

TEXT: Proverbs 31:10

THEME: A MOTHER'S DAY CARD FROM GOD

**A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)**

Dear Christian Friends, and especially all Mothers:

Mother's Day! What a happy, joyous day! Yet Mother's Day can also be a very sad day, a day of pain and grief. Not everybody looks forward to Mother's Day.

- ☆ Maybe you recently lost your mother...and you are experiencing the pain of your loss.
- ☆ Maybe you have lost a child...and your heart grieves on Mother's Day.
- ☆ Maybe you are having difficulties with your mother.
- ☆ Maybe your mother wasn't the ideal mother we like to think of and you have bad memories of your mother.
- ☆ Maybe you were never able to have children and so mother's day isn't a joyous occasion for you.
- ☆ Maybe you never had a real mother and were reared in a foster home or by relatives.
- ☆ Maybe you are a single mom and are struggling to be a good mother to your children.

Not every home is like the Cleavers or the Brady Bunch or the Huxtables or the Ozzie and Harriet Nelson family. Maybe your home is more like the Ozzie Osbourne family than the Ozzie Nelson family.

Some of you have been raised in good Christian homes...have wonderful parents...and ARE wonderful parents. I thank God for you...and you should thank God, too! But no matter what your situation, I want to encourage each of you today...and especially all mothers.

Each of us has been affected by motherhood in one way or another...for good or bad. Everyone here either HAS a mother, HAD a mother, IS a mother, is MARRIED to a mother...or KNOWS a mother. Did I leave anyone out? I don't think so. Motherhood has affected you in one way or another.

One of the most important things for Mother's Day is the Mother's Day card. If you don't believe me, don't give one some year and you'll quickly learn just how COLD it can be in May! Today I want to share with each of you a very special Mother's Day card. It is A MOTHER'S DAY CARD FROM GOD. God has given you his Word to encourage you, help you, bless you, comfort you, and give you direction.

**GOD LOVES YOU AND SAVED YOU.** God begins his card by expressing his love for you by saving you from your sins so that you can live with him forever in heaven. When you need to be reassured of that, read 1 John 4:10, **"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."** God himself took care of our greatest need and concern. Now he will certainly take care of our needs and concerns for this life, too. So look at what God writes on the inside of his card.

**WHEN YOU FEEL DISCOURAGED.** Mothers, have you ever felt discouraged? Motherhood isn't for the weak or fainthearted, is it? Mothers need a lot of encouragement every day. God gives you that encouragement in Isaiah 40:28-31, **Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but**

**those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.** God knows what you are going through; he's the almighty Creator of the universe, after all. He gives you everything you need, so don't give up. And when you feel discouraged, turn to his Mother's Day card for you.

WHEN YOU FEEL ANGRY. Have you ever gotten angry with your children? Don't tell me no...I'm a parent so I know better. God doesn't say it is wrong to be angry. In fact, you're supposed to get angry over disobedience, lack of respect, insolence, etc. If didn't get angry over that, if you let it continue, you wouldn't be doing your job as a mother. But God does want you to control your anger—to use it as a tool and not a destructive weapon—and don't stay angry. Hear what God says to you in your Mother's Day Card from Ephesians 4:26 & 27, **In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.** And remember God's wisdom in Proverbs 15:1, **A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.**

WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE. You can have a houseful of children, all wanting your attention at the same time...and still feel alone. You can be in the middle of Wal-mart with kids hanging off the cart...and still feel alone. It is strange how we can be in the middle of a crowd and still feel so all alone. Sometimes we all need a hug—from God—just a reassurance that he is there. He gives us exactly that in his Mother's Day Card in Hebrews 13:5b, **Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.** Even though Jesus ascended into heaven, he left us this promise in Matthew 28:20, **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

WHEN YOU FEEL TIRED. Sometimes a “stay-at-home mom” will be asked this question, “Do you work?” Your first impulse is probably to punch the person in the nose...your second is to laugh...to laugh until you cry. It's been said that a typical mother, working in the business world, would be worth \$700,000 a year, because she is a taxi driver, judge, lawyer, chef, psychiatrist, teacher, preacher, doctor, and much more. That must be why you get so tired! So, open up God's Mother's Day Card and hear this invitation in Matthew 11:28, **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** Whether you are single, a mother, father, or child, you won't find rest hiding in the closet or locking yourself in the bathroom or even at a luxurious spa. You'll find real rest in Jesus, for **God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble** (Psalm 46:1).

WHEN YOU ARE WORRIED. Show me a mother who never worries...you can't! Being concerned about her children is just part of being a mother. Worry can be a terrible burden, and even though most mothers have very broad shoulders to carry that load, they don't compare to the broad shoulders of God, your heavenly Father. He can tote a lot more than you can! Hear what he says in your Mother's Day Card from Philippians 4:6-7, **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Mothers, fathers, children...don't deny your heavenly Father the privilege of carrying your burdens for you! **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you** (1 Peter 5:7).

A MOTHER'S DAY CARD FROM GOD. God has sent you a Mother's Day Card and he has written some personal messages in it for you. Take it home with you and take it to heart. Open it up when you need it the most. You will find it all...and more...in his Word, the Bible, his love letter to us all. Happy Mother's Day! What a glorious day...like every day...to be a child of God! Amen.