaching.”

The beauty of living for Christ is handed down through all generations. The Bible says

“The righteous mom walks in her integrity; her children are blessed after her.”

“The righteous mom is ever merciful and her descendants are blessed.”

“Blessed is the mom who fears the Lord and delights in His word. Her descendants will be mighty on earth, her generation will be blessed.”

What mom doesn't want her children and grandchildren and generations to come to be blessed by God? When you live your life according to God's Word, your children will indeed arise and call you blessed. They will honor and respect you. The blessings of your obedience will be passed down to your children. Your faith in God will be passed down to your children. The inheritance you leave for your children will be a spiritual inheritance.

You ask, "what if I can't do all of these things listed above?" Be encouraged; your life is lived out day by day, step by step. Ask God for His wisdom, understanding, strength and help; HE will lead you in being the best mom ever for your children.

CLING TO JESUS. Cling to His legs, His words, His ways. Never let go, always hold on, always bring your needs to Him. Everything that you do for your children is recognized and emulated; choose to walk with the Lord and to live by HIS word so that the lives of your children will be impacted and blessed for generations to come.

Be blessed, be encouraged. Be clingy.
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