

Being a Mother is Hard Work But it is Not Mission Impossible

Being a mom is definitely hard labor. There are joys, to be sure, but the hard work of this nurturing ministry to which God has called and gifted all women, whether or not they have or will bear children, is certainly evident, even from a cursory examination of family life. God said to Eve that He would greatly multiply her pain in child birth. Sometimes the pain goes on for many years. Indeed some mothers experience the pain of seeing their children make unwise choices even after the “child” has reached retirement age. Despite all our modern conveniences, being a mom is still hard work.

Having said that, I note that our generation is not the only one to experience such difficulties. Consider, for example, the life of Susanna Wesley. Herself the 25th child in her family, she was the mother of 19 children, 10 of which survived to adulthood. Most notable among her progeny were John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the international Methodist Church. Her 44 years of marriage were not at all easy. Plagued by illnesses, disease, conflict with her husband, political disagreements with the townspeople and debt, she kept an even keel, teaching all her children (all but one could read by the age of five years) and maintaining her own close relationship with the Lord. Despite house fires which twice burned their home to the ground, and her husband’s frequent absences, including a stay in debtor’s prison, Susanna remained the dedicated, faithful and loving mother. But what a mountain of work she faced. To bring order out of chaos, Susanna taught her children to cry softly and to play quietly. Even with many children in the home, she kept her resolve to spend one hour with each child per week and remained faithful to a daily quiet time with the Lord. It is commonly reported that she would pull her apron up over her head when she needed time alone with God. She died at the age of 73 in 1742.



I think that from Susanna Wesley’s life we can see that being a nurturing woman is a very difficult assignment. (Again I draw a distinction here between merely being the biological bearer of children and the nurturing woman in Christ whether or not she has borne children.) Even so, this calling to nurture children and those younger than yourself is not “mission impossible,” and here are four reasons why:

1. God gives strength to His People. Isaiah 40: 28-31

He gives strength to the weary,
And to him who lacks might He increases power.
Isaiah 40:29

Are you tired—worn out in the work of being a mom? Ask God for strength. He has promised to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. God continually guides His People. Isaiah 58: 11-12

And the LORD will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.
Isaiah 58:11

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to do next in this calling to nurture the young. God will guide your footsteps. Indeed, the steps of the good man are ordered by the Lord and He delights in his way.

3. God blesses His people with peace. Psalm 29:11

The LORD will give strength to His people;
The LORD will bless His people with peace.
Psalm 29:11

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” John 14:27.

4. He grants answers to prayer to women of faith. Matthew 15: 28

“Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.” Matthew 15:27-28

Women of faith can pray with assurance and know that God will answer.

Women have been gifted and called by God to be nurturers. Being a mother is hard work. But it is not “mission impossible.” You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.