



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

This World Is Tough

As I sit in the hospital and wait with one of my daughters for her precious baby to get ready to be born after pre-term labor began last week, I am forced to think again about what a young mom should know and think about while raising daughters.

I am hit in the face with the importance of the same truths. This world is tough. If we want our daughters to be able to face difficulty, then raising them to be strong, independent women who can face difficulties and come up on top of the high waters rather than sinking and drowning should be our ultimate goal. To equip them as much as possible to face hardships is huge. We want to help them be women who know where to turn during difficult times. We need to teach them that there is a God who is good and who loves them and answers prayers. And that it is not a bad thing to seek wise counsel and advice.

It's very important to give them a fun childhood, a good education, hobbies, proper nutrition, all the good things that we want for our daughters, but if they fall apart during hard times than maybe we have failed to give them the most important things necessary to maneuver the challenges in life. I'm not saying that it is our fault nor that our girls will never struggle during tragedies or difficulties, but rather when those heart wrenching struggles come, we will have done them a huge favor to have trained them to be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord and to be transparent enough to ask for help before they go under.

continued in Coach's Corner



Coach's Corner

How can we do that? Well, one thing for sure, always giving her what she wants is not the answer. Lace and ruffles were some of my favorite things on the outside but strength and self-discipline on the inside. Can a little princess that is all fluff successfully navigate the difficult waters and hurricanes of life? I love the image of Princess Diana, who was elegant and feminine, and, at the same time, strong, world changing. Oh little girls and big girls cry. Healthy expression of emotion is good, but we don't want emotions to control us or our daughters. Helping her know herself and her emotions is a great gift.

I must warn you. I've never taken the easy way out on anything. Recently, I found myself praying again, "God, don't let me ever choose my easy over Your best." I've often said, I don't know if anyone will want to do what I have done. But, I must also say, the result is strong women who love Jesus and find life very worth living no matter the struggles. We all desire to be survivors, yet God promises more than that – He states that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

As I watch my sweet daughter embrace the challenges of the day as well as the challenges that may lie in the future, I am so thankful that God gave wisdom as we raised her (and her sisters). I think the key at the very core of her heart is a firm belief that God, *her* God, is good. She also has a firm belief that her life and future are in the hands of this Good God – and that His Word in its entirety is absolutely true.

As for me, I have no regrets and am so proud of who she is. Each time one of my girls face hard things, I hate to watch the pain and struggle, but I love to watch the victory and I admire the growth that I see in them. They're not perfect, but they are strong and they know how to lean hard on an all-powerful Jesus.

Game Plan

- 1) Be a mother who can say “no” to her daughter if that is the correct response, and stand on it.
- 2) Don’t change your mind because of whining or tears or arguing. Follow scripture and let your yes be yes and your no be no. If you haven’t decided, then make your answer a firm maybe so they know that YOU have to decide.
- 3) If your sweet child pitches a fit because she did not get her way, allow some grief but put a limit to it. Do not permit loud or extended crying. (That is often their way of complaining and punishing you or trying to convince you to give in. If you give in, you have just reinforced that if they cry or pout long enough, they will get what they want.) Teach them to “get over it” and not to brood. Being able to control her own moods so that she can move into a pleasant mood is not only a gift to her but to her future husband and children.
- 4) Teaching her to cultivate the ability to be content whatever the situation is huge in our adult life. Eventually, expressing thankfulness through circumstances is Scriptural and also has proven to be a release of stress.
- 5) Teaching our daughters to realize that the world does not revolve around them is another huge gift to them. That realization eventually will come, but the sooner they learn that, the less trauma to their lives.
- 6) Teach them that they are not perfect, that they make mistakes and bad choices (called sin), and that they need to take responsibility for those things – and that they are still loved unconditionally even though there are consequences to their bad behavior.
- 7) Teach them to obey rules and authorities as long as they are not unethical, immoral or illegal activities. Sometimes it is good to explain the reason behind the rules. This causes our children to learn to reason and think and make good choices. But, sometimes, it is critical that our children learn to obey simply “because”. God doesn’t always give us reasons behind His commands, but He always has a good reason – we don’t have to understand an infinite God with our finite minds; but we do have to obey. If we as parents, can help our children understand that obedience is important, we have gifted them with one of the greatest gifts to move them into a relationship with God. It may be easier on us to explain because many strong willed children are more compliant when they understand, but then, we have chosen the easy way for ourselves and the hard way

for our children. Please understand: If you train your child to control herself in spite of what she wants, you have given her a gift far better than a kingdom. In fact, Proverbs 16:32 says “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” The phrase “because I said so” when used by a parent who has earned trust and shown respect for the child, is a blessed phrase and amazing lesson.

- 8) As for me: I chose to be willing to swim against the current of the world in the way I raised my girls. It’s never been the easy way, but it has always been the best way for me. Study God’s way of raising and dealing with His children. He will give you the step by step as you genuinely seek Him.