

Subject: Thank God for Faithful Mothers

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-28

1. A faithful mother prays for her children

Never underestimate the impact of a praying mother like Hannah, the mother of Samuel. We hear of buying power, manpower, horsepower, and atomic power, but the course of human history continues to be shaped by the power of praying mothers. It has been said that “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” It is no exaggeration to say that while George Washington commanded his troops, the prayers and godly influence of his mother, Mary Washington, commanded George. With deep appreciation Abraham Lincoln once said: “I remember my mother’s prayers, and they have followed me; they have clung to me all my life. All that I am and hope to be I owe to my angel mother.”

2. A faithful mother prizes her children

Hannah named her son “Samuel” (“asked of God”). She never forgot that her little boy was an answer to prayer. Best of all, she never failed to thank God for him and pray for him throughout his life. A faithful mother sees her children as a blessing rather than a burden.

***Psalms 127:3** Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

***Psalms 139:13-16**¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

Thank God for mothers who care for their children even before they are born. Some mothers don’t care about their child’s health, and some don’t even care about their child’s life.

3. A faithful mother presents her children to God

Hannah lent (gave) Samuel to the Lord. Samuel was not only an answer to prayer, but he became a man of prayer and a godly leader during Israel’s darkest days. When asked by the nation to intercede lest God’s judgment fall upon them, Samuel replied: “God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way” (1 Sam. 12:23).

Listen to the testimony of John Wesley (1703-1791), a faithful preacher and founder of the Methodist church: “When I recall the joys of my fifty-six years of public ministry, I often shudder at the thought of how near I came to losing them. For many months my mind was balancing between the pulpit and the attraction of a legal career. Behind it all a mother’s prayers were moving the poised balance. She made souls outweigh silver and eternity outweigh time.”

If mothers were more like Hannah, I believe their children would grow up to be more like Samuel, don’t you? Hannah had a godly and lasting impact on Samuel and in turn, he had a godly and lasting influence upon the nation of Israel.

4. A faithful mother protects her children

When Hannah left Samuel to serve in the temple with Eli and his boys, I'm not sure she realized how difficult and dangerous it would be for her young son.

1 Samuel 2:12 *Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.*

1 Samuel 2:17-26

These were dark days for Israel, much like the days we live in. How did Samuel resist the evil influence of Eli's sons and choose to follow the Lord? Behind the scenes was a faithful praying mother.

We think of the mother of Moses (Jochebed) and how she protected baby Moses by hiding him in the ark of bulrushes. She not only gave him physical protection, she gave him spiritual protection from the sins and pleasures of the world. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court, but as he grew older, the things of the world meant little, and the things of God meant a lot.

Hebrews 11:23-27 ²³ *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.* ²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;* ²⁵ *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;* ²⁶ *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.* ²⁷ *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

How did Moses refuse what was evil and choose what was good and pleasing to God? Behind the scenes was a faithful praying mother.

5. A faithful mother provides for her children

A good mother provides for her children's physical needs. We have the beautiful picture of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.

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

She also provides for their spiritual needs.

Proverbs 31:30 *Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

We read of Timothy and his godly mother Eunice. Timothy was blessed to be raised with a hand-me-down faith.

2 Timothy 1:5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Applying this message...

1. All of us should always thank God for faithful mothers

Some of us are blessed to have a faithful mother, a faithful mother-in-law, a wife who is a faithful mother to our children, and a daughter who is a faithful mother to our grandchildren.

2. All mothers should seek to be faithful to God and your children

- A mother who prays for your children
- A mother who prizes your children
- A mother who presents your children to God
- A mother who protects your children
- A mother who provides for your children