



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

The spring season and month of May can be very challenging! Mother's Day, graduations, birthdays, final exams and projects, rain, end of year performances and parties, hot days followed by loud storms, and so much more. Spring can be a special time and it can be marked by many heartaches. For mothers of seniors, it's full of last events and good-byes. For those who have lost their mothers, Mothers' Day can be a painful reminder of the crushing loss. For women who have never become mothers or for mothers who have lost children, it can be another painful reminder of dreams that never came true and of the pain of grieving year after year over those dreams. I don't pretend to be able to provide comfort in my words nor do I pretend to understand fully the pain of these dear, wounded hearts, but I would like to point you today, after some of the dust has settled from spring, to the wounded heart of the Savior and the broken heart of the Father and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

If I believe the Bible, which I do, then, my words to you should be "Blessed are those that mourn for you shall be comforted." How can the word *blessed*, sometimes translated *happy*, be connected with mourning? This week I went to the funeral of a former student – so young to be gone already. So broken were the hearts of his parents. Two weeks ago, the funeral of a mother who was a brand new grandmother and a little younger than myself. Again, broken hearts of loving, devoted husband and young adult children.

On every hand, it seems, are many losses that could crush our hearts. Yet, Scripture tells us that it is better to go to the house of a funeral than to that of a party, because it teaches us to number our days and to value the time that God gives us. It helps us to realize that each moment is precious and that each day we take breath there is a *purpose* for our lives and somewhere someone that needs our love. These most difficult moments serve to remind us to live life completely so that when we also take our final breaths, that we won't be tormented with regrets and "if onlys."

For those that can hear these words, I want to encourage you that when you are so crushed that you can't find comfort for your heart, that is when we are forced to find our comfort ONLY in God. To find God is to be given a huge gift that is impossible to value. In seeking Him and His comfort, we find all things. As I think on some of my dear friends that are grieving right now, I pray that you will find that gift of seeking.

As mothers of babies that seem to wake just when we actually dose off, or toddlers with endless accidents to clean up, or teenagers with constant drama to calm, or with nests that never filled or that seem ever empty, we tend to take for granted that tomorrow may bring better things.

For each of you and each of us, I want to encourage you today that whatever condition you find yourself in, that you will face your struggle and place it at the Father's feet and that you will find a way to lift your eyes to His and enjoy every moment He gives you (even through tears, at times).

I'd like to encourage you that today is the day that God has given you. I pray that you and I will face it holding tight to the Hand of Him who gave it to us and find His strength to rejoice and be glad in it. If spring was hard for you, I pray you find the comfort in Him who was a Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. When you wonder how people think they can "know how you feel," remember that truly He does know and He is there with the gift of comfort when you are ready.



Coach's Corner

This newsletter I'd like to encourage you to face the fact that you don't know how to parent. WHAT??? I know that those of you that know me know that I always try to encourage - so why this word? The greatest gift I could wish for any of my girls, and for you, is the gift to realize that you can't parent well without God's help.

If you are convinced you know what you are doing, you won't seek His help. If you realize you don't have all the answers, then you will seek the One who know all things. As in grieving, in seeking, you will find. Seeking is the best gift we can give ourselves and our children. This does not mean that we should discard all the logical parenting principals that we have learned over the years. Use those that wise people have found to be profitable and in the midst of using them, confidently seek God for His Spirit to guide us into All truth and wisdom in parenting and every area of our lives.

So what great gift can we give our children (biological or spiritual) this summer and every day that they are in our presence? Well, as sure as the sun rises and we pay taxes, our kids will face hard things like we do. What greater gift than to give them some survival techniques or habits that will help get them through hard times and allow them to enjoy their days in spite of what could be crushing blows.

Here are some ideas of gifts: (Most of these are found in Galatians 5:22-23)

- A happy childhood and the ability to enjoy life without material things
- A filter for our mouths and thoughts
- Self-control for our actions and behaviors with a firm unshakeable belief that consequences follow disobedience
- The ability to obey and respect the position of authority even if the person appears not to deserve it
- The ability to realize that we can choose joy and happiness or we can choose misery
- Love of others, not just of self
- A heart that is confident that things will work out, and that worry is not the answer
- The ability to wait to receive good things
- The insight to realize that the world does not revolve around them
- Faithfulness and loyalty that are so rare
- Belief in a Good, Good Father and that they are loved by Him
- Deep conviction, from the earliest of childhood memories, that the Bible is true
- That going to church is a good thing
- That we should honor God with our lives and even our money
- That our words should be true only