

# Motherhood

## Our Worth

**The world likes to assign a dollar value to everything. But the Lord sees things for their true and eternal value. Trust in his assessment of your worth, not the world's.**

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies... The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She ... worketh willingly with her hands. ... She stretcheth out her hand to the poor. ... Strength and honour are her clothing. ... She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” *Proverbs 31:10-31*

“As mothers in Israel, we are the Lord’s secret weapon. Our influence comes from a divine endowment that has been in place from the beginning. In the premortal world, when our Father described our role, I wonder if we didn’t stand in wide-eyed wonder that He would bless us with a sacred trust so central to His plan and that He would endow us with gifts so vital to the loving and leading of His children. I wonder if we shouted for joy 12 at least in part because of the ennobling stature He gave us in His kingdom. The world won’t tell you that, but the Spirit will.

We just can’t let the Lord down. And if the day comes when we are the only women on earth who find nobility and divinity in motherhood, so be it. For mother is the word that will define a righteous woman made perfect in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, a woman who has qualified for eternal increase in posterity, wisdom, joy, and influence.” *“Are We Not All Mothers?” Sheri L. Dew*

“Beware of the subtle ways Satan employs to take you from the plan of God and true happiness. One of Satan’s most effective approaches is to demean the role of wife and mother in the home. This is an attack at the very heart of God’s plan to foster love between husband and wife and to nurture children in an atmosphere of understanding, peace, appreciation, and support. Much of the violence that is rampant in the world today is the harvest of weakened homes. Government and social plans will not effectively correct that, nor can the best efforts of schools and churches fully compensate for the absence of the tender care of a compassionate mother and wife in the home.” *“The Joy of Living the Great Plan of Happiness,” Elder Richard G. Scott*

## SHOE

**Mothers have some pretty big shoes to fill. But the Lord did not intend for us to do it alone. When we come unto Christ and rely on him, his grace will help us in our efforts to become a better parent.**

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.” *Moroni 10:32*

“May I say to mothers collectively, in the name of the Lord, you are magnificent. You are doing terrifically well. The very fact that you have been given such a responsibility is everlasting evidence of the trust your Father in Heaven has in you. He is blessing you and He will bless you, even—no, especially—when your days and your nights may be the most challenging. Rely on Him. Rely on Him heavily. Rely on Him forever. And “press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope.” *“Motherhood: An Eternal Partnership with God,” Elder Jeffery R. Holland*

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.” *Isaiah 41:13*

## COMPASS

**So often we have no idea how to help our children. Whether it is how to comfort a baby or how to reach a teenager. But when we live worthy of the spirit, the Holy Ghost will be there to guide our efforts.**

“No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile— Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou hast reproved, lest he esteem thee to be his enemy; That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death. Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever.” *D&C 121: 41-46*

## LEARNING

**Mothers have a sacred responsibility and mandate from Heavenly Father to teach their children. When we embrace this responsibility the Lord makes us important and eternal promises.**

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” *Proverbs 22:6*

“Yea, and they did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness; yea, and even according to their faith it was done unto them; and I did remember the words which they said unto me that their mothers had taught them.” *Alma 57: 21*

*Other Sources:* Deut. 4:9-10; Deut. 6:6-7; D&C 68:28; “Mothers Teaching Children in the Home,” L. Tom Perry

## SMALL THINGS

**“Bee” not weary in well-doing. Motherhood is often full of the mundane and the routine. It is easy to lose sight of the importance of the little things we do each day. But the Lord has always done his greatest work with small things and seemingly unimportant people.**

“Be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.” *D&C 64:33*

“Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise.” *Alma 37:6*

“We read of the service Church members provide around the world and especially the humanitarian service given in times of crisis—fires and floods and hurricanes and tornadoes. These much-needed and much-appreciated emergency responses should certainly continue as a way of bearing one another’s burdens. But what about our everyday lives? What would be the cumulative effect of millions of small, compassionate acts performed daily by us because of our heartfelt Christian love for others? Over time this would have a transformative effect upon all of our Heavenly Father’s children through the extension of His love to them through us. Our troubled world needs this love of Christ today more than ever, and it will need it even more in the years ahead.

These simple, daily acts of service may not seem like much in and of themselves, but when considered collectively they become just like the one-twelfth teaspoon of honey contributed by a single bee to the hive. There is power in our love for God and for His children, and when that love is tangibly manifest in millions of acts of Christian kindness, it will sweeten and nourish the world with the life-sustaining nectar of faith, hope, and charity.”

*“Be Anxiously Engaged,” Elder M. Russell Ballard*

## CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD

**Don't let stress and fear drag you down. Focus on the important things, and the Lord will take care of the rest.**

“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” *Matthew 6:25-34*

## GRATITUDE

**Sometimes we become blind to all our blessings. But when we learn to see things from an eternal perspective, everything comes into focus.**

“Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.” *Alma 37:37*

“We can lift ourselves, and others as well, when we refuse to remain in the realm of negative thought and cultivate within our hearts an attitude of gratitude. If ingratitude be numbered among the serious sins, then gratitude takes its place among the noblest of virtues.” *“An Attitude of Gratitude,” President Thomas S. Monson*

*Other Sources:* Count Your Blessings Hymn #241, D&C 78:19

## HEART

**Only with charity can we fully enjoy the blessings of motherhood. Without it we may be tempted to trade feelings of selfishness and pride for the peace and joy that the Lord has planned for us.**

“And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail.” *Moroni 7:45-46*

“The greatest joys and the greatest sorrows we experience are in family relationships. The joys come from putting the welfare of others above our own. That is what love is. And the sorrow comes primarily from selfishness, which is the absence of love. The ideal God holds for us is to form families in the way most likely to lead to happiness and away from sorrow.” *“Our Perfect Example,” Henry B. Eyring*

“But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.” *Moroni 7:47*