

MOTHER'S DAY
PSALM 127:1-5
2026-05-10

Happy Mothers' Day! It's our joy to honour mothers, for many reasons—for the sacrificial, unselfish love they give us, for all the loving things they've done for us throughout our lives, for all the prayers they've prayed for us, for all the sleepless nights they've spent for us—often with tears running down their cheeks. There is no job that is more important than that of a mother. To call it a job grossly understates what it is. Though it's frequently demanding and often unrewarding, it is a passion, a calling—it is life flat out.

Let's take a look this morning at some special characteristics of a Christian mother and how these traits impact those under her care—that would be her children.

Let's start with joy. Many people think that joy and happiness are the same. They are not. Straight up, joy comes from having a right relationship with God, our eternal creator. When things are right between us and God, we can experience the joy that comes from the Lord.

Happiness, on the other hand, is the feeling we get when the things in our realm of life are going well for us. Joy is not easily lost because our relationship with God does not change just because conditions or circumstances change. Even when we're in the valley, we have the full assurance that God loves us and that we are His children. Regardless of what's going on, God is at work in our lives, working all things together for our good (Romans 8:23) He is always in control and He is all-wise, all-knowing and all-powerful. He's always on our side, perhaps better said that He is always for us, de-siring the very best for us. And, there's nothing we can do that would cause God to stop loving us. Don't get the wrong idea: He may well not love the things we do, but He will always be found loving us. You know this. I share it because you (a child of God) should never allow Satan to rob them of their joy. Satan does not have the power to take your joy from you. The only way you can lose it is to give it away.

In looking at the joy of a mother, joy is the greatest gift she could possibly give to her family. It's such a blessing from above to have a joyful mother, who, regardless of the disappointments and difficulties of everyday life, continues to go about with a joyful spirit. Always up-lifting and encouraging those within her care. Mothers seem to see that good times are just around the corner and they keep encouraging their children to continue looking up to God, who is the source of strength in our weary times. *"Rejoice in the Lord. I will say it again, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4), "For the joy of the Lord is our strength." (Nehemiah 8:10).* Thank God for joyous mothers. How many times would we have stopped trusting without our mother telling us, "Child, a better day is coming. You just keep on trying. I love you and God loves you."

Peace. So many people today are looking for peace but have no idea where to begin to find it. Peace doesn't mean everything is perfect in our lives. Peace comes when we know that all

things are under control. So, to know peace we have to know God (Know God, know peace; no God, no peace). We can never truly say that everything is under control; we are weak people and don't know what will happen next. We may hammer down all the boards and turn around to find a nail has popped up elsewhere. We seem to spend so much of life nailing down boards that keep popping up. But God—is not frail like we are. He really does have all things under His control. Nothing catches Him off guard. He's always prepared for everything. To know peace we have to place all of our faith and trust in God. Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you: not as the world gives...Don't let your heart be troubled and don't be afraid (John 14:27)."* *"And the peace of God, which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philip. 4:7)."* A Christian mother who knows personally the peace of God abiding in her heart can help keep her home a place of peace and serenity—a beautiful place to return to after a day of being in a world that is full of havoc.

Thankfulness. We're often guilty of looking at the bad rather than the good. We tend to murmur rather than express our thankfulness. But as Christians we're encouraged to think on things that are edifying and uplifting. When we do this we can have a good attitude regardless of what's going on: *"if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philip. 4:8)."* Paul wrote those words while he was in prison. His circumstances didn't hinder his view of his blessings. Thankfulness is a matter of being in control of our mind, our thoughts and keeping them on the pile of things that we're blessed with. When we allow our minds to wander over into the negative realm and we begin to focus on all the wrong things taking place, whether with us or with others, we get discouraged and depressed and it's hard to climb out of that bottomless pit. However, a Christian mother can focus on the good things they have to enjoy. They guide their children into thankfulness by being thankful themselves. They focus on the good things in their children and they major in those things. They don't totally ignore the bad things. We all have areas that are weak and need work, but when a Christian mother keeps reminding her children of their good qualities, it gives them the courage to deal with the areas that need working on. The way a mother looks at life goes a long way in how her children will face life when they are adults. Thank God for mothers who are truly thankful for what they have rather than complaining of the things they don't have.

Dependence upon God. It doesn't take us long—or maybe it takes some a lot longer than others—to come to the realization that we can't survive without the help of others or someone or something mightier than we are. God is that source of strength. There's been a move afoot for many years now that has women fully engaged in careers of their own, and an attitude that accompanies it: I am a woman and I can do anything. And that's true. But we all have to be cognizant of what doing anything might involve. It's obviously good for mothers to be strong and have self confidence. Yet the Christian mother realizes that regardless of her strength, she would be no where without God to lean on. Remember every day where our blessings come from. Regardless of whether we have much or little, God will never leave us or forsake us. He will always meet your needs. *"God is our refuge and strength—a very present help in times of trouble." (Psalm 46:1).* It is mothers who taught us first how to trust and who to trust in.

There are, sadly, many dependencies in life—drugs, alcohol and a list that can go on and on. But thank God for mothers who show their children their dependence on God, who realize, *“Except God build the house, they labour in vain who build it (Psalms 127:1).*

Think about this. As you look about your home, you will see many things you worked hard to obtain—furniture, decorations, car(s) in the garage etc. But the things of greatest value within your home are your children. Handle them with care. There is no greater place to be Christ’s ambassadors than to start in your home. Your influence there for God has no limits. Pointing your child (children) to God is the greatest privilege any of us have. And when you do it joyfully, peacefully and thankfully you are showing them the face of God they may well never otherwise see. Handle that privilege also with great intention and care and gratitude.