

Difficult Mother's Day

My heart has been heavy for those of you who had a difficult Mother's Day because of the decisions of your prodigal. I have been praying for you.

In fact, as I prayed again this morning (May 11, 2020), several things came to mind I want to share with you.

So many prodigals are either completely isolated from their godly parents and family or have very little contact with them. And even though it is very painful to not hear from your prodigal on such a special and personal day, there are some truths that will help with the pain.

First, we must realize that we are not fighting our children—or as the Bible puts it, “flesh and blood”—but we are fighting Satan and his evil (Ephesians 6:12). It may seem as if your prodigal is the one causing your pain, but really the isolation perpetrated by Satan is the issue. He simply does not want them to be around you. The presence and love of God changes things always, and Satan does not want them to be drawn to the Lord.

It doesn't matter the tool he uses: addiction, prison, hate, blame, disdain, disregard, misunderstanding, disagreement, geographical distance, controlling spouse, jealous spouse, shame, lack of connection—the list could go on—the effect is the same: little or no contact or acknowledgment on Mother's Day.

Isolation from you is part of the devil's schemes against your prodigal, and it will not be effective. He might temporarily keep him/her from you, but your prayers to send godly influence into his/her life will be answered, and the devil's effectiveness will be cut off. It is extremely difficult to not take this personally, but with the help of the Lord, the truth can overcome the circumstance.

Second, we must trust that we have given them over to the Lord, into His more-than-capable hands, and that He is working and answering. He is stronger and wiser than Satan, and He is the Overcomer and Victor! God is already drawing your prodigal back to Himself, and He is very persuasive!

The Bible says God is watching over His word (Jeremiah 1:12). Therefore, He is watching that His word is doing what He sent it to do, even the word He sent through you as you taught your son and daughter the Bible and to love the Lord.

And we can trust God to keep the promises in His word and to us.

Third, we must monitor our reaction. We cannot allow it to cause us to ignore them, cut ties, quit trying, or to stop loving. (Of course, there are times boundaries are absolutely necessary. In this case, we still love, we forgive, and we pray for them and rest in God's promises until they are delivered and saved.)

I think the passage that shows this the most is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This passage is used often at weddings, but it definitely is effective as a rule of thumb when we love a prodigal.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love 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 never fails.

You raised your son or daughter to be loving and considerate of others, and that is who they are inside, even though their actions do not always say so. And now it seems they are not even considerate of you, their mom. The hurt and pain are normal, but the struggle is spiritual. The hurt and pain are normal, but they will not last, because you belong to Jehovah Rapha, The Lord Our Healer, and He WILL heal the hurt.

The prescription is:

- Pray and ask God for healing, love, wisdom, tenacity, and to teach your hands to war against the real enemy (Psalm 18:34; 2 Samuel 22:35).
- Read the Bible. Perhaps thumb through and read passages you have highlighted, or read your favorite psalm. Quote your favorite promise and declare it loudly.
- Praise God as Jehovah Rapha, The Lord Our Healer, Jehovah Shalom, The Lord Our Peace; Comforter; Strength, or whatever name brings you comfort—there are so many.
- Play, sing, or listen to praise and worship music. It drives away the enemy.

Even on Mother's Day, you can walk in victory while prayer through circumstances.¹

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Our Father, thank You for never leaving or forsaking me. I praise You as Jehovah Rapha, The Lord our Healer, and ask You to heal my hurting heart. I praise You as Jehovah Shalom, and ask You to give me peace of mind. I praise You as Comforter, and trust You alone for true comfort. When I am wronged, help me forgive. Give me wisdom in my reactions, and help me rest in Your promises. More than these, though, save _____. Heal him/her, and give him/her peace. In Jesus' name I pray.

¹From Fighting for Your Prodigal through Prayer: 365 Promises, Praises, and Prayers by Tami Winkelman, p. 134. © 2019 by Tami Winkelman.