

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

April 21, 2013

Prayer... to give our family stability

Unlike anything else we do for our children, prayer brings life and vitality to a home, something we cannot provide with a dollar bill or a kind word. If you want to give your children something valuable and personal and life changing, learn how to pray, and teach them to pray.

I would like to share what prayer means to me, in a testimony, then we will look closely at some scriptures and discuss them.

Prayer is my lifeline to God. I find that I am able to conquer any task that God puts before me through His strength. I step back in amazement when I see God working and it causes me to praise Him more.

I have learned to pray *first*, not as a last resort. This solves so many problems. I have learned to trust God with my problems. No one solves problems like God can. Sometimes He allows me to just go on through the problems by His grace. I have experienced this side of prayer too, and I accept it.



Prayer is coming to God for counsel, leaning on Him for strength, sharing your burdens with Him, and sharing your blessings with Him.

We have taught our children to pray, and we have often prayed with them. They have seen God answer prayer!

Without prayer to God, I get distressed and insecure.

With prayer to God, I sense a courage and a God given peace that I find no where else. Take time to pray with your children every day. If it is not important to you, don't expect it to be important to them. Start a **Family Prayer List**, and refer to it every day.

This is our Family Prayer List:

Dan (Dad) as he preaches. May the Lord work in and through him. May the Lord give him wisdom, good health and protection. Guide him in his studies. May he be a wonderful dad and husband, to the glory of God.

Joshua as he goes to college. May God protect him and guide him in all decisions. May he be a good example to others and have a deep love for Christ. May the Lord provide him with a godly wife.

Heidi as she gets married. May the Lord prepare her and provide for her. May she see God working in her life daily. May God's protection be upon her, and may her love for Christ go even deeper. Guide her as she leaves our home.

Amber as she grows and matures. May she love Jesus most of all. May she have good health. May she continue to memorize scripture and be a great servant of Christ. Protect her from sin and its consequences.

Connie (Mom) as she works in the home. Give her strength and health. Guide her as she reaches out to people and meets needs. Give her wisdom & protection. May she be completely led of the Lord.

*These are general prayers. We pray for other things, as the Lord leads.
This list is updated as needed.*

I also have a prayer key chain. This is laying out in our bathroom. I turn it to one person each day, and focus on that persons needs. It has each of our pictures laminated. Sometimes two of us are on a picture together.

I enjoy the key chain idea. I pray for that family member almost every time I go in the bathroom

Why is prayer so important as we raise our children?

The answer is clear. If you are not a praying mom, you are leaning on your own knowledge in the teaching and training of your children. You must not fall into this trap. You are not going to make good and godly decisions without God's intervention.

By praying, you are looking to God for your success, not *you* or *your husband*. You definitely won't succeed by leaning on your own reasoning. Many have done that already. Many have failed.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 *That's a promise!*

In your times of need, God will be there to steer you right. Call upon Him in prayer instantly.

“ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace (prayer to God), that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
Hebrews 4:16 ***God gives us grace to cope, and hope!***

When you are honestly walking with God, you have many promises in the scripture. God wants to bless you *personally*, and He wants to bless your home.

“If ye abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” Matthew 21:22 *Incredible!*

Do you know what it means to abide in Christ? It means to dwell, stay,

or remain stable in your walk with Christ. These are the people who receive the greatest blessings as they walk with God. Living a stable life for Christ will bring more **answered prayers** for your children, more blessing upon your children.

Ephesians 3:20 should bring excitement to your heart, as the Lord tells us

that God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

So, there is a connection with how He blesses us and the power that worketh in us.

Let’s stop and read **verses 17-21** aloud to appreciate it fully.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Prayer is asking, as the verse says, but the receiving comes according to the power that worketh in us. Allow God to use you fully. You will never regret it, and your whole family will benefit.

If you want God to be near you, it is important that you get in a closer relationship with Him. The closer you get to Him, the better and more scriptural your prayer life will be. People who are not walking close with God pray very shallow prayers. James 4:8 says:

“Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.” You need to pray deep prayers to God, specific prayers about your family.

There are some general directions God gives us for prayer. I have written three of them for you to think about.

1. We are to give thanks to God in every circumstance.

I Thessalonians 5:18 “In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” When you are going through a storm with your children, look for something that you can thank God for in the situation.

2. We are to pray for wisdom.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally (abundantly), and upbraideth (does not get tired of hearing us ask for things we need) not.” We need wisdom is raising godly children.

3. We are to pray for one another.

James 5:16 “ Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” That includes your children.

The Lord expects us to talk to Him, and receive counsel from Him. How long has it been since you asked God a question? You talk to Him by prayer. He talks to you through His Word. Both are important.

There is much more to say, but most importantly, just take time to pray while you can. **Set an example of prayer for your children.** Pray with them, pray for them, and pray scripture over them as they sleep.

We will talk about scripture prayers next week.

Let’s pray now, and appreciate the God who made us all!