An encouraging word to Mother’s

To encourage means to give somebody hope, confidence, or courage. It means to motivate somebody to take a course of action or continue doing something. That is what I want to do today for all women, mother’s and/or future mothers. I want to give you hope today, I want to give you confidence, and I want to give you courage because I deeply desire you to continue to be motivated to live a life up right before Christ.

You get up early and stay up late. You work long hours and have little time for yourself. You make everyone else a priority before yourself. You care about other’s plans way more than your own plans. You are a giver, provider, nurse, educator, financial planner, thinker, motivator, judge, counselor, and sometimes referee and I just want to take time today to tell you be encouraged! For the Lord sees all that your do and in His timing you will reap a harvest that will leave those close to you in awe and they will know that your God centered life was well worth it.

   Mother's day is just around the corner and for many the day is full of joy and celebration.  Still, there are those who might have a few mixed emotions on this holiday.  The idyllic imagery of motherhood often doesn't match up with the reality of life -- the reality that the relationships involved with motherhood are often far more complicated than we would wish.

MAYBE MOTHER’S DAY FEELS EMPTY

   **The sting of emptiness.**  Mother's day can be hard for those without children, those who have birthed children but the children have since been adopted, those who have buried their children and those who have experienced abortion.  The emptiness can sting our hearts as we watch happy families celebrating their beloved mommies, and we feel painfully left out. We can journey into the dark hallway of "why me?"     While it may sound simplistic, God fills empty places.

HANNAH was a empty mother- we find her story in the book of 1 Samuel. She one of the two wives that belonged to Elkanah (problem #1). She was loved by her husband but was barren – she could not get pregnant. Her rival, the other wife, would throw it in her face. And Elkanah favored Hannah and even told her I love you more than 10 sons. But there was an emptiness in her heart of not being able to produce that brought her to daily crying sessions. One year when they went up to the temple to give offerings and worship the Lord, Hannah, prayed this prayer.

**1 Samuel 1:11**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**11**Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

She prayed in silence but so patiently that the priest thought she was drunk.

And the bible says that in the process of time, the Lord remembered her prayer and she gave birth to a son Samuel. And after weaning (about 4 years old) she gave her son up for adoption to the priest and reminded the priest of her promise.

1 Samuel 2:21 - And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

MOTHERS DAY PROMISES….

**1 Peter 5:7**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**7**casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**Psalm 145:16**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**16**

You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**Isaiah 54:1-10**

“Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You *who* have not labored with child!

Sing praises unto God- singing takes talking to the next level. Singing is emotionally uplifting. Singing breaks chains – Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25-26) were found singing at midnight (the last minute of the day) and suddenly….woman of God, singing creates a SUDDENLY

  **Mistakes Made.**  Then there are those who are mothers, but perhaps have not been able to embrace the task with excellence.  Sometimes life's circumstances and baggage pull women's hearts in ways that make them unable to give love, attention or care to their little ones.     God's mercies are new every morning! Ask God and your family for forgiveness. Then walk in the Lord's grace.

THE STORY OF MARY

**Luke 2:41-45**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**The Boy Jesus Amazes the Scholars**

**41**His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42**And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. **43**When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother**[a]** did not know *it;* **44**but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. **45**So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

**Lamentations 3:22-24**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**22**

*Through* the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

**23**

*They are* new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.

**James 5:16**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**16**Confess *your* trespasses**[a]** to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

(A symptom of a dysfunctional family is one that deny the reality of what went wrong or what is going wrong – where there is no communication or emotional connection- a life a denial of reality by simply not facing the truth)

  **The sorrow over estranged or rebellious children.**  Many parents struggle under the heaviness of heart that accompanies children who have gone astray.  I have watched women who have been successful in every other area of life become utterly paralyzed with grief because of a grown child's drug addiction, abandonment of their family or other hurtful choices.  A mom recently told me that after her son had an affair and consequently divorced his wife, she felt as if he had been unfaithful to her as well and the entire family, not just his wife.

Many grandparents are raising their grandkids because their own children have been unable to do so.  My husband and I are deeply grateful for the ways our grandparents stepped in to fill in the gap for our parents.  And while there is great good that come from such a situation, it isn't without grief for those grandparents who long to see their own children making healthy choices.    In these situations, remember: God is sovereign. He turns the hearts of kings, so keep praying! Know that the Lord understands your sorrow because He has watched with grief as His children rebelled against Him. Nothing is too hard for Him, so hang onto hope that your children will one day walk with their Lord. After all, if you aren't praying and believing for them, who is?

SAMSON’S MOTHER –

Judges Chapters 13-16

**Judges 13**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**The Birth of Samson**

**13**Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

**2**Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren and had no children. **3**And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. **4**Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean. **5**For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

**Isaiah 1:2**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**The Wickedness of Judah**

**2**

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: “I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;

**Jeremiah 32:26-27**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**God’s Assurance of the People’s Return**

**26**Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, **27**“Behold, I *am* the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

   **The sadness over a mother who wasn't a mom.**  I heard a comedian making light of this topic. He was joking about how as a good son you are supposed to get your mom a card for Mother's Day, but if she really wasn't much of a mom, how do you find a card that doesn't rub it in or just straight out lie? While the routine was funny, the reality of it isn't. I know kids who have been left on street corners by their mom, or dumped with strangers. The pain from abandonment, rejection, and abuse can affect you long into adulthood.   God is big enough for the hurt and disappointment, and His love can heal any mistakes our parents might have made.  These verses have meant a great deal to my heart over the years:

STORY OF GOMER – in the book of Hosea…she abandoned her children

But Gomer grew bored and restless, missing her old life of excitement and the sexual immorality that came with it. She was used to having many men adore her. One no longer satisfied her tastes and she longed for the expensive gifts of clothing, perfumes and other extravagances she once received in exchange for her body. So Gomer sought them out and began hanging with her old friends. She began a love affair with another man, actually several men. She began to stay away from home for long periods of time, eventually spending weeks away. Her excuses grew thin and Hosea had to face the truth. His wife was being unfaithful to him and had dishonored their marriage vows. It was a slap in the face to the only man who had ever truly loved her.

**Psalm 27:10**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**10**

When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the Lord will take care of me.

**Isaiah 49:15-16**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**15**

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

**16**

See, I have inscribed you on the palms *of My hands;* Your walls *are* continually before Me.

**Jeremiah 31:3**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**3**

The Lord has appeared of old to me, *saying:* “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

  **The grief over a mom who has passed away.**  Mother's Day is hard for those who are missing their moms. No one can replace her, and Mother's Day is a keen reminder of her absence.     Jesus' response to the grief over the death of a loved one was to cry ([John 11:35](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/john/11-35.html)). He has compassion on our sorrow!  Death wasn't part of His original design. He doesn't like it anymore than you do!  He has, however, not left us without hope! We have hope for life in heaven with Him and our family of believers.

Give your grief over to the Lord ([Psalm 147:3](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/psalms/147-3.html), [Psalm 116:15](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/psalms/116-15.html), [1 Corinthians 15:51-52](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/1-corinthians/passage.aspx?q=1-corinthians+15:51-52)).  Also, if you are missing your mom, there just might be a mother out there who is grieving over a child.  Pray for the Lord to use you in the midst of your pain -- you might be surprised at what He does!

**Psalm 147:3**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**3**

He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.

**Psalm 116:15**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**15**

Precious in the sight of the Lord *Is* the death of His saints.

[**2 Corinthians 5:8**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians+5:8&version=NKJV) We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body** and to be present with the Lord.

[**James 4:9**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4:9&version=NKJV) Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to **mourning** and your joy to gloom.

CLOSE

To encourage means to give somebody hope, confidence, or courage. It means to motivate somebody to take a course of action or continue doing something. That is what I want to do today for all women, mother’s and/or future mothers. I want to give you hope today, I want to give you confidence, and I want to give you courage because I deeply desire you to continue to be motivated to live a life up right before Christ.

 PRAYER