

## Is Motherhood Still Vital?

**2 Timothy 1:5:** (NASB) *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*



There is probably no role we as humans play that is more taken for granted than that of being a mom. From carrying the unborn to feeding and protecting the newborn to nurturing the toddler to teaching the child, she quietly continues. From understanding the adolescent to challenging the young adult to supporting the independent adult to caring for the grandchildren, a mom simply goes about the business of building and enhancing life. She rarely, if ever, gets time off, does not get paid, and often does not receive much in the way of gratitude. Yet, she perseveres, driven by the deep and scarcely understood motivation of selfless, protective and cultivating love. It is time to stop, observe, and appreciate the love, power and influence of moms!

We would like to welcome Julie from our CQ team.



While I do not have children of my own, I feel I am uniquely qualified because...I have a mother! And she is terrific! The older I get the more I appreciate her and how hard it is to be a mom.

This is not just a podcast for moms. It is a podcast for all of us because we can all be nurturers, and all appreciate and help others along their pathway. One lesson we can all use is we should "mother the mothers." Mothers need help. For those of us who are not biological mothers, we can still mother others. We will be quoting "The Twelve Qualities of a Christian Mother" from:

(Source: <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/12-qualities-of-a-christian-mother/#ixzz5mUjanPoX>)



### Dictionary.com:

Discernment: noun

1. the ability to judge well (example: "an astonishing lack of discernment;")
2. (in Christian context) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding.

**Hebrews 5:13-14:** (NASB) *<sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*



**Motherhood Example: The wife of Manoah and the mother of Samson. While the account does not directly describe her character, it does give us powerful insight into it.**

### **She is trustworthy:**

**Judges 13:1-24: (NASB) (Selected verses)** *<sup>1</sup>Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, so that the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years. <sup>2</sup>There was a certain man... whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children. <sup>3</sup>Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup>Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. <sup>5</sup>For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*

She tells her husband, and he asks for the angel to reappear. The angel reappears and restates the prophecy.

### **She is observant:**

*<sup>12</sup>Manoah said, Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy's mode of life and his vocation? <sup>13</sup>So the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, Let the woman pay attention to all that I said... (It is almost like saying, "I told her everything, and she will see it through - trust her!")*

### **She is reasonable:**

*<sup>22</sup>So Manoah said to his wife, We will surely die, for we have seen God. <sup>23</sup>But his wife said to him, If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time. <sup>24</sup>Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him.*

We started with a scriptural story for our foundation, now let's go to some practical examples. Julie, give us a sense of discernment from some of the mothers you interviewed.

Several friends of mine are doing an amazing job taking their role as a mom very seriously. I asked them to share with us what their secrets are and the results were both practical and candid. One thing I realized all of these moms had in common - they all first acknowledged God entrusted them with this important work. They had to remind themselves of this daily - sometimes hourly - to not get caught up in the hard parts. They are working for God. This put their role in perspective.

Estera's son, Jonathan, was diagnosed at an early age with Sensory Integration issues, where the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses. This can leave people oversensitive to things in their environment, like sound or touch. She explained to us:



Raising a child with a diagnosed issue is a blessing in disguise. The biggest lesson I had learned from it is to rely on the Lord, and not on my own strength and ability. Also, it taught me to be slow in judging others and quick in showing understanding.



Estera needed to help him focus on how to make the right choices when he was confronted with different circumstances. How he reacted did not always match how he was expected to act.

I realized that if his heart was in the right place, if I planted in it the right principles, then he would always focus on applying the principles that have been planted in it, no matter the circumstance.

Not only was she discerning, but she was teaching her son discernment. We make better decisions when our perceptions are clear and focused. I will tell you more about Jonathan as we go on.

That is a good example of not only accepting the difficulty but capitalizing on the difficulty. Estera said, "It is a blessing." That is spiritual discernment.



Romans 12:12: (NASB) *Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.*

Prayer is not just being on your knees praying, it is having an attitude of prayer each day.

Let's go back to Estera with some practical advice.



Pray with your child. One of my best experiences in this regard is praying in the morning when I wake my son up. I start talking to him while he is still in bed waking up. When I see that he is awake, I give him a hug, and I say out loud a quick prayer over him asking God to help my child to be an example at school and to bless his day so he could bless others.

Not only is Estera instant in prayer, but she is instilling this in her son and teaching him the way to start the day.



**Vital Parenting Lesson:**

Discernment makes a parent trustworthy and contributes to observance and reason. Prayer enhances all of these things.



## Discernment and prayer ARE vital, but they are only the beginning. What else do mothers bring us?

Perhaps the most recognized thing people recite when talking about motherhood is unconditional love. This quality cannot be overstated. How many examples come to mind of mothers sacrificing their own time, preferences and comfort so their children can be better off? Selfless love makes life better.

Let's have some fun and listen to a song about what a mother has to go through in a day.



### "Mom Song," (Verse one) Gateway Community Church, Anita Renfroe, Betsy Burke, Tiffany Marshall

Get up now  
Get up now  
Get up out of bed  
Wash your face  
Brush your teeth  
Comb your sleepy head  
Here's your clothes  
And your shoes  
Hear the words I said  
Get up now  
Get up and make your bed  
Are you hot?  
Are you cold?  
Are you wearing that?  
Where's your books and your lunch and your homework at?  
Grab your coat and your gloves and your scarf and hat  
Don't forget you gotta feed the cat  
Eat your breakfast  
The experts tell us it's the most important meal of all  
Take your vitamins so you will grow up one day to be big and tall  
Please remember the orthodontist will be seeing you at three today  
Don't forget your piano lesson is this afternoon  
So, you must play  
Don't shovel  
Chew slowly  
But hurry  
The bus is here  
Be careful  
Come back here  
Did you wash behind your ears?

*Quality Three:*



*Demonstrates  
unconditional love*

**1 John 4:18-19:** (NASB) <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love, because He first loved us.

Fear is one of the challenges of motherhood.

**Motherhood Example: Naomi, the mother-in-law who shared her faith.**

**Naomi was willing to adapt:**

**Ruth 1:1-5:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>...there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion... <sup>3</sup>Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They took for themselves Moabite women as wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years. <sup>5</sup>Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

Imagine the complete sense of loss.

**Naomi puts others first:**

**Ruth 1:6-9:** (NASB) <sup>6</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food. <sup>7</sup>So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

Naomi's instincts were to go back to her original home to rekindle her life and to allow her daughters-in-law to stay in their familiar land. They were all she had but she felt it was better for them to stay.

**She is gently firm for what she believes is the good of others, even at her own expense:**

**Ruth 1:10-11,13,14:** (NASB) <sup>10</sup>And they said to her, No, but we will surely return with you to your people. <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me... <sup>13</sup>No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me. <sup>14</sup>And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

**Naomi also is willing to listen and then further adapt:**

**Ruth 1:15-17:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then she said, Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law. <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said, Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.

Ruth stayed with her which was a blessing to Naomi. Due to Naomi's willingness to sacrifice for others, their lives ended up being richly blessed.





Next, a current-day example of unconditional love.

In talking with Estera, I was glad she provided candid insights.

*Accept the child you were given and not the child that your mind envisioned, otherwise, you will become discouraged and resent your child.*

Part of struggling with sensory issues was the difficulty fitting in with other kids. As much as Estera tried to help him, he would cling to her and constantly interrupt her conversations and required all of her attention.

I struggled to accept a child that was having difficulty adjusting to everything around him, despite my best efforts to help him - *a child that was making me look bad*. I felt I was perceived as a “bad mother.” Until one day I had a revelation: I was fighting against reality, against what God knew I could handle! *I realized I was trying to raise the child I had not been given, instead of focusing on the child I had been given. It wasn't about me.* Raising my child was not a choice, it was a responsibility. God knew my situation and that I would be strong enough to face it. This thought flooded me with an immense sense of peace and acceptance. From that moment on, I realized that I had been relying on my abilities, or lack thereof, rather than on God’s ability to help me. *I was starting to love my child not for who he was but for who I had wanted him to be.* With this realization, blessings started to flow in my life. I cannot thank the Lord enough for the way He led me through this experience, each step of the way.

Jonathan is one of the most amazing kids you could meet. He just turned 13 and is smart and clever, helps others and is very perceptive and kind. In fact, my nickname for him is “Flash” because he is like a little flashlight, helping others to walk in the light when it is really dark out there.

This is one area those of us who are not mothers can help to “mother the mothers.” Moms can be sensitive to what others will think. Does whatever is happening with their child/teenager/young adult make them look like a “bad mother”?

Guilt can play a big part in how a mother feels and we should not be contributing to that. We should be giving them a helping hand.

Every mothering experience has challenges. Estera came to a specific conclusion that God’s will could bring her beyond where she had previously planned to go. She took God’s pathway because circumstances demanded a higher pathway. Jonathan is an amazing young man. He has a great smile and is engaged in everything he does.

What a great example of unconditional love and learning how to be humble enough to be vulnerable to potential judgment because you are doing exactly the right thing.



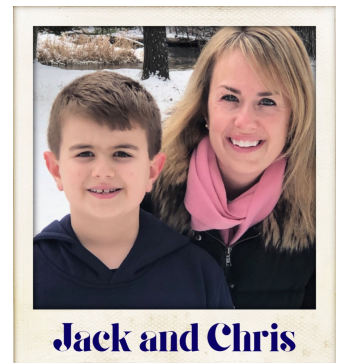


**Psalm 16:11:** (NASB) *You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

I would like to introduce you to my friend, Chris. Chris is also a CQ volunteer and is now working on developing our new App which is coming out in the next several months. She is amazing. She has an eight-year-old son, Jack, and she offered some practical advice for us.

 **Cheerful Service, Advice for Mothers, Chris M.**

- I am always appreciative to see my Christian role models exude the joy that working in the Lord brings them. I love to see cheerful service and a genuine love for God and His plan. I want to make sure my joy shows all the time to my son, especially when we make sacrifices, like giving up being on the baseball team because games are on Sunday mornings. I want to do things willingly and happily so that when something comes up that may entice him to act or spend his time not in a Christlike manner, it won't be that big of a deal to make the better choice.*



Life is not always the way a child wants it to be and we need to adapt to that in a joyful way.

Trying to keep Sundays sacred is very difficult for moms today. Practices and games are always on Sunday mornings and there are tough choices to make between having your child participate in sports, which can eventually lead to college scholarships or to be at Bible study on Sundays or during the week.



**Vital Parenting Lesson:** Parental love for others means putting their lives in front of your own. To do this while cultivating a joyful environment truly speaks louder than any words you can utter.

Chris advised getting children used to your Sunday routine of going to Bible study.

Actions always speak louder than words.

While most parents seem to be wired to love in this way, it is still a really breathtaking example to see.

## While unconditional love may be the most noticed quality in moms, what foundation is it built upon?

Everything of value has a strong foundation. For a Christian mother, that foundation is unmistakably founded in the Scriptures. By knowing what the Bible is about and knowing how it directs us to live, a Christian mom can far more easily embrace the selfless sacrifices she is so often called upon to make. It is one thing to talk about being a selfless individual, but it is another thing to know why. That is part of the challenge of being a Christian mother.



### "Mom Song," (Verse two) Gateway Community Church, Anita Renfroe, Betsy Burke, Tiffany Marshall

Play outside  
Don't play rough  
Would you just play fair?  
Be polite  
Make a friend  
Don't forget to share  
Work it out  
Wait your turn  
Never take a dare  
Get along  
Don't make me come down there  
Clean your room  
Fold your clothes  
Put your stuff away  
Make your bed  
Do it now  
Do we have all day?  
Were you born in a barn?  
Would you like some hay?  
Can you even hear a word I say?  
Answer the phone  
Get off the phone  
Don't sit so close  
Turn it down  
No texting at the table  
No more computer time tonight  
Your iPod's my iPod if you don't listen up  
Where you going and with whom and what time do you think you're coming home?  
Saying "thank you," "please," "excuse me"  
Makes you welcome everywhere you roam  
You'll appreciate my wisdom  
Someday when you're older and you're grown  
Can't wait 'til you have a couple little children of your own  
You'll thank me for the counsel I gave you so willingly  
But right now  
I thank you NOT to roll your eyes at me



Before Mother's Day, I sent this song to both my daughters who are moms. My youngest daughter's response was, "This. Is. My. Life."

This song helps us realize there is an incredible effort behind watching out for our children.





Exhibits steadfastness  
in the word of God

We must avail ourselves to study and absorb what the Scriptures teach.

2 Timothy 2:15: (NASB) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

Motherhood Example: Hannah, the mother who kept her promise.

### Hannah was longsuffering:

1 Samuel 1:1-8: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Now there was a certain man...and his name was Elkanah...an Ephraimite. <sup>2</sup>He had two wives...Hannah and...Peninnah...Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. <sup>3</sup>Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh... <sup>4</sup>When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; <sup>5</sup>but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup>Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup>It happened year after year... <sup>8</sup>Then Elkanah her husband said to her, Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?*

Having children was the greatest honor for a wife in the Jewish culture.

Hannah promised God if she could have a son, she would dedicate him to God's service.

### Hannah was sincere in her promise:

1 Samuel 1:20-22: (NASB) *<sup>20</sup>It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. <sup>22</sup>But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever...*

### She was as good as her word:

1 Samuel 1:24-28: (NASB) *<sup>24</sup>Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her...and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the child was young. <sup>25</sup>...and brought the boy to Eli. <sup>26</sup>She said, Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup>For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. <sup>28</sup>So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD.*

### Hannah rejoiced in the privilege of her sacrifice:

1 Samuel 2:1-2: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Then Hannah prayed and said, My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD, my mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. <sup>2</sup>There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.*

This young boy, Samuel, grew up to be a great prophet because his mother was so steadfast in God's word.

Let's look at a current-day example of steadfastness.

Steadfast does not only mean learning the Scriptures but applying them. One way to apply the Scriptures is to let them transform our heart and character and to act in the service of others.

The next mother I would like to introduce is Cheryl. Cheryl has two adult children who are very dedicated to God and in serving others and I wanted to know what Cheryl did when the kids were young to instill these qualities in them. Her daughter is Leah, a CQ volunteer who has been a guest of this podcast before and is a proofreader for the CQ Rewind Show Notes we create for each episode, and she is also the one who creates and emails the weekly Christian Questions newsletters. Our listeners can sign up at [ChristianQuestions.com](http://ChristianQuestions.com) and see one of the things Leah does every week to serve others.

 **Get involved, Advice for Mothers, Cheryl R.**

- I think one of the best ways to raise godly children is for parents to be involved in as many different spiritual activities as are reasonably possible, especially those activities that our children can be involved in. It's so important to set a priority on regularly attending church, going to youth camps, taking part in service opportunities, or maybe visiting the aging or sick in our congregation. And, you know, with some of these things, it's not just attending the events, but when possible, it's also being a part of their operation - the planning, working, serving - it's being involved. We really need to show by example that these things are important to us as parents, if we think they will ever become important to our children. And we need to show our kids that we can have fun and enjoy doing these activities together.*

We need to show our kids we can have fun and enjoy doing activities together. When the children learn what their parents' attitude is, they tend to take on that same attitude.



Matthew 18:21-22: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.



My mom lives with us. She just turned 90. We were having a Bible study here in our home on forgiveness. It was amazing to hear her reaction. During the study, she raised her hand and said, "Based on the study, I realize I need to forgive my mom. When I see her in the kingdom, I am going to give her a big



hug and say, 'Mom, I forgive you.'" Her mother was an alcoholic and my mom had a difficult time being raised. She loved the study and realized she needs to forgive and let go of the anger that has been with her for so long.

Eighty years ago, there was not an understanding of those kind of issues. She had to bear this anger and it is amazing that at 90 years old she is still thinking it through. She is actually being motherly to her own mom by saying, "I am going to forgive."

Let's go back to Chris for another piece of advice.

 **Respect, Advice for Mothers, Chris M.**

- *Develop a level of respect between the parents before the child is even in the picture, meaning speak and act respectfully to one another (no name calling, foul language, rudeness, etc.). Speak kindly to each other and your children. Don't hold on to hurts or offenses. Try to stay calm and even-tempered.*

Moms put up with a LOT and get the short end of the stick as being the bad guy. They need to have thick skin in order to do what they have to do without feeling hurt or sorry for themselves. Here is another area where we can "mother the mothers" - we can have relationships with them without adding drama or stress to their day. Children are watching and listening, and I love her example about having a level of respect between the parents.

A forgiving attitude rubs off on our children.



**Vital Parenting Lesson:**

Parental strength derived from a dedication to follow God's word is a strength that not only shines outwardly but produces blessings for many.

**Sometimes the path to motherhood and the experiences of motherhood are tough. How does one cope?**

The first thing to understand is no *one is perfect*, and even though we may have faith, it is not always strong enough to guide us with authority. Sarah, Abraham's wife, did have such a faith, and it was tested beyond her physical limitations. The end result was a blessing for all.

Let's return to our song about a day in the life of moms and listen to their one-liners about their concern for their children.



**"Mom Song," (Verse three) Gateway Community Church, Anita Renfroe, Betsy Burke, Tiffany Marshall**

Close your mouth when you chew  
Would appreciate  
Take a bite  
Maybe two  
Of the stuff you hate  
Use your fork  
Do not burp  
Or I'll set you straight

Eat the food I put upon your plate  
Get an A, get the door  
Don't get smart with me  
Get a grip  
Get in here I'll count to three  
Get a job  
Get a life  
Get a PhD  
Get a dose of...  
I don't care who started it  
You're grounded until you're 36  
Get your story straight  
And tell the truth for once for heaven's sake  
And if all your friends jumped off a cliff  
Would you jump too?  
If I've said it once, I've said at least a thousand times before that  
You're too old to act this way  
It must be your father's DNA  
Look at me when I am talking  
Stand up straight when you walk  
A place for everything  
And everything must be in place  
Stop crying or I'll give you something real to cry about  
Oh!



Hebrews 13:5: (NASB) *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.*

We talked about Estera demonstrating unconditional love, but I think it also fits very well in embracing a spirit of contentment when she said, "I realized I had been relying on MY abilities, or lack thereof, rather than on God's ability to help me. I was starting to love my child for who he was, not for who I had wanted him to be. With this realization, blessings started to flow in my life." Once she became content, she could become a better mother.



How to live a consecrated life when the kids were infants, then toddlers, was challenging and sometimes discouraging. I soon realized being a mom would tax every fiber of my being if I was to accomplish the tasks of each day in a godly way. That being said, TEACHING BY EXAMPLE - in patience, unconditional love, sacrifice of "me" time, and doing the monotonous daily jobs in a cheerful way was my goal (in which I often failed), knowing full well that little eyes and ears see and hear EVERYTHING! And looking back now, those years went by SO QUICKLY - so remember - THIS TOO SHALL PASS!

Remember to *mother the moms*. Appreciate their effort and let them know it and it can help them to accept a lesser role in this stage of their lives.



Quality Eight:  
Trusts in God

Proverbs 3:5-6: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

**Motherhood Example: Sarah, the mother who waited and waited and waited...**

This is a good example of the imperfection of the human frame and seeing what God sees. We stumble, and God blesses us anyway. It is good for mothers to remember as they make mistakes, God can bless them anyway.

**Sarah lived faithfully with her husband and quietly absorbed the sadness of being childless. She was 90 years old when Isaac was born:**

Genesis 15:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great. <sup>2</sup>Abram said, O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir. <sup>4</sup>Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir. <sup>5</sup>And He took him outside and said, Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, so shall your descendants be. <sup>6</sup>Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Abram needed to be told specifically he would have a child.

**Sarah, when confronted with the impossible could not immediately see beyond it:**

Genesis 18:9-14: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Then they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, There, in the tent. <sup>10</sup>He said, I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son. And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. <sup>12</sup>Sarah laughed to herself, saying, After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? <sup>13</sup>And the LORD said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old? <sup>14</sup>Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.

**Sarah was blessed through her doubts as that which was impossible happened:**

Genesis 21:1-3: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. <sup>2</sup>So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.



Motherhood is full of doubts and in making the impossible happen as well.

Another friend of ours is Julia. Julia and John have three young children, ages three, seven and nine. Now here is a mother who has it all together. She is a great role model. She never seems to get flustered, and her children are well-behaved and great little students of the Bible. How does she do it?



We want our children to love God, to know that they were created in His image and to have high moral standards that come from God's Word. For that, we have purchased numerous Bibles - some with more pictures, some in comic book style, in different reading levels and even in different languages. That way, they never get tired or bored reading a Bible. We also play Christian songs in the car and watch Bible-based movies. We want them to know that what is written in the Bible is true and real. We encourage them to make good choices in what they check out from the library or buy at the book fair at school. We screen what our children watch and read. I regularly take our children to the library and let them choose what they like, but if something is inappropriate, I explain why.

Julia and John adopted some grandparents, Joe and Kathie. They live nearby and they wanted grandchildren and Julia and John needed grandparents for their children since their parents live far away. They have similar ideals.



**2 Peter 1:1:** (KJV) *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*



Make faith part of your daily life. Talk about your faith as a family - analyze options you are facing, always striving to do God's will and sharing with your child your intentions and your reasoning.

As they make family decisions, they allow their son to listen to their thought process.

What matters more than talking to your child is the way you live your faith through little things, through your actions. Your child observes you more than you realize.

This is really good advice so the kids can see in a practical way how the parents are trying to make strong decisions that are in line with God's will. This goes back to teaching discernment - the ability to judge well. Perception with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. They are instilling that in their son.



Use the experiences of life as a fertile teaching ground. Plant the seeds with fun, joy and laughter because that is part of bonding. Estera is saying there are trials and difficulties so walk your children through the reasoning.



Vital Parenting Lesson:

A parent's faith can falter, but that does not mean they themselves have faltered. God's blessing can and does come through imperfect thoughts and effort.

**Mothering is especially challenging in our unstable world.  
How do moms cope with such a mess?**

Moms are generally experts when it comes to cleaning up messes, but the magnitude of our present social and moral laxity creates a special level of challenge. The circumstances of life outside of the home provide constant tests of will and principle. Godliness needs a plan of attack.



**"Mom Song," (Verse three) Gateway Community Church,  
Anita Renfro, Betsy Burke, Tiffany Marshall**

Brush your teeth  
Wash your face  
Get your PJs on  
Get in bed  
Get a hug  
Say a prayer with Mom  
Don't forget  
I love you  
\*\*KISS\*\*

And tomorrow we will do this all again because a mom's work never ends  
You don't need the reason why  
Because, because, because, because  
I said so, I said so, I said so, I said so  
I'm the Mom, the mom, the mom, the mom, the mom  
Ta-da



Trish: Yes, mothering is challenging, yes, it is difficult, but the joy of children outweighs it all.



*Quality Ten:  
Brings order to chaos*

I wanted to tell our listeners a little about Rick's mom. Rick has talked for years on this program about his family's famous "Sunday dinners" where four generations gather around to eat together literally every single Sunday for decades - since Rick was a little boy. There are Rick's siblings, their children then their children's children. And Anna May, his mom, opens up her home every week. Jonathan, some of us CQ volunteers and I had the absolute blessing to be invited to this event. It is complete organized chaos. Everyone has their own job to do - one person stirs, one person plates, one person sets the table, another person pours and passes - it was like watching a cartoon of Santa's workshop the day before Christmas or a giant hive of bees. And at the appointed time, everyone sits down at a custom-made table - I think we had 20 people that day - and Anna May beams from ear to ear listening to the stories of the week. They tell stories of their past, their present and their dreams for the future. The young kids and teenagers are able to have a safe place to land from whatever their week brought them. When I walked through the door, I could imagine piles and piles of luggage outside the door, as all baggage and drama was left outside, and a beautiful strong family comes together inside. This is all because of the generosity and love of Rick's mom.



She got that from her mom and her mom's mom. I have been blessed with generational faith and example. It is the thrill of my mom's week to get dinner for her family.

**This brings us back to the theme text:**

**2 Timothy 1:5:** (NASB) *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

**Proverbs 31:27-28:** (KJV) *<sup>27</sup>She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup>Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*



**Coordination, Advice for Mothers, Julia B.**

- *We try to spend as much time with our children as possible, so that way they can learn from us, rather than others. Even if they are watching TV shows or youtube videos, we either will watch with them or keep an eye on them to make sure that what they are watching is appropriate. My husband and I work opposite shifts so that way one of us is always with them and when they overlap a couple of hours, we have close friends or family members watch our children. I volunteer in our children's schools, so I can see them and see who they spend time with on a daily basis when they are away from home.*

We all cannot work separate shifts or have that flexibility; we can take the principles and do the best in our own circumstances. God will bless us as we try to bless Him.



Let's continue with Julia's thoughts.

- *As a family, we try to eat as many meals together as possible. Since I work in the evenings, we can't always have dinner together, of course, so we decided to do breakfast every morning which means I get up early every morning, even if I come home from work at 2 a.m. the night before, and we have breakfast together, we start out our day, we pray together, eat together and just spend some time together. We have that time before each one of us goes our separate ways and I feel that sets us all up for a great day.*

That is how she keeps the chaos at bay. She is a "little Anna May." The time is sacred and special and something where her children feel safe and loved. It is consistent. It is a beautiful way to give her children peace.

Let's remember to notice the effort of the moms around us and encourage them.



Holding fast to those principles is what makes a Christian mother so successful.

 **Open Relationship, Advice for Mothers, Chris M.**

- *Have an open, honest, frank relationship with them. Be able to talk about anything. Talk about death, talk about peer pressure, anything that might be uncomfortable or what some kids might want them to do and what could be their response. Kids are subliminally bombarded much earlier than you may like to think with things that are not appropriate for kids - language and sexual content everywhere. If he is going to hear about it anyway, I'd rather plant the seed of the Christian viewpoint on all of these things rather than let those other "seeds" take root and little by little that seems to be "normal." Children notice more than most adults do.*

She is holding to that which is right and is keeping everything out in the open, so her son knows there is a safe place to come.

Teach what is right and help parents by encouraging them along the way.



**Proverbs 22:6: (KJV)** *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

**Motherhood Example: Jochebed, the mother with a plan.**

**Jochebed (the mother of Moses) was faced with a dramatic challenge:**

**Exodus 1:22: (NASB)** *Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.*

**She was courageous in her protection of life:**

**Exodus 2:1-10: (NASB)** *<sup>1</sup>Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.*

**She was wise in execution of her daring plan:**

*<sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. <sup>6</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.*

**Her courage, wisdom and faith would bring deliverance to a nation:**

*<sup>7</sup>Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you? <sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go ahead. So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages. So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup>The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, Because I drew him out of the water.*

**Her faith for turning her child over to God in turn delivered a nation.**

**Like Jochebed, eventually you have to set your children out into that water and trust they will be okay.**

 **All grown up, Advice for Mothers, Cheryl R.**

- Now that our children are adults, married and out on their own, as their mom, my goal is still to stay connected to them. I'd like to think I'm a good listener when they're having a problem, and that I'm able to offer sound advice if and when they ask for it. We're friends. And as they've grown, so has my love for them. I respect them as adults, and I see them as not only my natural family, (of course, no matter how old they get, they will always be my "kids") but in addition, they are part of my spiritual family. I'm so very thankful that they each now have their own relationship with the Lord and in that I can encourage them. And as their mom, I'll keep trying to be an example of patience, and everything good, to give them unconditional love and to age gracefully in their eyes.*



**Vital Parenting Lesson:**

**Especially in the direst circumstances, parents should strive to turn their children over to God's providence. This action takes a special brand of courage and faith and has a special compensating blessing as well.**



Three of the moms wrapped up their advice in the following recording.

 **Introspection, Advice for Mothers**

- *Julia, the mom of young children says: "When I think of them as gifts from God, it humbles me and really makes me want to be a better mother and raise them for God. After all, it's a huge responsibility, but with it comes a lot of joy and blessings."*
- *Estera, the mom of a teenager says: "Parenting is our earthly responsibility that brings us the closest to understanding our Heavenly Father and His unending love and patience with us, and His role as a Father to us. This is the biggest blessing."*
- *Cheryl, the mom of adult children says: "I daily tried to remind myself of the privilege I had been given to raise children, and the awesome responsibility and accountability to the Lord that it brought."*

Whether we are a mom or not, all of these words really do apply to us. We all play a role in the raising of the children around us. For those who are moms, it is a special privilege. For those of us who are not, it is a special privilege to contribute in whatever way we can.



We are all learning and growing when we let the Lord work in us. It is a process. We all came from different degrees of despair and discontent with this world. And we found peace in Christ, but we cannot sit there. We need to keep growing or otherwise our faith is not alive. Being vulnerable opens you up to judgment from others. But at the same time, opens you up to deep connection and healing. There is value in connecting at a deeper level, and that connection cannot come without vulnerability.

May we all be that vulnerable and that blessed. It is a joyful thing.

Let's look at moms that surround our lives and appreciate and be thankful for their incredible work, dedication and sacrifice. Let us share in the joy of raising those children. There is an overwhelming wonderment that children bring to our lives as we watch them grow into adults. That is what parenting and motherhood are all about.

*So, is motherhood still vital?  
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on May 20, 2019:  
Ep. #1074: Does God Judge Everyone the Same Way?



***The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. — Honore de Balzac***



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