



Welcome to
Raising Daughters of the King
Princesses that bring Honor to their Royal Father

As many of you know, recently I returned from a mission trip to Ecuador.

First - Thank you for your prayers!!!! They were very much needed, felt, and appreciated! I must say that once more I feel my life was changed forever by the God that led me to go on this trip. What a mighty God we serve! (You will soon see a summary of this trip on the website under the section Mission Trips.)

An incredible moment occurred when God allowed me to speak His Words of hope to a mommy-to-be in the beginning stages of labor. The encounter itself was one of Divine Appointment. But, as if that was not enough, God allowed me to be part of a moment when He could speak to this beautiful eighteen year old, Flor, words that touched her very heart:

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that she would be a good mother and raise her precious child in the truths and principles of Jesus. Tears of faith and hope and even courage flooded her eyes as words which her heart longed to hear were spoken to her by a total stranger. Truly God sent those words.

Now to you, as I hope to write the words that will bring faith and hope and even courage to your hearts as you face struggles raising your children, let me assure you that I have prayed much over what I am writing and for you the reader. May you have discernment to receive what God would speak to you and let fall by the wayside what He would not.

The newsletter format is a bit different this time as I attempt to address several areas this writing.

Before They Were Born

(A couple of lessons from mission trips)

Can you imagine telling your young child that the day before he was born, God brought people from the other side of the world to be at your church, and they prayed for him, Samuel, and gave a small love offering which was enough for a down payment for a C-section that brought him safely into your family after you (his mom) and his dad had prayed for him for five years.

Or...can you imagine telling this story to your young child in Ecuador. 'One day, when you were nine months pregnant expecting him and in the first day of your labor that God brought an experienced nurse and her five nursing students (with a translator) to your tiny house and gave you bottled water to drink and exercises to do that would help your baby move into the correct position so he could be safely born without need of a very costly C-section.'

I can only imagine that child feeling valued and loved by God even when life gets hard. I think that child would never tire of hearing that story nor the mom tire of telling it. Now imagine *our* young children as we tell them how they were so special to God that even

before they were born that God sent His very own much loved son to take their place and die for their sins so that they could be born into His family. And that He wrote their very names in His Book long before they were born for He knew they would be His.

It should be a story that would make them certain they are special and of great value no matter what circumstances, and should be a story they/we never tire of hearing or repeating. What value we have in the eyes of God!

Sadly, however, we somehow try to find our personal value in the attributes that the world around us has declared as valuable: in looks, abilities, successes, etc. God sees and declared our value long before we were born.

Oh, that we could grasp that Truth and input it to our children. The value of that truth is the reason the enemy and voices of this world try to attack and misplace that value. That in itself must show us the importance of our battle for this life-altering victory for ourselves and our children. and approval and confidence, and they want a husband like him.

Secrets For Stages Of Motherhood

Each of my recent mission trips was filled with opportunities to get out of my comfort zone and to serve and love others. I find when I am out of my home area and sometimes on foreign soil, I depend heavily on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for protection as well as for words to speak.

When I was a mom of very young children and feeling on foreign soil for the first time, I remember selecting each word with as much care as I possibly could, knowing that their little hearts and minds and spirits were fresh and tender and extremely impressionable.

As my girls grew into teenagers, once again I entered *foreign*, maybe even *enemy* territory☺, I felt I needed to choose each word with more care, for once again, their lives were at a very vulnerable stage.

I found God to be very faithful to give me correct words and principles from His Word that only He could bring to my memory at the precise time. Surely His love over my children (as well as yours), is so strong that He directed many moments that brought clarity and His presence/His Word into the moment of conversation.

I can't begin to count the number of times that in an important dialogue with a daughter that God would help me see the situation for the principle that was being taught and then He would give me the Biblical story or verse that pointed directly to the solution. Honestly, I knew it was not me, but God.

Later, once my daughters reached adulthood, however, I must confess that, for a few months I felt that my empty nest and upheaval of roles gave me license to begin speaking what was on MY mind more freely and with less care in word selection.

Thankfully, it didn't take long for a faithful God to show me once more that even as the mom of adult daughters, He desires to be honored and kept as guardian over my lips, and that walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh is not a job that can be left at the office at quitting time or in the nursery after children grow up, but a way of life to be experienced at all times, without ceasing.

Perhaps it is the special pathway that God has chosen for my precious daughters, or my own frailty that creates the need to keep me aware of every word I might carelessly speak; but whatever the cause, I find that if I were to characterize my life in one spiritual exercise over the almost 50 years that I have walked with God, it would be the need to exercise control over the tongue and self or the flesh.

If I were to summarize my parenting techniques into one phrase, it would be: self-control, especially in words that are firm, honest, and kind. I can say truthfully, when this fruit has been exhibited, it has been truly a fruit of the Holy Spirit. When it has not been exercised, sadly, it was due to my acting without allowing that control of the precious Holy Spirit. If truly anything good came from my parenting, it was because God was good and intervened with His control. I believe that same truth applies to you as well.

Broken Relationships Between Mother And Daughter

Often times, I am asked about broken or strained relationships between mothers and their daughters. (If there is a truly dysfunctional situation, I urge you to immediately seek a godly counselor who can help you find the cause and work through issues that otherwise will destroy a relationship.

If you feel the precious young lady that you are raising is struggling with wounds and brokenness that is damaging their emotional development, I urge you to find the godly counselor that God has already prepared to help this precious daughter of His.)

If you live a fairly “normal” life, then I am inclined to think that you have or will experience strained relationships between loving mothers and loving daughters at some time or occasions. Plenty of authors have written about it, as if it must be a part of growing up.

Just like the terrible two’s are a necessary time for most little ones so that they can begin to develop their unique personality with their own likes and opinions. As a girl grows into an independent young lady, once more, there is the need for development of her own opinions in life, and the nest must become a little uncomfortable.

So how do we, as moms, allow the child to become a strong, independent woman without jeopardizing our own identity as “mommy” and, at the same time, keep a healthy, unbroken relationship with that precious daughter? How do we mend a relationship

that has already become strained? Maybe the question really is: Is it even possible to repair a damaged relationship?

At times, I’m sure there are many tears from both mom and daughter as they each long for a loving relationship. But the good news is found in **Mark 9:23- With God all things are possible**. I believe the key is still: control of the Holy Spirit.

I am not saying that if you find relationships strained that you have failed to walk with God and deserve judgment. But I do believe, however, that these difficulties are allowed in our lives so that we can come to know a new side, a deeper life of prayer, and communion with our God. After all, He knows the pain of a parent when this fellowship is broken as time and time again His people walked away from Him. He offers the solution to the seeker.

So though there is not enough space in a short newsletter to work through possible scenarios here, may I take this moment to say that God is big enough for even this kind of problem? Begin with prayer, or perhaps I should say, “Continue in prayer,” and listen to the Holy Spirit as He guides you into His truths about your personal situation. Realize that the relationship is worth fighting for as you seek ways to give and take with your daughter.

Seek Godly counsel. And, be willing to pay the price for something that is as valuable as an exquisite pearl – lasting friendship with your daughter. (More to come on this topic on the website, as well as answers to specific questions you have asked.)

Common Need Worldwide

Finally, after traveling across three continents this past twelve months, I have been impacted again with the huge importance, in any land and in any language, of self-worth.

Similar struggles seem to attach themselves to us all with only minor differences of circumstances. But the essence of the problem remains the same. There are bullies, abusers, prejudice, self-doubts, fears, etc. that can eat into the very heart of our lives with our only defense being that of recognizing that we have innate worth – not because of our accomplishments or appearances or wealth or gender – but solely and completely in the fact that the God of all heaven and earth created us and declared that in His eyes we are worth His sending His precious Son to die for us.

Stop and think again on that Truth. You, with your weight struggles, or fears of public speaking, or addictions, or whatever your worst nightmare is, YOU are declared to be of great value to the only true God.

If we impart nothing more to our children than this one great truth, we will have given them the world. But, how can we give it if we don't realize it ourselves?! The beginning of the Truth is so simple that even a very young child can comprehend it, yet the depths of walking into the completeness of this truth and overcoming the world's voices in our ears is a lifelong quest that deserves our very best efforts with the hope and promise set before us: **“For you will find Him when you shall search for Him with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).**

Somebody Prayed

I wonder if sharing some of my journey and current quest in understanding this truth will help you a little. Maybe there will be some small key or secret that will help you as you continue to seek to walk with God. In writing I have found that one of my keys is:

*Somewhere, sometime,
someone prayed for me.*

1) My mom took me to Sunday school and church every Sunday, and I had a Sunday school teacher who loved Jesus and loved me enough to faithfully share the Gospel. Thank you, Mrs. Ingles. That dear teacher and the director came to my house to talk with my parents and to pray with me. Later, I KNEW that it was God who was offering me His free gift of salvation. He made it very clear to me that it was Him that was speaking (and doing all the work.) After I knew that I was His and He was mine and that I was forgiven, I joined that same little church and was baptized.

2) My mom continued to take me to Sunday school and church and then to Bible study (GA's) and people prayed for me. I was loved by my church and I loved it dearly – and I had fun there. I played softball, sang in youth choir, helped in VBS with my wonderful friends. I memorized Bible verses, prayed sincere prayers, sang songs that taught me about Jesus, and learned about missions by hearing missionary stories and serving others. By twelve, I knew that God was calling me to the mission field even though I didn't feel worthy. And.....someone prayed for me (Mr. Wright, Gwen Stanton, Mr. Woodring, and many more). Even as a teenager,

3) I prayed and prayed asking God what college to go to and what to study – basically, asking Him what He wanted me to do. And my whole church prayed for me. Then, when

many are partying and feeling free for the first time,

4) I found a fellowship at college – of people who would be faithful friends to this day and, not surprisingly, it was called “4:30 Prayer Group”.

5) The biggest most impactful moments of my life were when I began to seek God about whether I was supposed to join some missionaries in Argentina after graduation. Oh, there were so many pros and cons to consider. But that was not the key. The key was my prayer of surrender. (Mt. 26:39, 42)

It was praying and asking God what HE wanted me to do so genuinely and with all my heart to the point that it no longer mattered to me what I did as long as I felt sure I was doing what *He* wanted. That was truly a painful experience of seeking until I found.

It was a laying down of my desires and wishes so that His will would be accomplished. It is what got me through difficult times on the mission field, and later when He led me back to the States, what got me through tough times that we all go through.

It is what gets me through life now and what I long for with every breath – to be in His perfect will, wherever that may be, doing whatever He wants me to do.

My life has changed so much from the 10 year old little girl who first heard that she had worth to the middle-aged adult who still strives to quiet those voices that say it's not true – but I know that my life is changing for the better each day (**from glory to glory, 2Cor.3:18**) and on those days when I don't seem to be able to walk in the truth of His value over my life, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it doesn't change the fact that

God values me and that one day I will awake in His likeness and will see Him as He is. So

6) I keep pressing on, forgetting what lies behind and looking to the author and finisher of my faith. (Phil.3:13, Heb.12:2) And someone is still praying for me – for we know

that we have Jesus Christ interceding for us. (Heb.7:25)

Keep pressing on as you discover (and help your daughters discover) your own keys in your journey and quest for worth in Christ!

A Game Plan

1. Speak the truth again and again to your children that God has a plan for them that He designed before they were even born.
2. Tell the special prayers and longings you had over your child before they were born and while they were tiny to show them how precious they are to you. (Write their stories in baby books or through photos in scrapbooks. Then, also relate this to God writing our names in His Book.)
3. Refute the world's lies often. They see them on almost every TV commercial as well as numerous other locations. Telling them that they are special not because of their actions or looks or intelligence, grades, etc. But rather because of WHO they are.
4. Choose to believe and allow God to speak deep in your soul, that He values you.
5. Understand that someone is praying for you— Jesus. And know that He always gets His prayers answered and His prayers are for “peace and a future”.
6. Ask someone to pray for you and your child on a regular basis.
7. Take your child to a genuine, Bible teaching church where a child can have fun and learn about Jesus' love for him or her. (But don't expect a church to be perfect – people will disappoint you if you expect perfection, and that can damage any walk with God.)
8. Pray and seek God for yourself (and for your child.) Find God's path for you and choose the beautiful opportunity of surrender.

Remember this is an excellent source to help with this topic. *The Search for Significance* by Robert S. McGee.

Yellow Roses: Real Girls. Real Life. Real Hope. By Sally D. Sharpe is an excellent group study for teenage girls as well.