

## "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY"

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### **For this talk, I was searching about what moms really want for Mother's Day...**

- So as I'm trying to find the main theme for today... one of the articles that popped up was from WikiHow which gives instructions on... "How to Celebrate Mother's Day (with pictures)."
- I pulled a few of these instructions which I thought were most helpful...(Images)
  - 1."How to Celebrate: Know which day Mother's Day is."
  - 2."Discuss the day with your other family members."
  - 3."On Gift Giving: Think of your mom as a person."
  - 4."On Taking Mom Out: Give Her Time to Get Ready: make sure that you schedule at least 60-90 minutes for your mom to get ready. You don't want her to feel stressed so give her time, even if it's 2 hours or more!" ...at this point, mom is probably taking a nap.
  - 5."CLEAN UP." This is listed twice... makes me positive a woman most likely wrote this.
- Next article I found from Parenting Magazine : Top 10 Things Moms Want for Mother's Day
  - 1.A clean house
  - 2.Sleep
  - 3.A really good workout... This is where I stopped reading this fictional article...
- Most articles went something along the lines of the usual stuff...time to themselves, not cleaning, cooking, flowers, chocolate etc.
- But the more I thought and prayed, I started thinking over the last couple weeks and God brought several thoughts and conversations to mind... I propose, what I think we really need wasn't mentioned in anything I read.

### **My Mom Story...**

- If you have a mother (you're all here, so you have one), or you've had children, you know that along with amazing and beautiful moments come moments of pain.
- In the beginning I thought I had my life mostly together...

## When my children were small...

- Our son, Gabe : He was pretty easy going, very responsible, mostly obedient (people asked us advice)
- Our daughter, Taylor : She was more strong willed, very social, mostly obedient (no one really minded, she's a red head after all)
- Our daughter, Elena : Whose baby is this?! We were given books, sit down talks, advice, etc. It was so hard I gave up hope. Danny and I felt like failures. We basically lost our minds!

## Now my children are young adults...

- I thought parenting young children was the hardest season of all time, but having young adults is way more stressful! Part of the difference being that your 3-year-old is not going to face real world adult consequences...
- There can be a lot of hardship, and suffering (especially for those of us who have teenagers...) Sleepless nights, discouragement, and feelings of failure.

**What I really wanted, more than clean houses, sleep, gifts and really great workouts, was and is HOPE.**

*(Vs) Romans 5:3-5 - "...but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

## **I feel like a lot of Moms are looking for hope...**

### **Hope can go both ways...**

**Hope-Full...**Some of you are in an awesome place and you are hopeful for things to come. The outlook is pretty good. For instance...

- With my mom, whom I love and is one of my best friends and a pioneer of being awesome! I hope I get many, many more Mother's Days with her.
- With my daughter, who is so sweet and asked me to send her a list of stuff I want for Mother's Day. I hope we keep having a great relationship...Happy Mother's Day!

## **Or Hope-Less...**

- An amazing lady, who all she wants desperately is to be married and have children, but doesn't even have a boyfriend. She feels a bit hopeless sometimes...Happy Mother's Day.
- With a mom who is broken hearted and devastated as her young adult son was going to jail this week... Happy Mother's Day.
- With a man who has tried, but has a rough relationship with his mom, who texted him just recently to "Have a nice life." ...Happy Mother's Day
- When Mother's Day sounds more like this, you can look around and wonder where is the hope? You, as a child, are left with feelings of being abandoned, forgotten, written off... or you as a parent won't measure up, your dreams for your children become shattered, or you want to give up...

**Without hope, we become depressed, sad, lonely (insert your bad feeling here) and can feel like everything is ruined...**

*(Vs) Proverbs 3:12 - "Hope deferred makes the heart sick..."*

## **We NEED hope! Why?**

### **It brings us joy and peace.**

*(Vs) Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

### **It gives us the strength and courage to go on.**

*(Vs) Psalm 31:24 NIV - "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."*

### **It gives us a promise.**

*(Vs) Romans 8:26-28 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

**Where to find it? Sometimes we try to find it in lots of different things... but ...**

**We find HOPE in God's promises.**

*(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 1:20a - "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ."*

## Where can we find hope? We can find hope in God's promises.

- **God promises us that if we search for Him, we will find Him**

*(Vs) Deuteronomy 4:29 – But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

- **He promises us comfort in our trials**

*(Vs) 1 Corinthians 1:3-4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction...”*

- **He promises peace when we pray**

*(Vs) Phil. 4:6-7 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

- **He promises to supply our needs**

*(Vs) Phil. 4:19 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

- **He promises us abundant life**

*(Vs) John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

- If you feel like you're tired, and failing, or maybe you are past that place to the point things feel ruined, I propose that you need to take the step of either inviting or re-inviting God into your life. He is the hope for the hopeful and the hopeless...

*(Vs) Isaiah 40:28-31 – Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*