

Family Relationships

The Mother

“What is a mother’s affection – fathomless and indescribable as it is – but as a drop from the infinite ocean of God’s love!”
Octavius Winslow

Our Heavenly Father’s gentle care likened to that of a mother’s love:

Isaiah 66:10-17

v13 – “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 49:8-26

v15 – “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me.”

Jesus & Paul expressing a motherly love for others.

Matthew 23:37-39

Jesus said, “...How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling...”

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

“But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.” Paul, Silvanus and Timothy were “gentle as a nursing mother” and “implored as a father” to the church of the Thessalonians. As a result they became, “imitators of us and of the Lord” 1:6. Paul, Silvanus and Timothy were like a mother and father to them “so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.” 2:12 The result was “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.” 2:19-20

Is there a danger that person can become imbalanced in their focus on the gentle, motherly love of our Father and not on obedience and transformation. Transformation/sanctification was the result that Paul was so excited about in the church of the Thessalonians. Proverbs 29:15 warns us, “but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

The result of a mother’s love is that we should TRUST IN GOD all the more. No fear of the future, no manipulation of the present and no shame about our past!

Characteristics of a godly mother: STRONG – DIGNIFIED - FEARLESS – OBEDIENT – WISE - KIND

Sarah: **Genesis 18:1-15** and Mary: **Luke 1:26-56**

Proverbs 31:25 & 1 Peter 3:6

“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.”

Dignity: splendor, a combination of physical attractiveness and social position.

“just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

What does this scripture mean?

1 Timothy 2:9-15

“But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.”