

Parents

on
their
Knees

(a 31 day guide to pray)

Vi Goodrich

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The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous
(parent) avails much. James 5:16

Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your
children. Lamentations 2:19



Prayer Promises for Parents

Psalms 50:15 Call on Me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.

Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things you know not.

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father, who is in Heaven, give good things to those who ask Him?

Matthew 21:22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

John 14:13 And whatever you ask *in My name*, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done to you.

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask, we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.



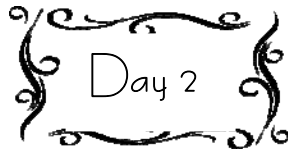
Day 1

Dear Lord, Thank you for the privilege as a parent to place my children in the safety of Your arms in prayer. Give these children favor in my eyes as a precious gift from You (Ps 127:3). Let me joy in parenting and raising them for You. As they grow, help me to instill into their hearts the depth of Your love (S of Sol 8:7;

Jer 31:3; John 3:16; John 17:23; Rom 5:8).

As only a heart can gain a heart, I pray that I would grow to love You with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength (Deut 6:5), and that I might, in turn, diligently teach my children (Deut 6:7).

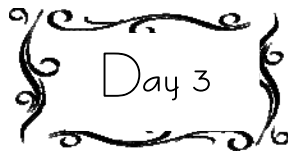
For my children - I pray that from the earliest age, they will be saved - that they will be sorry for their sins, accept Your plan of salvation, pray to ask You to live inside their heart where they will nurture a personal relationship with You (John 3:16; 2 Tim 3:15; Rom 10:9,10,13), and understand the depth of Your love for them. Teach them at a young age to hear Your voice (1 Sam 3:10; John 10:3-5,27), to discern the desires of Your heart for them, and to follow the path You have chosen for them (Matt 7:13-14). Remind them that they're not here by chance, but by Your choosing, that Your hand formed them and made them the person they are, that You compare them to no one else, that they are one of a kind, lacking nothing that Your grace can't give them, and that You have allowed them to be here at this time in history to fulfill Your purpose for this generation.



Day 2

Dear Lord, I dedicate every one of my children to You. Thank you for lending them to me for the short time I have them to love and raise as a Christian (Deut 6:7-9). I give You full reign in my life to guide me in raising them. Let me never take lightly that I have been given the authority, through Your precious name, to pray Your hand in motion in my children's lives. Make me a godly parent. Give me an undivided heart. Mold me. Change me. Cast out the beam in my own eye, before pulling out the speck in my children's eye (Matt 7:5). By your Spirit, Lord, reveal to me those things of which I need to repent. Search me and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way (Ps 139:23-24). Purify me, Lord. Prepare me to be the parent you have called me to be.

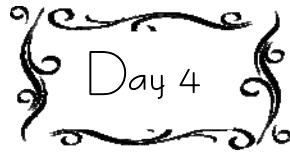
For my children - I pray that they will open their heart and allow You to change them (Ps 139:23-24). Help them remember that they were bought with a price (1 Cor 6:20), and they are not their own (1 Cor 6:19). Help them to live a life of faith (2 Cor 5:7). Teach them to put You first in all areas of their life (Matt 6:33), and have an intimate relationship with You. Give them a heart of worship (1 Chr 16:29; Ps 29:2; Ps 99:9) and praise to You. I pray that they will desire Your will for their lives (Col 1:9). Give them a craving for Your Word, and an unquenchable passion for prayer.



Day 3

Good Morning, Lord, What an incredible opportunity it is to pray for the precious children You have given me to care for. As I watch over them, give me the wisdom to raise them, protect them, and bring them up in the instruction of Your Law (Deut 4:9). Give me a wise and understanding heart (1 Kin 3:9-12), especially in discerning the needs of my teenagers.

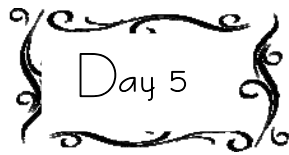
For my children - Please put a hedge of protection around them (Job 1:10), that they will be so hedged in by Your love that they will not find their way to wrong friends and wrong places, and that the wrong people cannot find them. Bring them a Christian peer who will hold their head above water when they start to sink, and help guide them in the right direction (Gal 6:2; 1 Thess 5:11). And may they someday be that intercessor to stand in the gap for someone else (Eze 22:30). Keep them from the wrong mate and saved for the right one (Prov 19:14; 2 Cor 6:14). Help them keep their virginity until marriage. Give them strength to say "No" to drugs, sex, alcohol, and any other sin that they are tempted by (Prov 1:10,15; Gal 5:13; 1 Cor 5:11; 1 Cor 6:12,13,18). Give them a heart portraying "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15; 2 Cor 4:8-11; 2 Cor 12:9-10). When they are tried, may they come forth as gold (Job 23:10).



Day 4

Dear Lord, Plant in me a seed – the seed of new life, the eternal life of Your Son, Jesus. Give me the capacity to know You and cry after You. As I am an example to my children, purify me and cleanse me from sin (Ps 51:3). Let my heart break with the things that break Your heart. Restore broken relationships within our family by Your grace. Show me the exceeding greatness of Your power toward me (Eph 1:19) and increase in me, that I might decrease (John 3:30).

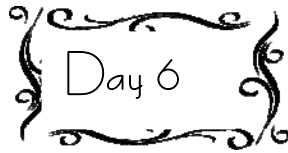
For my children - In every area of their life – spiritually, emotionally, and physically, protect them from the evil one (John 14:17). Knowing that Satan would like to sift them as wheat (Luke 22:31), give them discernment to stay away from even the appearance of evil (1 Thess 5:22), and resist the enemy in all circumstances (1 Cor 10:13; John 17:15; Jas 4:7). As to the New Age, humanism, the occult, Satanism, the cults, etc., let them not be tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14-15), but give them a discerning spirit (1 John 4:1), especially their exposure to books, magazines, music, TV, and movies (1 John 4:1-3). Keep them sexually pure (Ps 119:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Gal 5:16; 1 Thess 4:7). Give them a wise and understanding heart (Ps 119:98; Prov 1:1-9; Prov 2:1-12). Lord, may You be the last thought on their mind when they go to sleep, and foremost on their heart as they awake (Ps 4:8). May their life be a cameo of Your love as they walk in Your holiness (1 Pet 1:16).



Day 5

Dear Lord, I want to know You much more than I do. I repent of my sins, and completely surrender my heart and life to You. You died for me - help me to live for You. Help me to grow in You. Give me a desire for Your Word that is unstoppable, treasuring the words of Your mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:12). Don't let me get away with anything. Prick my heart when I take my frustrations out on my children, or be short-fused and angry. Give me a calm, quiet spirit (Prov 15:1; Prov 16:32; Jas 1:19-20). Teach me Your ways. Make me a parent of prayer.

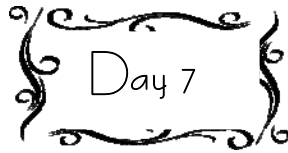
For my children - Help them to honor and obey their parents (Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20) and those in authority over them (Rom 13:1). Enable them to stand up for what they believe with their Christian friends and unbelieving friends (1 Cor 16:13). Help them to develop good and kind communication skills (Ex 4:12). May they be peacemakers (Matt 5:9). Give them a hunger and a thirst for righteousness (Matt 5:6). Help them to control any outburst of anger or other unkind attitudes (Ps 37:8; Prov 14:17; Prov 16:32; Eccl 7:9). Teach them to love and forgive those that hate them and spitefully use them and persecute them (Matt 5:44). May they respect others, behaving in the way they would like to be treated (Matt 7:12). Instill a necessity in their heart to be alone with You in the secret place (Matt 6:6), acknowledging You as their first love (Rev 2:4).



Day 6

Dear Lord, You are a God of unfathomable love (John 3:16), a God of incomprehensible mercy, and a God of truth that sets free (John 8:26,32; John 14:6). I am nothing without You. May I always be grateful for all that You have done (Rom 5:6,8-9). As You have appointed me as my children's first and highest teacher, I know that my instructions must be from the heart. Knowing there is unspeakable blessings of wisdom from a heart of love, may I experience the abiding in Your infinite love that satisfies the thirsty soul. Keep this vessel full to overflowing with Your living waters, Lord. As I keep the faucet of my heart on, lift out the clogging dregs with the freshness of Your Word that cleanses and renews (John 4:10; John 7:38; Rev 7:17; Rev 22:17).

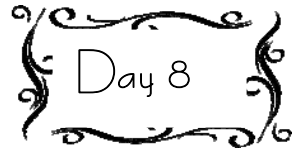
For my children - You know where they are at this very moment. You know their thoughts (Ps 139:2,4), and number the very hairs of their head (Matt 10:30). Give them an awareness of Your Presence. Surround them with Your Mercy, and Your Grace. Envelope them in Your love. Let them feel assured that You will never leave them nor forsake them (Heb 13:5). Baptize them afresh in Your Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49), and pour out Your gifts on them (1 Cor 12:4). Give them a heart that responds to You with great joy to live a life that pleases You, and not for the approval of men (Matt 16:23; Gal 1:10). Make them a studier of Your Word. (Heb 4:12)



Day 7

Dear Lord, I bend my knees and bow my heart before You. How desperately I need you! I am so weak, and you are so strong (2 Cor 12:10). I am so sinful, and You are so holy (Isa 6:3). I cast on you my ungodly sin nature, and I drink the fullness of Your beautiful Holy Spirit (John 4:14). I acknowledge Your dazzling beauty, Your fascinating personality, and Your unsearchable understanding. Open my eyes to see Your face (Isa 6:5; John 12:21), my King, the Lord of Hosts. You are my hiding place. You preserve me from trouble, and surround me with songs of deliverance (Ps 32:7). Refresh me with Your joy that wins the hearts of those who embrace You. May it set me on fire for You.

For my children – Open their eyes to see Your Beauty. As they bask in the brightness of Your Light, shine into their heart to reveal any hidden sins (Ps 51:3; Matt 10:26). Allow them to be caught when guilty (Num 32:23; Job 13:23). Take the blinders off their eyes that their sin will be easily recognizable to them (Ps 32:5), and give them a hatred for sin and its ugliness (Ps 97:10). Teach them how to handle their sin and guilt (1 John 1:9; Ps 103:12) with a heart of brokenness and repentance. Lead them to seek out godly counsel (Ps 1:1). Renew them to a life that is productive, bearing much fruit (John 15:8,16; Col 1:10). Give them a peg in Your holy place that You may enlighten their eyes, and give them a measure of revival (Ezra 9:8).



Day 8

Dear Lord, May I be a parent of joy, even in trials (Jas 1:2-4). As Your Word instructs me to give thanks always for all things (Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:18), Lord, I also thank you for the difficulties (Jas 1:2) in my child raising. Use these trials to cut out anything in me that does not bear fruit, and prune me to be a parent that pleases You (John 15:2). Cleanse me through Your Word (John 15:3). As You are in the business of making something out of nothing (Gen 1:3; Mark 6:37,42; Rom 9:23; Col 1:27), take this weak, broken vessel and make something out of me – a vessel of honor for You (2 Cor 4:6-7). Lord, that I might please You. (Prov 16:7; 1 Thess 4:1; Heb 13:16; 1 John 3:22)

For my children - When trouble comes, help them to withstand the pressure (1 Cor 10:13; Col 1:11; Jas 1:2-4), and turn to You to walk through the dark valley with them (Ps 23:4; Ps 91:15). Remind them that all things work together for good (Gen 50:20; Rom 8:28). Let them take refuge in the secret place of the Most High (Ps 91:1). Comfort them with the rod and staff of Your Word (Ps 23:4). Teach them to thank You in all things (Ps 92:1; Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:18), and be content in whatever state they are in (Phil 4:11; 1 Tim 6:6). Make them good stewards of Your money (Matt 25:21; 1 Cor 4:2). Teach them to be generous in their giving to Your work (Prov 3:9; Mal 3:10; 2 Cor 8:3-4; 2 Cor 9:7). May they lay hold on eternal life (John 17:3; 1 Tim 6:12,19). Let them not be ashamed of their testimony (2 Tim 1:8; Rev 12:11).



Day 9

Forgive me, Father, for things I have said in the past to tear my house down (Prov 14:1). I don't want to do this anymore. Pierce my heart when I speak unkind words or angry words (Ps 37:8; Prov 14:17; Prov 15:1; Prov 16:32; Prov 19:11; Eccl 7:9; Eph 4:26). Make me conscious and careful of the words that I speak to my children, knowing that "from the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt 12:34-37). Lord, cleanse the heart of this parent with gentle and pure words, words of healing. And anoint my lips to speak truth and love.

For my children - Set a watch over their mouth (Ps 141:3), guarding every word. Encourage them not to lie or speak unwholesome talk (Eph 4:29,31; Col 3:8-9), but speak words that are true (Eph 4:25), words that are pure, words that are encouraging and uplifting, words that are cleansing and healing (Eph 4:29; Col 4:6; 1 Thess 5:11; Titus 2:8). Help them listen not to what the "world" says, but what the "Word" says. Let the steadfastness and the power of Your Word radically change their lives (Deut 17:19-20; Ps 19:7-11; Luke 21:33; John 5:39; John 20:31; Heb 4:12; 1 John 5:13). Help them be diligent to search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Burn into their heart your truth, and help them to walk in it (John 8:32; John 18:37).



Day 10

Dear Lord, Fill me with the sweetness of Your Word (Ps 19:10). Feed me with the manna that satisfies a hunger that nothing else can fill. I confess, Lord, that I haven't taken time to enjoy Your Presence. I haven't read Your Word in a way that can change my life (2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12). I realize that I will only know You for the amount of time that I spend with You. Rain on me Your healing love. Cleanse me. Revive me. Restore me. Prompt me to take that time to be filled, so that I, in turn, have something to give to my children (Matt 14:16).

For my children, Lord - Engrave the truth of Your Word in their heart, and write Your laws in their mind (2 Cor 3:3; Heb 8:10; Heb 10:16). May they be set free (John 3:32,36) by Your truth. Keep their heart soft and very sensitive to You (Ps 119:2). Stir in them a hunger for Your Word (Ps 119:18,24,33-40,50,72,93,97,99,101,114,130-131,147-148,159-160,162,167). Help them to be disciplined (with my help) to memorize it (Ps 119:11) and meditate in it (Josh 1:8). Encourage in them a desire to seek to know and understand Your commandments (Ps 119:27) and obey them (Deut 4:40; 1 John 5:3). Give them a thirst for more of Your Holy Spirit. May they have a loyal heart for You (2 Chr 16:9). Empower them to be Your witness (Acts 1:8), and give them joy unspeakable (Ps 16:11)!



Day 11

Dear Lord, You know the most important issue of my heart. You know my last thought at night, and my first one in the morning. You know what I would be inconvenienced for, go to jail for, send my sons to war for, or die for. Lord, may it be You. Change my heart to make You my first love. Help me adjust where I haven't reflected You. At times, I've left my first love, and I repent. I repent of every attitude, from complacency to hostility, that has prevented me from freely giving my children Your love. Release through me good attitudes that reflect the fruit of Your Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) as Your peace rules my heart (Col 3:15).

For my children - Display the fruit of Your Spirit through them: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). Grant them according to the riches of Your grace (Eph 2:7). Strengthen them with might through Your Spirit. Dwell in their hearts through faith, that they, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know Your love which passes knowledge, that they may be filled with all Your fullness. Give them exceedingly abundantly above all that they can ask or think, according to Your power (Eph 3:16-20).



Day 12

Dear Lord, I follow Jesus as my example, especially in the area of prayer. If anyone could've sustained a life without prayer, it would be the very Son of God Himself. If prayer was unnecessary, Jesus would not have wasted time with it. But prayer was the dominant feature of His life, and a recurring part of His teaching. He prayed full nights, having unbroken communion with You, Father (Luke 6:12). I know that my prayers can be more powerful than the decisions made on Capitol Hill. I realize that prayer stirs Your hand in motion to ignite a mighty upheaval deep within the heart. Give me a heart of prayer, and an intense desire to be with You. As you display Your character in the secret place (Matt 6:6), teach me to freely open my heart to you in intimacy and worship. In Your Presence is fullness of joy (Ps 16:11). Thank you that You have a listening ear and limitless time. Release in me the ability to express to You the depths of my heart. You are my Comforter and my Counselor.

For my children – Instill in them a love for prayer and worship. Give them a glimpse of Your glory, as You did for Moses (Ex 33:19,21,23), and Isaiah (Isa 6:1), that they might call upon Your great name. Show my children that You are so near (Rom 10:8), that You are within reach (Isa 10:4; Matt 9:20; 14:31a). Let them walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7).



Day 13

Dear Lord, I am so hungry for the Bread of Your Word, and so thirsty for Your Holy Spirit. I am desperate for a drink of clean, fresh water - torrents of living water, flowing from the springs of Your heart (John 7:38), pure, holy and righteous. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your Majesty and Holiness (Ps 145:5). You will reign as King forever. You give your people strength (Ps 29:11). Give me strength, Lord (Ps 27:1).

For my children - Fill their life with an outflowing of worship and praise for You, even in hard times (Jas 1:2-4). Remind them that nothing can separate them from Your love - not tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword (Rom 8:35). May they walk crucified with You, living by faith in the Son of God (Gal 2:20). In their everyday decisions, give them wisdom beyond their age (Prov 2:1-11; Jas 1:5), and joy that is unspeakable (John 16:22,24; Acts 8:8) as a result of their walk with You. Let it spread into the lives of those they are around, young and old. Shepherd them according to the integrity of Your heart, and guide them by the skillfulness of Your hands (Ps 78:72). Robe them with the beauty of Your splendor (Eze 16:14).



Day 14

Dear Lord, Thank You for giving me the dearest, most precious and costly gift ever given – life (Lev 17:11). I know of no greater gift of love than the giving of Your only Son to die so I could live (John 3:16; John 12:24; Rom 5:8; 1 John 5:12). Your love is forever (Jer 31:3). You loved me first (1 John 4:19) and chose me for Yourself, giving Your all (Isa 43:1,4,21; John 17:10). I am a crown of glory, a royal diadem in Your hand (Isa 62:3). You adorned me with jewels (Eze 16:11-12), delighting in me (S of Sol 7:10; Isa 62:4), giving me wonderful gifts and talents to enhance the raising of my children, and to further Your kingdom that all the world can bow their knee to You (Rom 14:11). I give You the glory for the qualities in me that reflect You.

For my children - You have poured into them Your great love and wonderful talents. Help them to give You the glory for their accomplishments (Ps 115:1). Tie together in my children's heart the reason for the gifts, and the willingness to share these talents to bless others. Give them a heart to serve others (Matt 20:28) and an attitude of humility at a young age (Isa 66:2). Unleash in them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, the eyes of their understanding being enlightened, that they may know what is the hope of their calling, what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints (Eph 1:17-19). And Lord, may they be impassioned for You.



Day 15

Dear Lord, You are the Mighty King, Lord of everything (Ps 29:10). You are all I need. I am grateful for Your love and care for me (1 Pet 5:7). You have more thoughts toward me than the sands of the sea (Ps 139:17-18). I acknowledge that there is nowhere I can go that can separate me from Your love (Ps 139:18). So, here I am, Lord. Help me in my unbelief (Mark 9:24). Take me as I am. Use me as Your vessel in the lives of my children. Here, at the mercy seat, behind closed doors (Matt 6:6), shut out from the world, hidden in the secret place of the Most High (Ps 91:1), I come to You to intercede for my precious children. I am asking, seeking and knocking (Matt 7:7-11).

For my children - Persuade them that nothing can separate them from Your Love — neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate them from Your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord

(Rom 8:38-39). Give them a heart that overflows with gratitude for You. Baptize them afresh with the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Set them ablaze for You. Pour Your Love in and through them. Be their shelter and their strong tower from their enemies (Ps 61:3), their refuge, the God of their salvation, the Rock of their strength (Ps 62: 6-7).



Day 16

Dear Lord, I will never be the same again. Look what Your Love has done for me (John 3:16). I come to You to drink from Your rivers of life (John 4:14). I need You, Lord. I need You more than the air I breathe. Wash over me. Cleanse me white like snow (Ps 51:7). Fan the flame of my soul for You. Lord, that I might see Your glory (Ex 33:18).

For my precious children who You love - Give them an understanding of who You are, Your Goodness, Your Grace, Your Mercy, Your Longsuffering, Your Strength in their weakness (2 Cor 12:9), Your Faithfulness when they are faithless (2 Tim 2:13). May they fall in love with You, Lord. Give them an awareness that You are always with them (Josh 1:9; Matt 28:20 Heb 13:5). Bring them to a quiet place with You alone to "be still and know that You are God" (Ps 46:10). May they make their devotion time of the highest priority (2 Cor 8:5). Help them to surrender their will to You (Luke 22:42). May they not see You as their crutch, Lord, but as their intensive care unit. Set them apart from the world by Your truth. Your Word is truth (John 17:17). Let them continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, not moved away from the hope of the gospel that they have heard (Col 1:23).



Day 17

Dear Lord, Your voice is powerful and full of majesty (Ps 29:4). Your voice breaks the cedars, and makes the deer give birth (Ps 29:5,9). You are an Awesome and Majestic God! Great and marvelous are Your works! Just and true are Your ways. You alone are holy, for all nations shall come and worship You (Rom 14:11; Rev 15:3-4). By my example, I know that I can only take my children as far as I have gone with You, Lord. Sometimes, the fruit of Your Spirit does not flow through me. Teach me to abide in Your Word (John 15:4-5), that I might be an open vessel through which my children can experience the fruit of Your Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). Lord, make me an abiding parent, totally sold out to You, my will surrendered to Yours. Forgive me for the sin in me that I see in my children. Give me a broken and contrite heart (Ps 51:17).

For my children - As they watch me, open their eyes to see those things in me that reflect Your heart. Let them follow me on that narrow road that leads to life (Matt 7:13-14). Let Your light shine (Matt 5:15-16) in their hearts to give the light of Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6). May they see You as their Lord, the King of kings, the Great God, the Mighty and Awesome God, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe (Deut 10:17).



Day 18

Dear Lord, You loved me so much that You gave Your Only Son, that if I believe in Him I would not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). How great is Your Love! How great is the depth of Your Mercy! Lord, I believe. Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). You are the Word (John 1:1,14). In You is Life which gives light to men (John 1:9). You are the Light that shines in the darkness (John 1:1, 4-5), the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6), giving peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27). Your understanding is infinite and unsearchable (Ps 147:5; Isa 40:28).

For my children - As they have received You, so let them walk in You, rooted and built up in You and established in the faith, as they have been taught (Col 2:6-7). Let them beware lest anyone cheat them through worldly philosophy (Col 2:8). May joy overflow from their hearts as they stand steadfast in a life holy and pleasing to You. Help them to not lose heart (Luke 18:1), knowing that though their light affliction is but for a moment, it is working in them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Help them not to look at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen (2 Cor 4:16-18). Let them see that "greater is He that is in them than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Show them that they are conquerors through You (Rom 8:37). Help them to trust You for all their needs (Prov 3:5-6; Jer 17:7), knowing that Your grace is sufficient (2 Cor 12:9).



Day 19

Dear Lord, You are the perfect example of a parent. Thank you for allowing me to raise children. Help me to walk worthy of that calling to become the parent You made me to be. May I not get sidetracked with things that are unessential to Your purpose. If there are any areas where I am not modeling the very things I am asking You for on behalf of my children, give me the wisdom and strength to make the proper adjustments in my own life. Make my sins known to me that I might deal with each one (Num 32:23; 1 Cor 9:27). My heart is open and willing for Your cleansing and instruction (2 Tim 3:16). When my children sin, give me a heart of forgiveness just as I am forgiven by You (Matt 6:12,14; Matt 18:21-22,32-35). Make me a parent that guides my children with integrity (Ps 78:72).

For my children – Set them free from bondage to any sin in their lives that hold them captive. When confronted, take away all pride that would cause them to deny their faults, and give them a heart of brokenness and repentance (Prov 28:13; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 John 1:9). When they are tempted again, show them Your way out, that they may run from sin (1 Cor 10:13). I pray that they will not harbor any unforgiveness or vengeance (1 Pet 3:9) in their heart, but that forgiveness would be an outflow of their lives (Matt 18:21-22 Eph 4:32). Let them be sold out for You, Lord (John 15:5; Rom 12:1).



Day 20

Dear Lord, It is quoted, "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . . but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Make my time with my children quality and quantity. Teach me to disciple them, sharing testimony of what You have done in my life (Deut 6:20-25; Rev 12:11).

For my children - I pray that they will make right choices (Prov 14:12; Phil 1:9-10), not allowing the things of the world to control them (Rom 12:2). Let them hear Your voice only (John 10:27; Rev 3:20). Give them patience to wait on You in prayer (Ps 40:1-2). Help them choose good friends, and good attitudes (Prov 14:12). Impress upon them a desire to go to church (Ps 149:1; Heb 10:25), and to reach out to bring others into their circle of friends at church (Rom 12:16). May they see the importance of dressing modestly, not sensually (1 Tim 2:9; 1 Pet 3:3-4). Give them a heart for the lost, and a boldness to witness when the opportunity arrives. Make them soul winners (Prov 11:30; Dan 12:3; Rom 1:16; Jas 5:19-20). Recruit them to battle. Dress them in Your armor, that they put it on in eagerness and zeal, as healthy men and women responding to combat (Eph 6:10-18). Make them conscious of setting a good example to those younger in the faith (Luke 22:32a; 1 Cor 8:9; 1 Tim 4:12; Titus 2:7; Heb 11:1, 6). Give them a thirst for Your Presence, and a heart of prayer.



Day 21

Dear Lord, You are the Lover of my soul. Thank you for inviting me, who am nothing, into Your throne room (Matt 6:6; Heb 4:16), the very heartbeat of heaven, where You display to me Your most hidden and intimate secrets, beautiful and precious! You are incredibly more than I could ever ask or want or even imagine! Thank you for Your very personal love letters written with the blood of the Lamb, bound between two covers and preserved through the centuries for me. An Infinite God! Understood by the human brain! Understood by a tried and proven love – a love the world cannot understand. Understood through Your Word that has reached through the centuries to the depths of my heart, as steadfast and alive today as the day it was penned, containing highly flammable power to radically change me (Heb 4:12), yet light enough to hold in my hands and carry in my pocket. Let me never take it for granted, or shelf Your great love.

For my children - Open their eyes to see You in a way they've never seen You before, their ears to hear things they've never heard before, their heart to conceive things that they've never before understood (1 Cor 2:9). Show them that joy unleashed in its fullest comes from having an audience with the King (Ps 16:11).



Day 22

Dear Lord, I am still and know that You are God (Ps 46:10), King God, supreme in Your authority, the ruling, reigning monarch of this universe, timeless in Your existence, ingenious in Your creativity and with totality of ownership. I stand in awe of you! Remind me that through trials and suffering comes the joy of victory (Heb 12:2). In the storm, the tree strikes deeper roots in the soil; in the hurricane the people abide in the house and enjoy its shelter. So by suffering, You would lead me to enter more deeply into Your love. Though You have no pleasure in afflicting me, You will not keep back even the most painful chastisement (Deut 8:5; Ps 94:12; Prov 3:11-12; Rev 3:19) if You can get Your child to come home and run into Your arms. "Abba Father, I'm home!" (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6)

For my children - May they stand in awe of Your holiness, majestic splendor, blazing glory, limitless power, and unquestionable sovereignty. May they behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Lord, diffuse the fragrance of Your knowledge in them (2 Cor 2:14-15). Transform them to live lives that are Christ-like by the renewing of their mind (Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 4:16), lives unaffected by the world. May their names be written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Luke 10:20).

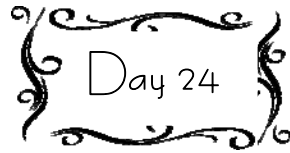


Day 23

Dear Lord, I worship You for Your flawless character, Your infinite knowledge and wisdom, Your absolute justice, unswerving faithfulness, unending mercy, matchless grace, and terrible wrath against sin. The first coming to You gave single drops to taste, but its only the abiding that really satisfies my soul.

As I cannot lead until I am first led, may I learn to follow in willing submission to You. I realize that it's not the yoke, but the resistance to the yoke that makes the difficulty. Lord, let me be willingly yoked together with You. Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light (Matt 11:28-30). Without Your Word I have nothing to give. Help me to study the Written Word that I might know the Living Word.

For my children – Teach them to respect and love their siblings (Matt 5:43; 1 John 4:7-8). Give them a hatred for sin, and let them determine not to tolerate it in their lives or compromise in any way. Teach them to fear You and hate evil (Prov 8:13). Give them an awareness of Satan's attacks, and teach them how to engage in spiritual warfare (2 Sam 22:35,40; Eph 6:10-12; 1 Pet 5:8). Help them to learn the privilege and importance of prayer (1 Thess 5:17; Heb 4:16; Jas 5:13,16), putting it above all other priorities (Phil 3:8). Give them a heart that intercedes for others (Jas 5:16), and a love for intimacy with You that only prayer can bring (Eph 3:19-20).



Day 24

Dear Lord, I acknowledge that my greatest need is to have a far greater revelation of what You are really like. I ask You to meet that need. Lord, circumcise my heart and the heart of my children to love You and obey Your commandments (Deut 30:6). As I fall in love with You, help me to teach my children Your great love that suffers long and is kind; love that does not envy; love that does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things; Love that never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8a). Thank you for showing me that my most important ministry is to become a "Moses mother," who faithfully nursed the children You entrusted to her care, hiding them and keeping them separate from the world until time to release them. And You will give a wonderful fulfillment of the promise, when You find fulfillment of the duty: "Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages (Ex 2:9)."

For my children - Teach them of Your great love. Teach them Your ways, that they may know You and find favor in Your sight. Lead my children in triumph, diffusing the fragrance of Your knowledge in every place through their lives (2 Cor 2:14). Thank you that You will fulfill this request.



Day 25

Dear Lord, When my children are being tempted in a specific area, give me a watchful heart of intensified prayer for them, as Job did for his children (Job 1:5). As the heaviest branches bow the lowest, Lord, I bow to You with the burdens of my children that I carry, in humble awareness that You are Sovereign and in full control of their life and mine. Instill into my heart discernment of good and evil, as I choose this day whom I will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Josh 24:15).


For my children – Please, Lord, place Your law into their heart to know right from wrong, good from evil, and give them the courage to choose life (Deut 30:19; Ps 119:30; 1 John 5:12), and walk in it. Give them a watchfulness of their own sin, measuring it by the light of Your Word (Ps 19:7-11; Heb 4:12). When they are hurting, may they know that You are very close to them (Ps 34:18). Let them look to You for their comfort (Ps 119:76; 2 Cor 1:3-4), knowing that You are greater than any problem, nothing being too hard for You (2 Chr 20:15,17; 1 John 4:4). Guard their thought life (2 Cor 10:5). Please prick their hearts when they begin to grumble and complain (John 6:43; Jas 5:9). Help them to dwell on thoughts that are true, thoughts that are noble, thoughts that are just, thoughts that are pure, thoughts that are lovely, virtuous, and praiseworthy (Phil 4:8).



Day 26

Dear Lord, I desire to be a godly parent. Let my words to my children be carefully chosen and fitly spoken (Prov 25:11). May my words of prayer and encouragement awaken a slighted conscience to restore its authority (1 Tim 1:5,19; Heb 9:14). Help me to walk by faith, not by feelings (Heb 11:1). May I remember, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, You have taught me to say, "It is well - It is well with my soul."

For my children - Wake them up each morning with Your words on their mind, and the hope of Your coming in their heart (Ps 5:3). Take away any ungodliness, and renew it with a desire for the things that please You. Let Your love and grace heal their hurts. Stop them from being a part of gossip or tearing people down (Prov 11:13; Prov 14:1; Prov 16:28), but make them encouragers (Heb 3:13). Teach them to do to others as they would have others do to them (Matt 7:12), loving even their enemies (Prov 25:21; Matt 5:44; Rom 12:17-21). Give them sensitivity to help others who are struggling (Gal 6:2), especially the needy and undesirable (Ps 72:13-14), in selfless love (John 13:35), looking at the interests of others, and esteeming others better than themselves (Phil 2:3-4). When they want to keep their faith private, remind them that You hung between heaven and earth for them publicly (John 3:16). Let them not expect You to prioritize answers to their prayers until they prioritize their commitment to You.



Day 27

Dear Lord, My soul bows in the dust at the thought of this inexpressible privilege, this joint ownership of my children between You and me. I look to You for the grace to enable me to keep these treasures, to be given to You with gain (Matt 25:15, 23). Teach me to love them with a holy love. Where I am weak as a parent, be my strength. Let me decrease that You might increase (John 3:30). Use me as Your vessel, soft and pliable in Your great hands that hold even the heaviest of burdens (Matt 11:28). Let me remember that Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light (Matt 11:30), and that You are walking with me through the valley of the shadow of death. I need not fear, for You are with me, comforting me and leading me to the green pastures and still waters for Your name's sake (Ps 23:1-6).

For my children - Whatever situation they are in today, give them purpose in their heart to do that which pleases You. Make them a vessel fit and perfect for the Master's use (2 Tim 2:21), willing and yielded to *go* where You would have them go, *do* what You would have them do, and *say* what You would have them say. Help them to put You first in their life (Matt 6:33), and lay up treasures in heaven. For where their treasure is, there will their heart be also (Matt 6:20-21).



Day 28

Dear Lord, You appointed parental authority as the symbol of Your own authority, in which parents and children are to honor You. It is You who, through us, will rule our home. And if I do not live under Your commands in my own life, I have not the secret of authority and command over others. I know that failure in personal godliness is the root of parental failure. Help me, Lord. I've felt like giving up at times. I see the goal, but I admit that I have slowed down in this privileged race of Christian living, and am sitting on the sideline telling my children how to run, criticizing their running, and slowing them down. Please forgive me. Help me run the race with endurance, laying aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares me (Heb 12:1), and look to Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith.

For my children - Like an athlete, give them joy in running the race You've called them to run. Help them not to look back (Gen 19:26; Luke 9:62), and not give up though they're tired or discouraged (Isa 41:10,13; Isa 43:2; 2 Cor 4:8-11). Renew their energy (Isa 40:31). Give them an awareness that You are not coaching them from the sidelines, but You are running along with them, holding the baton, encouraging them every step to the end of the last lap, never leaving them for a moment (Matt 28:20). Help them to keep their eye on the goal (Ps 27:4; Isa 33:17), the prize of the high calling of Christ Jesus, and run with joy for it (Phil 3:12-14)!



Day 29

Dear Lord, As my children grow, let them trust me to make good decisions. Bless our parent/child relationship. Let it be respected and loved both ways. Never let them doubt my love for them. Stop me when I'm demanding, or giving them too many commands at once. Help me to not command what I cannot enforce or what my child does not have the power to obey. Let my commands be given in quiet, deliberate tones, with full self-control. Above all, let me remember that I am Your minister, doing Your work, and I desire to honor You in the raising of my children. Make me a parent of mercy and grace, not provoking my children to wrath (Eph 6:4).

For my children - How You love them, Lord! How I love them, too. Help them be willing to obey and yield to the things I ask of them. Even when they don't feel like obeying, give them a heart to respect and honor the authority You have given me as a parent (Ex 20:12; Eph 6:1). Give testimony that says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).

When they someday marry, I pray that they will choose someone who is in love with You, has a passion for prayer, and a love for Your Word. For my married children, may they look to You for guidance in their marriage, and purpose to raise their children up in You. Pour Your blessings on their spouse! And bless my beautiful, precious grandchildren! What treasures!



Day 30

Dear Lord, It is a high privilege to have audience with the King, the Creator of the universe, the One that knows every hair on my head and the deepest thoughts in my heart. Because Jesus paid the price to set me free, He gives me authority to pray in His name – the name that unlocks prayer's power. You have made me in Your image, and given me the capability to rule my home well. Help me to love my children with a selfless, unconditional love (John 15:13; Phil 2:3; 1 John 3:16). Give me a heart to intercede for them, praying and weeping in the secret place of prayer until You stoop down and dry my tears. Remind me that my prayers can unleash Your power to bring the greatest revival in the heart of my children that I've ever seen. And in my heart as well. How glorious!

For my children - Be their first love, Lord (Rev 2:4). Set Your hand in motion to sweep the souls of my children into Your kingdom, and bring joy to Your heart. Give them a servant's heart, and a willingness to humbly submit to Your will for their life. May they be a candle that is not hidden (Matt 5:15-16), but shines brightly, illuminating the light of Your glory. Fill them with the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness (Acts 1:8). Give them purpose in their heart to abide in You daily (1 John 2:5-6,24,28).

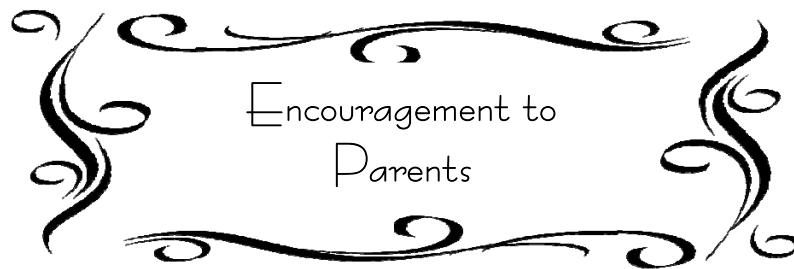


Day 31

Dear Lord, I lay my children at the Cross, especially my firstborn, asking that they may be set apart for Your service. May I have a heart that prevails in intercessory prayer, daily pleading very earnestly for my children to know You, especially my precious prodigal child (Luke 22:32; Heb 3:12). How you treasure the cries of a heartbroken parent. Lord, please bring back my prodigal. Bring the joy in the morning (Ps 30:5; Isa 61:3), to receive he who was dead and is alive again; who was lost and is found (Luke 15:18,20,22-24,32). Lord, You know the value of a soul. As Elijah prayed, "Let this child's soul come back to him," and You heard his voice and revived the heart of the child, let me also say, "See, my child lives (1 Kgs 17:21-24)!" Your Word promises, "I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring (Isa 44:3)," and "Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears. For your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope in your future, says the Lord, that your children shall come back to their own border (Jer 31:16-17)." Thank you, Lord! "Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound (Rom 5:20)!"

For my children - More than anything, Lord, stir up their heart to live for You, abide in You, trust in, rely upon, adhere to You. Give them a deep love for Your Word, a passion for prayer, and a love for souls (Prov 11:30; Dan 12:3; Rom 1:16; Jas 5:19-20). As their vision for You defines their vision for the world and controls the way they see everything else, give them a fresh vision of You. Let them see the glory of the One who sits on the throne, high

and lifted up (Isa 6:1). Give them a heart impassioned for You. And let them never be the same again.



Being a parent is one of the most important ministries ever entrusted to anyone. God will give a wonderful fulfillment of the promise when He finds fulfillment of the duty: "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages" Exo 2:9.

One of the most important things you can do for your children is to pray *with* them and *for* them, read God's Word *with* them and *to* them, and teach them about the holiness and the love of God.

The Love of God

It was because He was Love that He was the Father, and that there was a Son. Love needs an object to whom it can give itself away, in whom it can lose itself, with whom it can make itself one. Because God is love, there must be a Father and a Son. The love of the Father to the Son is that divine passion with which He delights in the Son...

...The divine love is as a burning fire. In all its intensity and infinity it has only one object and one joy, and that is the Only Begotten Son...

...And yet this love of God to His Son must serve as the glass in which you are to learn how Jesus loves you. As one of His redeemed ones, you are His delight, and all His desire is to you with the longing of a love which is stronger than death, and which many waters cannot quench. His heart yearns after you, seeking your fellowship and your love. If it were needed, He could die again to possess you. As the Father loved the Son and could not live without Him, so Jesus loves you. His life is bound up in yours. You are to Him inexpressibly more indispensable and precious than you can ever know. You are one with Himself. "As the Father loved me, so have I loved you." What a love!...

...It is a perfect love. It gives all, and holds nothing back... When it was needed, He sacrificed His throne and His crown for you. He did not count His own life too dear to give for you. His righteousness, His Spirit, His Glory, even His throne, all are yours. This love holds nothing back. Nothing. But in a manner which no human mind can fathom, makes you one with itself...

...It is a gentle and most tender love. As we think of the love of the Father to the Son, we see in the Son everything so infinitely worthy of that love.

...How can that love of the divine life and its perfections be compared to the love that rests on us as sinners? Can it really be the same love? We know it is. The nature of love is always one, however different the objects. Jesus knows of no other law of love but that which His Father loved Him. Our sinfulness only serves to call out more distinctly the beauty of love such as could not be seen even in heaven.

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Excerpts from *Abide in Christ*



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