**MOTHERHOOD WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

*“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”*(2 Tim. 1:5)

The Northwest church presently has in our fellowship 62 mothers. I might also add that it has 22 grandmothers. Wow, we are so blessed! Today (May 7) is listed on my calendar as *National Day Of Prayer*. Sunday (May 10) is the favorite day of greeting card, chocolate, and florist companies. It is *Mother’s Day*. It is my intention in this article to combine both days by praying for our mothers and grandmothers.

Before I pray I want to say to all of you “*Lois and Eunice*” women in our church that I love you for the tremendous influence and impact you have had on the kingdom of God. By fulfilling your God-given role of motherhood you have changed the eternal destiny of not only many in this generation, but in future generations to come. Only God knows the souls that will be saved, both now and into the third and fourth generations, by what you are doing today. Ruth, Hannah, Elizabeth and so many other women had no idea what their faithful duties of motherhood would mean to the generations yet unborn. What you are doing now for your children and grandchildren will only be seen in its full glory at the judgment day.

 “*A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world*.” (John 16:21)

I am sure each of you remembers your baby’s first cry and the “*joy that a child is born into the world*.” It forever changed your life. In history we think of the impact that kings, prime ministers, presidents, military leaders, and business tycoons have had on the world. But kingdoms rise and fall. Corporations come and go. The real change-agents of history are summed up in the old proverb: “The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world.” That is more than a cute saying, it is an eternal truth. Don’t believe me? Read Titus 2:3-5. Read Proverbs 31:10-31.

I want to share with all of you beautiful godly women a story I read in *Reader’s Digest* way back in the February 1991 edition. I loved it then. I love it now. I saved it for occasions just like this. I hope you enjoy it. After you read it, I will pray for you.

**"What Motherhood Really Means"**

***It will change your life, but not in the way you think****.*

Time is running out for my friend. While we are sitting at lunch, she casually mentions that she and her husband are thinking of "starting a family." What she means is that her biological clock has begun its countdown, and she is forced to consider the prospect of motherhood.

'It will change your life,' I say carefully, keeping my tone neutral.

'I know' she says. 'No more sleeping in on Saturdays, no more spontaneous vacations ...'

But that is not what I mean at all. I try to decide what to tell her.

I want her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes: that the physical wounds of childbearing heal, but that becoming a mother will leave an emotional wound so raw that she will be forever vulnerable. I consider warning her that she will never read a newspaper again without asking, 'What if that had been my child?'

I look at her manicured nails and stylish suit and think that no matter how sophisticated she is, becoming a mother will reduce her to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub.

I feel I should warn her that no matter how many years she has invested in her career, she will be professionally derailed by motherhood. She might arrange for childcare, but one day she will be going into an important meeting, and she will think about her baby's sweet smell. She will have to use every ounce of discipline to keep from running home, just to make sure her child is all right.

I want my friend to know that everyday decisions will no longer be routine. That a five-year-old boy's desire to go to the men's room rather that the women's at a restaurant will become a major dilemma. However, decisive she may be at the office, she will second-guess herself constantly as a mother.

Looking at my attractive friend, I want to assure her that eventually she will shed the pounds of pregnancy, but she will never feel the same about herself. That her life, now so important, will be of less value to her once she has a child. That she would give it up in a moment to save her offspring, but will also begin to hope for more years - not to accomplish her own dreams, but to watch her child accomplish his.

My friend's relationship with her husband will change, but not in the way she thinks. I wish she could understand how much more you can love a man who is always careful to powder the baby or who never hesitates to play with his son. I think she should know that she will fall in love with her husband again for reasons she would now find very unromantic.

I want to describe to my friend the exhilaration of seeing your son learning to hit a baseball. I want to capture for her the belly laugh of a baby who is touching the soft fur of a puppy for the first time. I want her to taste the joy that is so real it hurts.

My friend's quizzical look makes me realize that tears have formed in my eyes. ''You'll never regret it," I say finally. Then, squeezing my friend's hand, I offer a prayer for her and me and all the mere, mortal women who stumble into this holiest of callings --- MOTHERHOOD!

A prayer for mothers and grandmothers:

“Dear heavenly Father, You had the wisdom and foreknowledge to create not only the vast universe of galaxies and planets, but the home and family to inhabit it as a cornerstone for society. Into every birth you put the natural affection of a mother’s love to nourish and cherish each child. Thank you for giving them the special gift of loving hands that seemed to forever be washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, stirring, hugging, holding, changing, disciplining, writing, erasing, painting and pouring.

Father, help each of them to know that the seemingly mundane tasks they do day in and day out are eternal in their consequences. Help them to know that while they are not out saving the planet, they are saving the world - one life at a time. That the time spent nursing, reading, teaching, playing and praying for their children is doing more for Your glory than anything else happening on earth. We pray that the grace that flowed from You to Your Son will now flow from their hands and hearts to their children.

Father, we honor our mothers and grandmothers this day. May You give them now this blessing: *“The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’*

We all love you and thank you. Rick