

NICHOLAS DUNCAN WILLIAMS

WHEN MOTHERS
PRAY



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When Mothers Pray

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All scriptural quotations are from King James Version of the Bible unless stated otherwise

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Introduction

In the Beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. God saw His work and said that it was good. Later on, He created man and woman. Gen. 1:27-28(a) says, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth...”

God was telling the male and female that one of his chief reasons for putting the male and female together was for reproduction. Before God gave any instructions to the couple he created, He blessed them. Since God was their covering, when He blessed them, He was conveying all the tools they would ever need to lead successful lives.

Without the man, there could be no seed but without the woman there could be no birth. So, it is safe to say that a woman or a mother is a life giver.

In this book, I will be discussing the values of a praying mother. I will feature biblical mothers who faced difficult challenges but got the victory through prayer which they passed down to their children. I will also present people who are not in the bible but they had praying mothers who through prayer; changed the course of their destiny.

A wise, Godly mother, covers, her child in prayer because she knows that there are no limits to the power of prayer. If you are a mother, a mother to be, it is my prayer that this book will challenge you to pray because prayer changes things and people.

Chapter One

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GODLY MOTHER

The word "mother" or "mothers" appears in the Bible almost 300 times. In bible times, motherhood was regarded as the highest honor that could be given to a married woman. A wife who gave birth, especially to a man-child, was the embodiment of a good marriage. In certain cultures, this is still true.

When a child is in the womb, most Godly mothers may pray as they lay hands on her stomach, sing praise and worship songs or recite the word of God to their unborn child. They know they have to guard their soul and gird up their spirit because the nine month pregnancy phase is very critical to their well-being as well as the well-being of their unborn child. During this stage, the child is most vulnerable and the mother should be careful to reside in an atmosphere of peace because whatever happens to her affects the child in the womb. Armed with this information, when a Godly mother lay hands on her stomach and pray, the child receives the ‘download’ and immediately stores the data for later usage. The child is actually born with whatever knowledge of good or evil that the mother imparts.

Furthermore, when a child is born, the mother influence grows even more because in most cases, the mother spends more time with her newborn: feeding, changing diapers, cuddling and doing whatever is necessary to ensure that her baby is comfortable. A good mother has to be unselfish, putting the needs of her child above hers.

A mother is designed to take the seed from the man, incubate, nourish then release it through child birth which is exclusively her God-

given ability.

A mother has a special type of influence on her child. It is different to the role or influence that the father has. From the moment a child is conceived, until the child leaves home, there is a unique bond that God has instilled in a mother-child relationship. Proverbs 1:8-9 says, “My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”

When a mother prays for her child, she releases virtues from her spirit through a Godly impartation into the life of her child. A man may think all day long and only come up with 1 idea but a woman; when she sits and meditate on something she can produce many aspects and varieties of what she was pondering upon. This is so because women have been wired naturally to incubate and produce!

The roles of a Godly mother are varied:

1. She is an instructor:

She teaches her children the ways of Christ and the ways of the world. For example, many children know scriptural verses, Christian songs, etc. because mother taught them. As they grow, she influences them to live by the principles of God. She teaches them the ways of the world by instructing them to stay away from drugs, alcohol and sex outside of marriage.

2. She is a Nurse

When a Godly mother breast feeds a baby, she is giving that child more than milk; she is giving her child a part of herself. As the child gazes into its mother's eyes, the spirit of God may be imparted. When a child is sick and cranky, especially at night, a mother has to lovingly nurse her

child back to health. Godly mothers are known for ‘praying through’ until the power of God change the adverse situation facing her or her child.

3. She is compassionate

I Kings 3:17 & 18 records that there were two roommates who had given birth to newborn babies. One of the women rolled over and crushed her baby to death. The bible says that at midnight, this woman, switched babies with the woman she was sharing the room with. When the mother was going to breast feed her child, she discovered that the child sleeping next to her was dead. Immediately, she knew that the dead child did not belong to her. However, her roommate insisted that the living child was hers. Therefore, they took the matter to King Solomon who after hearing both testimonies decided to cut the baby in half. However, the bible says in I Kings 3:26, “Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.” The woman whose son was alive portrayed the characters and virtues of a Godly mother.

4. She is a personal consultant

Mothers mostly know what to say at the right time and at the moment you need to hear it. Also, a mother’s words have a way of staying with you throughout your lifetime. Have you ever heard someone say, “My mother used to say...?”

Mothers are the bedrock of any society. For example, I found a story on uExpress.com that ‘drives my point home’: “Some years ago, executives of a greeting-card company decided to do something special for Mother's Day. They set up a table in a federal prison, inviting any inmate who so desired to send a free card to his mom. The lines were so long, they had to make another trip to the factory to get more cards. Due to the

success of the event, they decided to do the same thing on Father's Day, but this time no one came. Not one prisoner felt the need to send a card to his dad. Many had no idea who their fathers even were. What a sobering illustration of a dad's importance to his children.” Mothers should be appreciated every day, all day; especially a Godly mother!

Chapter Two

MARY

Mary, the mother of Jesus was a Jewish resident of Nazareth in Galilee and was of the tribe of Judah. Her name in Hebrew is Miriam.

Some bible scholars say that she was about 13 – 17 years old when she was approached by an angel who informed her that she was about to be the mother of Jesus. Of course, she was confused by the presence of the angel and the information which he shared with her. According to Luke 1:34, “Then said Mary unto the angel, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” The angel responded to her in verse 35 and said, “...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Thanks be to God, Mary’s response was full of wisdom and purpose as she said, “...Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy word...” Mary’s decision to become the mother of the Savior of the world was in concert with the Spirit of God.

Many Christians experience this same scenario; once a word is given from the Lord, opposition comes almost immediately to try our faith. When trials and tests visit our lives, we often wonder if we made a right decision in our choice to obey God or we wonder if we heard correctly from God.

Maybe, as Mary was traveling from one place to the next with Joseph in an effort to secure the life of her son, thoughts of discouragement entered her mind. Come on, imagine with me:

1. She had to leave her family in a rush
2. She was on the run from the government
3. She had to wait until the birth of Jesus before she could consummate her marriage to Joseph
4. Her first born was placed in a manger. The Hebrew word for manger is phatne, which is also translated as the word, stall. Any woman would want their baby to be born in the most comfortable environment possible, however, that was not Mary's portion.
5. After the birth of Jesus, she moved a few more times, again in an effort to secure the life of her son.

I believe when the angel appeared unto her, she counted the cost immediately. Although the task of giving birth to the Savior of the world was a great responsibility, it was a huge honor as well. In Luke 1:40 - 56, during her visit with her cousin, Elisabeth, Mary said, "...My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things: and holy is his name..."

Elisabeth placed honor on Mary when she declared the words found in Luke 1:45: "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Incidentally, that scripture is one of my favorite scriptures. It implies; first, that there is a blessing for just believing the word of God. Secondly; it emphatically states that there will be a performance of those things that were told to you by the Lord. The Lord is not a liar; if He said it, He is able to make good on His word to you!

Mary was resolute in her faith in God! Likewise, she believed in her son. By the way, most mothers do. Have you noticed how in the eyes of a

devoted mother, her child can do no wrong?

Mary attended a wedding in Cana of Galilee and Jesus and his disciplines were in attendance as well. During a certain point, Mary came to Jesus and informed him that there was no more wine at the wedding reception. He basically responded to her informing her that it was none of his business and he wasn't about to fix the problem because his time for miracles had not yet come. Well, no body knows you quite like your mother so, Mary went to his disciples and told them, "Whatsoever, he saith unto you, do it," (John 2: 5).

Jesus loved His mother dearly; so much so that while he was dying upon the cross, he ensured that she had one of his disciples to look after her. Mary went to live with John after the crucifixion.

Mary's legacy of honor and love for her God is still being honored today in many religions. Some people worship her, name schools, churches and hospitals in her honor. However, the scripture does not reveal that she accepted worship but rather gave worship to God.

Her son, Jesus performed many signs and wonders but he always found a way to communicate with his father, God. I believe Mary raised her son to obey and adhere to the will of God at any cost because like his mother, he submitted his will to the Father when he said, "not my will but thine be done". That prayer of submission was almost identical to his mother's when she said, "Be it unto me according unto thy word."

What happened as a result of Mary's prays

Jesus:

[Changed water into wine](#)

[Healed the royal official's son](#)

[Healed the Capernaum demoniac](#)

[Healed Peter's mother-in-law](#)

[Caused the disciples to catch a large number of fish](#)

[Healed a leper](#)

Healed a centurion's servant
Healed a paralytic
Healed a withered hand
Raised a widow's son
Calmed the stormy sea
Healed the Gerasene demoniac
Healed a woman with internal bleeding
Raised Jairus' daughter
Healed two blind men
Healed a mute demoniac
Healed a 38 year invalid
Fed 5000 men and their families
Walked on water
Healed a demoniac girl
Healed a deaf man with a speech impediment
Fed 4000 men and their families
Healed a blind man
Healed a man born blind
Healed a demoniac boy
Caught a fish with a coin in its mouth
Healed a blind and mute demoniac
Healed a woman with an 18 year infirmity
Healed a man with dropsy
Healed 10 lepers
Raised Lazarus from the dead
Healed Bartimaeus of blindness
Restored a severed ear
Caused the disciples to catch a great number of fish
Resurrected from the dead after spending three days in a tomb
Ascended from earth

Chapter Three

HANNAH

Hannah was the preferred wife of Elkanah; a Levite from Ramah in Ephraim. Elkanah was also married to Peninnah. Now, the bible said that Peninnah had children; both daughters and sons but Hannah was childless, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

Every year, Elkanah went out of the city to worship and make sacrifices to the Lord in Shiloh, which was the capital city of Canaan. Elkanah gave portions of meat that was to be sacrificed to Peninnah and her children but to Hannah, he gave a worthy or a double portion because “he loved” her. In my research, I found out that Hannah’s name (in Hebrew) meant grace or favor. So every time someone called her name, they were prophesying that God was going to bless her in an unmerited, unexplainable fashion.

If you notice, after the 7th verse of I Samuel, you never hear anything else about Peninnah and her children but I and II Samuel go onto to talk about Hannah’s son.

Hannah prayed to God for a child, and she vowed that if He granted her request, she would give him back to The Lord as a life-long Nazirite. A great definition of a *Nazirite is one who is sanctified, (set apart for a specific duty or calling) separated, or consecrated to God.*

There are two categories of a Nazirite vow:

1. Life-long

To my knowledge, there are only three Nazirites in the

bible, they are: Sampson, Samuel and John the Baptist. These men could not drink alcohol; allow a razor to come upon their head, (hair) and they could not be in the vicinity of a dead body all the days of their lives.

2. Seasonal

The seasonal Nazirite is explained in Numbers 6:1-8 (Revised Standard Version). "And The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, When either a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to The Lord, he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink, and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried. All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, not even the seeds or the skins. All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the time is completed for which he separates himself to The Lord, he shall be holy; he shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long. All the days that he separates himself to The Lord he shall not go near a dead body. Neither for his father nor for his mother, nor for brother or sister, if they die, shall he make himself unclean; because his separation to God is upon his head. All the days of his separation he is holy to The Lord."

When the vow was complete, the Nazirite then burned his shaven hair and presented specific offerings to God, (Numbers 6:10-21).

In Sampson's and John the Baptist's case, an angel, proclaimed their Nazirite status but Hannah, told the Lord, if He gives her a son, she would raise him to adhere to a Nazirite lifestyle all the days of his life.

Once God opened up the womb of Hannah and caused her to bring forth a son, she did as she vowed; she took her son to the temple to be raised by Eli the Priest. During the day that Samuel was handed over to the priest, Hannah prayed a powerful prayer in I Samuel 2:1-10. The first

five verses say, “And Hannah prayed, and said, my heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.”

Hannah gave a precious seed to God; she gave her first-born son, Samuel. As a result, he became a great prophet in Israel. The bible said not one of his words fell to the ground. So, the prayers of Hannah gave her son a lasting prophetic mantle that never waned until his death.

What happened when Hannah prayed

Samuel began to hear the voice of the Lord at an early age

Samuel became the first child to wear a linen ephod which represented the priestly garments, I Sam. 2:18

Samuel judged Israel until the people asked for a King

Samuel was chosen by God to appoint and anoint two Kings in his lifetime

He maintained a lifestyle of Godly leadership without the stain of sin

Chapter Four

ELISABETH

Elizabeth, the wife of Zacharias and the mother of John the Baptist, stand among the many women in the bible who are respected for their Godly character and lifestyles. She was also the cousin of Mary, who was the mother of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Elizabeth was a Levite and a descendant of Aaron, the high priest. If Elizabeth was living today, she would be known as a first lady, because her husband was a priest in Judaea.

Elizabeth's name means, "God is my oath or promise". Truly, the meaning of her name was right in line with the story of her life. She was barren; unable to procreate. However, at a time in her life when it seemed like her prayers were not going to be answered according to 'life's calendar', an angel appeared to her husband and promised him that God was going to give her a son in her old age. She had to hold onto the promise or oath given to her by God when her pregnancy was a mere five days old and she could see no signs of pregnancy in her body.

Similarly, her husband's name, Zacharias, means "God remembers." As I mentioned, they were an older couple who were passed the age of child bearing. The King James Version of the bible referred to them as "stricken in years." However, God remembered the prayers of Zacharias. The bible says that both Zacharias and his wife were righteous, blameless and kept all of the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

One may ask how could she be blameless and yet barren? Allow me to inform you that if you serve God and you are experiencing any state of lack, He will not only remember you but he will reward your faithfulness.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

We not only seek God via a lifestyle of prayer but also through a lifestyle of service. Elisabeth had to adjust to not having her husband around all the time as he was a priest who sometimes lived in the house of the Lord. During one of these periods of service, he was visited by an angel who told him that Elisabeth was going to bear him a son whose name was to be called John. Now, keep in mind that Elisabeth was not around when the angel told her husband about her impending pregnancy nor was she privy to the name given to the child she was about to bear.

Zacharias, looking at his circumstances and the age of his wife, simply asked the angel for a sign. However, his question was countered with the judgment of dumbness until the manifestation of the word given by the angel came to pass.

During the sixth month of Elisabeth’s pregnancy, her cousin, Mary, also pregnant, visited her. As Mary greeted Elisabeth, the baby leaped within her womb and she was filled with the Holy Ghost. Now, I believe that when Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, her son in the womb was filled as well because, Luke 1: 15(b) says, “He shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.”

Mary left Elisabeth’s house when she was six months pregnant which meant that Elisabeth was 9 months or had given birth before Mary left.

When she gave birth, her neighbors and some of her family members gathered to celebrate with her. These same people, at the baby’s circumcision ceremony, wanted to name the child Zacharias in honor of his father but Elisabeth disagreed.

She had to be a woman of prayer because she knew by the spirit once her son was born, that his name should be John. When she announced the name, her husband probably in amazement at the faithfulness of God, asked for something to write with so he could join forces with his wife. When he wrote the name of his son, immediately, he received his speech. When his tongue was loosed, his first utterances were praises to God!

As a result of John's conception and birth; everyone in his family including himself, was filled with the Holy Ghost even before the dispensation of the Holy Ghost was revealed upon the earth. Luke 1:67-68 and 76-79 says, "And his father, Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

What happened when Elisabeth prayed

The priest of her home, (husband) received an angelic visitation

Her old body which was past the phase of child bearing responded to the power of her decrees and an angel appeared to her husband to announce her pregnancy

Her reproach was taken away

She received a divine visitation from her cousin Mary who was carrying the seed of the Holy Ghost; (Jesus)

She received the infilling of the Holy Spirit

Her child was the only child recorded in the bible to have received the Holy Ghost while in the womb

She was privilege to house and feed Mary and Jesus (while he was yet in the womb)

She gave birth to John, the fore-runner of Jesus

She knew (by the spirit) the name that the angel proclaimed to Zacharias, her husband

John was separated onto the service of the Lord; he was a Nazirite

John baptized Jesus

John had his own disciples

John told people in many regions about the ministry of Jesus

Jesus said concerning John, "I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John," (Luke 7:28(a). (Amplified Version)

Chapter Five

REBEKAH

Rebekah is known to many as a controversial biblical mother. However, I beg to differ because I believe she acted in accordance with a direct word given to her by the Lord. Well, before we get too deep into her life, let us go to the first time she appears in the bible and work our way back to this point.

Abraham was old and probably wanted to ensure that before he died, he obtained a wife for his son, Isaac. So, he made the oldest servant who lived in his house to take an oath that he would go to his homeland and find a wife for his son.

Once the servant arrived, he prayed and basically asked God to grant him favor in finding his master a daughter-in-law. He stopped at a well during the time of day that women drew water from the well. He prayed that the woman, who obeyed his request for a drink and also offer to give a drink to his camels as well, will be the chosen wife for Isaac. Hence, when Rebekah arrived at the well, she did as the servant asked and then volunteered to draw water for his 10 camels.

When she had completed her laborious task, the servant gave her jewelry. Then he asked her two important questions: the names of her parents and could her family home accommodate him and his camels for the night. Rebekah, told him who her parents were and she told a complete stranger that there was room enough for him and his camels at her house.

When the servant got the answers he wanted to hear, he worshiped God and went to her house where he met her brother Laban and her father, Bethuel. Once the servant told them of the favor of the Lord concerning his mission, they both consented that it was the doing of the Lord. According to Gen. 24:51, “Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her and go and let her be thy master’s son’s wife, as the Lord hath spoken.” When the servant heard the words of the two men, he worshipped the Lord again.

The prayerful attitude of the servant allowed me to know that the household Rebekah was about to become apart of was one of worship and prayer.

While every one was in agreement for her to go, her mother and Laban her brother wanted her to stay at least 10 day before departing but the servant wanted to return to his master, Abraham. So they asked Rebekah if she preferred to stay 10 days or go immediately and she said, “I will go.” Verse 60 of Gen. 24 says, “And they blessed Rebekah and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.”

Upon their arrival, Rebekah became the wife of [Isaac](#) and 20 years later became the first woman in the bible to give birth to twins; Esau and Jacob. According to Genesis 25:21, Rebekah was barren and her husband prayed to the Lord on her behalf and she conceived.

During her pregnancy, she was extremely uncomfortable and she inquired of the Lord and He told her: “Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and *the elder shall serve the younger.*”

Jacob and Esau were at odds with each other even when they were inside their mother’s womb. This feud or rivalry lasted into their adult life.

A factor that did not help matters was the fact that Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob, Gen. 25:28.

Jacob deceived his brother twice: first, Jacob enticed or tricked his brother into selling his birthright for a mere meal of pottage as a result of being hungry and faint. Once Esau sold his birthright, the bible said from that day he hated his birthright.

Later on in life, when their father was about to give his blessing to his oldest son, Esau, Rebekah was instrumental in ensuring that Jacob got the blessing instead.

I believe Rebekah was acting in accordance to the word from the Lord she received when the children were in her womb. Part of the message she got while pregnant was; “the elder shall serve the younger.”

Once Esau realized the evil that his brother had committed against him, he wanted to kill Jacob. However, Rebekah stepped in again and sent him away quickly to her brother, Laban.

Unfortunately, Rebekah never saw her son again because she died before he returned home many years later.

Rebekah was buried in Hebron with some other relatives including Abraham and Sarah. The place is known as the Tomb of The Patriarchs. She is an ancestor of all of [The Tribes of Israel](#), therefore, she is also an ancestor of [Jesus Christ](#).

What happened when Rebekah prayed

She got direction from God concerning the children she was carrying. This direction led her to be involved in a scheme that was unethical but Godly

She secured the life of the father of the tribes of Israel by sending him to her brother's house.

Chapter Six

RACHEL

Rachel was the daughter of Laban, the wife of Jacob and the mother of [Joseph](#) and Benjamin. Her husband was the progenitor of the 12 men who made up the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jacob, Rachel's husband-to-be found himself in the land of his mother's birth because he was involved in a successful plot to steal the family's first born blessing." Now, this blessing should have been his brother, Esau's honor, as he was the first born. Esau wanted to kill Jacob and when their mother got wind of the impending death of Jacob, she instructed him to flee to her hometown, Haran.

Once Jacob arrived in Haran; his ancestral homeland, he met Rachel who was tending to her father's sheep. He offered to water the sheep, he kissed her then the bible says he lifted up his voice and wept.

Jacob was attracted to his cousin and loved her as soon as he laid eyes on her just like his dad, Isaac. Once he kissed her and told her who he was, she ran home and told her father about the visitor who happened to be a close relation.

Laban allowed Jacob to stay with them for a month then he asked Jacob what he wanted as payment for working the family business. Jacob did not waste time telling Laban that he wished to marry Rachel. Well, Laban, being the shrewd businessman that he was, wasn't just going to give his daughter away without getting something out of the deal.

On what was supposed to be Rachel's wedding night can you imagine her father coming to her and saying, "Baby, I think it will be a

great idea if your sister, Leah marries your fiancé tonight instead of you, after all she is the oldest.” Rachel must have died a thousand silent deaths that night when her sister was making love to her fiancé.

In those days, disobedience to parents was not acceptable or even expected; especially from a female child. So, when Laban made the decision to swap daughters, he was not concerned that Rachel would rebel against his decision. Laban, knowing that Leah was no beauty queen, felt if he did not get her a husband, she may not have been chosen by an eligible male suitor.

In any case, once Jacob realized that he had been tricked, he approached Laban who gave him the new arrangements in order to obtain Rachel. Jacob did not fuss or fight because he really wanted Rachel to be his wife.

When Rachel was finally able to marry Jacob, she found out she was barren. She was so filled with envy and rage that she eventually told Jacob, “give me children or else I die.” Jacob angrily responded by asking her if he was God; the one who has withheld the fruit of her womb. It appeared as if she did not even hear him because she was busy plotting, trying to figure out a solution to her problem. She offered her husband her maid; Bilhah who produced Jacob two sons in Rachel’s honor.

While she was happy that her maid Bilhah had borne two children in her honor, Rachel probably kept praying for a child to come forth out of her own womb. In Gen. 30:22 - 24, the bible says, “And God remembered Rachel and God hearkened to her, and opened up her womb. And she conceived and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: And she called his name Joseph; and said, the Lord shall add to me another son.” I believe that Rachel was the first woman in the bible to prophesy; she said, “The Lord shall add to me another son.”

After Joseph's birth, Jacob made yet another arrangement with Laban which caused him to get the best of Laban's livestock. It was at that point that Jacob decided to flee from the presence of his un-just father-in-law and head back to the land of his birth.

As Jacob and his family were on their way out of town, Laban discovered that they had fled without saying good-bye. He also discovered that some of his images or idols were missing. Once he caught up with Jacob, he rebuked him for leaving the way he did. He accused Jacob of taking his idols and Jacob told Laban that he did not steal anything from him and confidently challenged Laban to search his entire camp. Jacob said in Gen. 31:32, "With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, **let him not live**: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them."

Laban did not find his gods because Rachel sat on them and asked her father to excuse her for not getting up because the "custom of women" was upon her. I think that day, God judged her for not only stealing her father's gods and bringing them into her husband's camp but also for lying to her father and deceiving him.

As Jacob was journeying with his family back to his homeland, Rachel went into labor. Gen. 35:17 records, "*And it came to pass when she was in hard labour that the midwife said unto her, Fear not: thou shalt have this son also.*" The bible states that Rachel died but before she died, I believe the midwife was used by God to remind Rachel of the faithfulness of God when she reaffirmed Rachel's prophesy: "The Lord shall add to me another son."

Soon after, she gave birth to a boy she called his name, Ben-oni which means, son of my sorrow. However, Jacob immediately changed his

name to Benjamin which means son of my right hand. Rachel was the first woman in the bible to lose her life during childbirth.

As Rachel was probably taking her last breaths she probably became very sad concerning some of the things she had done, including:

Exclaiming to her husband, “Give me children or else I die” She lashed out in anger, jealousy, frustration and bitterness against the wrong person. Her husband was not the cause of her barrenness. What a blessing it would have been if she obeyed Luke 21:19 which says, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” Trials have a way of producing patience within. You see, God is not interested so much in our frustration as he is in us growing in our souls which is our will, minds and emotions. God wants us to allow His will to be done in our lives knowing that He made us and knows what is best for us.

Allowing her sister to sleep with her husband for some mandrakes (food), when it was apparently her turn to have him Rachel asked Leah for some of her son’s mandrakes and Leah refused to give her what she requested. However, Rachel like Esau, gave away her blessing for something to eat. Gen. 30:15(b) says, “And Rachel said, therefore, he shall lie with thee tonight for thy son’s mandrakes.” That night, Leah conceived yet another son, causing Rachel more sorrow and jealousy.

Stealing her father’s gods, and then deceiving him when he came to her tent in search of his property I believe Rachel stole her father’s gods because she was tired of waiting on the true and living God to answer her prayers for children. These gods only brought her trouble and I believe they caused her premature death. Her husband said, “With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live.”

Calling her new born the son of her sorrow. As her soul was departing from her she attributed her sorrow to an innocent baby. Of

course, some of her sorrow was caused from her barrenness but other disappointments in her life came from her bad decisions or choices.

Now, you may be asking so how was Rachel a praying mother? If you are honest, you will admit that on your pathway of life while you are waiting on your breakthroughs, you go through strong periods of faith. However, if your breakthrough evades you after believing for a period of time, your faith may wane and you may do or say things that you would later come to regret just like Rachel. So you see, every step of a righteous man or woman is truly ordered by God. It may seem that Rachel received a raw deal in life as it concerns the events she endured, especially the slow timetable placed on her by God. However, God had a plan through her child, Joseph that was bigger than anything she could have dreamed or imagine. *“Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is, Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day”* (Genesis 35:19-20).

What happened when Rachel prayed

She was the one chosen to be positioned at the well with her father’s flocks and she not only attracted but mesmerized Jacob her husband-to-be. Jacob became the progenitor of the men who made up the 12 tribes of Israel.

Although she was frustrated in the waiting period assigned by God, at the right time, He hearkened unto her prayer and opened up her womb. Had she given birth earlier, Joseph would not have been able to supply grain to the ‘then known world.’ According to information found on Wikipedia.org, “As a ruler, Joseph changed the system of land-tenure in Egypt. The famine being severe, the people first expended all their money in the purchase of corn, and then they sold their cattle, finally they gave up their land. Thus, all the cultivated land in Egypt, except that of the priests,

became the property of the crown, and the people farmed it for the king, giving him one-fifth of the produce, (Gen. 47: 14-26).”

Chapter Seven

NAOMI

Naomi was the wife of Elimelech; and mother of Mahlon and Chilion. The bible explains that Naomi's husband moved the family to Moab to escape a famine. They were originally from Bethlehem - Judah. While in Moab, her sons married Ruth and Orpah.

The bible does not state the reasons but all of the men in Naomi's life, (immediate family) died. She was so overcome with grief that it is recorded she changed her name from Naomi which means delightful, pleasant and sweet to Mara which means bitter.

Naomi decided to return home to Judah with her two daughter-in-laws because she heard that the famine was over. Ruth 1:6-7 records, "Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that The Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. Wherefore, she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters- in-law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah."

However, as they were on their way back to Naomi's homeland, Naomi urges Ruth and Orpah to return to Moab. Orpah probably was going with her mother out of family obligation. However, once Naomi released her, she decided that the best thing for her was to stay in her familiar surroundings so she returned back to Moab.

On the other hand, Ruth chose to accompany Naomi back to Bethlehem. Ruth 1:16-17, says "And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people,

and thy God my God. Where thou diest, will I die and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

When they arrived in [Bethlehem](#) they did so in the beginning of Barley Harvest. The people of the city received Naomi and respected the kindness Ruth had shown to her mother-in-law.

Ruth being younger and more physically fit, suggested to Naomi that she go to the fields and glean or pick up the remains that the workers in the field may have overlooked or dropped.

I believe from the moment Ruth expressed her undying loyalty to Naomi, she began planning a way she could aid in the blessing of her daughter-in-law with a husband.

Naomi was very aware of Boaz and his family position as a kinsman redeemer. Hence, Naomi was prepared to guide Ruth into matrimony with this mighty, wealthy man. Ruth 3:1-4 says, "Then Naomi her mother-in-law said unto her, my daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshing floor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor; but make not thyself known unto the man, until he should have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down, and he will tell thee what thou shalt do."

As a result of Naomi's strategic move to Bethlehem, and her pre-knowledge of Boaz' family role as kinsman; she was successful in securing the marriage between Ruth and Boaz.

After Ruth was married, she bare a son, Obed and the neighborhood women spoke blessings upon Naomi, saying, "...Blessed be The Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter-in-law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him."

"And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of [Jesse](#), the father of David," (Ruth 4:14-17).

What happened when Naomi prayed

1. She moved from Moab back to her homeland of Bethlehem
2. She accepted the loyalty of Ruth and did not insist that she return to Moab like Orpah
3. She knew Boaz was kin to her and she strategically followed the leading of God which ensured a marriage between Ruth and him
4. Her life was restored and she was nourished in her old age through Ruth's son, Obed

Chapter Eight

DEBORAH

Deborah was called a mother in Israel and she was one of the five women in the bible who were prophetesses. She was the wife of Lappidoth. Additionally, she was also the only woman in the bible to be called a judge.

She prophesied to Barak, the leader of the army in Judges 4:6&7: *“Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.”*

The people of her land had endured 20 years of oppression and God shared with her that it was time for their deliverance. When she appointed Barak, he was apparently afraid and said that if Deborah went into battle with him then he would go. Prophetess Deborah was such a tower of strength that she had no problem prophesying to this warrior and telling him to his face that she would go with him but “...the journey that thou takest shall not be to thine honour; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman...” Judges 4:9. This prophecy was fulfilled as Sisera met his demise at the hands of a woman named Jael.

In those days, it was a man's place to fight and conquer, so can you imagine how Barak must have felt; (although he agreed to have her accompany him), when Sisera was killed by Jael. His decision may have caused Deborah to be considered the real leader of the people.

Prophetess Deborah's heart was attentive to the will of God for the people as well as for the nation. There are some dedicated mothers like this; they listen in prayer for the will of God for themselves, yet, they have a deeper level of attentiveness to God for their children. Some mothers would lay down their lives and even put themselves in harms way to secure the lives of their children.

Deborah left the safety of her home and went to war, putting her life in jeopardy. However, it did not matter because her love for her country was so strong, she did not mind "walking through the valley of the shadow of death" to witness the word of the Lord coming to pass on behalf of the people of her nation.

As I mentioned earlier, Deborah was also a Judge. The bible records that she sat under a palm tree and the people of Israel came to her for judgments.

I have heard it stated that she sat outside because it was not proper for a woman to be alone in a house with a man. If Deborah was living today she probably would have file a lawsuit and one of her main arguments would state that a judicial proceeding involves more than two people; there are witnesses besides other individuals. Therefore, it was impossible for her to be in the court room alone with a person of the opposite sex.

Deborah did not let anything stand in her way. She was committed to being a part of the advancement of Israel. Deborah's life is a prime example of how God will set one down and arrange another so that He may promote His purposes through whom he will.

Once the war was over and Sisera was dead; Prophetess Deborah and Barak, sang a song of praise. Please allow me to explain that praise is another form of prayer.

In Judges 5:7 it is recorded that the villages were uninhabited until she, (Deborah) arose as a mother in Israel. A mother brings stability to contrary situations. The land of Israel became so orderly, that the bible says the land had rest for forty years. The number forty speaks of a generation, (Numbers 32:13 & Matthew 1:17). When Deborah arose as a mother in Israel, God arose for his people and his land!

What happened when Deborah prayed

- She called the leader of the Israeli army to action
- She gave divine directions to Barak and told him how the war was going to materialize
- Her gender was overlooked by men and God. In her times, it wasn't customary for a woman to be a judge nor go out to war.
- The land of Israel had rest for 40 years

Chapter Nine

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

The Shunammite woman lived in Shunem, a place belonging to the tribe of Issachar. Prophet Elisha had to pass this woman's house several times on his ministerial journeys. From time to time, she would feed the man of God. However, she wanted to be a greater blessing because she perceived that he was a holy man; so she asked her husband if they could build an addition to their home. She specifically wanted it to be comfortable for the man of God so she instructed that the room have a bed, chair, candlestick and a table.

Elisha, keeping in mind that God rewards those who bless Him and His servants, asked his servant Gehazi to call her and ask her if she desired anything. Elisha informed her that he could speak to the King or the military leader of that time on her behalf yet she did not respond to him with the prayer of her heart. She simply said, "I dwell among mine own people." This could have meant that she was content with what she had; while knowing that God was faithful and was able to give her the desires of her heart. On the other hand, she may have been content with the things that she had and she may not have wanted to ask for more, so that she would not set herself up to become disappointed. Maybe she made the mistake that many women make when they keep things in their hearts and consider the situation extensively before speaking or asking for what they really want.

Please note that the Shunammite Woman lived in an era when a marriage was not complete without the inclusion of a child. Furthermore, a woman was looked down upon in society if she was barren. The reasons

that I have cited above substantiate my belief that she desperately wanted a child. Yet, this woman did not ask for a child.

In any case, Gehazi, knowing that she did not have any children, told Elisha and he called her again and said; *“About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.”*

Well, she did have a son but the thing that many mothers fear the most came upon her; her child became sick and died. Now, please remember, this woman when asked what she wanted from the prophet, did not ask for anything. Subsequently, when the prophet sent for her a second time and declared that she was going to have a baby, she did not leap for joy. She looked at the man of God and bravely told him not to lie to her.

Needless to say, this sister was hot! She strategically laid the boy on Elisha’s bed. I am sure her son had a place where he slept but she was performing a prophetic gesture because she was expecting her son to be resurrected.

II Kings 4:22-24 says, *“And she called unto her husband, and said, send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. And he said, wherefore, wilt thou go to him to day? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, it shall be well. Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.”*

Elisha saw her coming and asked his servant to go to her and find out if all was well with her and her household and she said, “It is well.” She kept going in the direction of the man of God and when she reached him, she grabbed him by his feet and asked him, *“Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, do not deceive me”* II Kings 4:28(b)?

Although, she appeared to be angry with the man of God, she knew that God would fix her bad situation through the ministry she had sown into and all would be truly well just as she confessed.

God always requires spiritual growth from us while we are in the midst of our storms. The Shunammite woman showed great trust in God when she kept confessing that all was well. Only a person with a prayer life can trust God on that level. She knew that when God allowed her womb to be opened, He had a purpose and sudden death was not acceptable to the Shunammite woman. Furthermore, God is not a liar and He must perform His word, Luke 1:45 and Gen. 21:1. Sometimes, when God gives us a blessing, he wants to know if we trust him with the thing we treasure.

Elisha was shocked at her news because the Lord had hid the circumstances of her life from him. This Godly woman had been kind to him so he took her hurt personally.

I think this situation occurred as a test for the Shunammite woman and Elisha. There were some things he may have tried in the past that worked but in this case, the familiar was not working. For example, he gave his staff to Gehazi who placed it upon the boy's face, however, this prophetic act did not resurrect the boy. Once Elisha got to the house he prayed unto the Lord yet the boy did not resurrect. Next, he lay upon the boy and put his mouth, eyes and hands upon the child and his flesh got warm but the bible does not say that the child came back to life. He could have been warm from Elisha's body heat. Nevertheless, the bible says that Elisha walked to and from in the house then stretched himself on the boy once more and the child sneezed and opened his eyes. Elisha then asked his servant to call the Shunammite woman and he told her to take your son.

This same woman was found in scripture again in II Kings 8:1-6. There was a famine in her city and Elisha told her to leave the city and go to the land of the Philistines for seven years. Upon her return (when the famine was over,) she went to the King to request that her land be restored unto her. While she was there probably waiting her turn to make her request known to the King, Elisha's servant was there as well talking with the king. The king wanted to be informed of all of the great things God had used Elisha to perform. II Kings 8:5-6 says, "And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now."

What happened when the Shunammite woman prayed

- She was considered a great woman although in her culture a barren woman was looked down upon
- She was inspired to build a room for Elisha
- She was content with the things she had
- She got her heart's desire, a child
- Her child was resurrected
- By the spirit, she was in the right place at the right time and got her land restored to her by the King

Chapter Ten

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAVAILING

The terminology, travail is normally associated with intense, agonizing pain, especially during childbirth. No one likes to experience that kind of pain but sometimes it is necessary in order for someone's destiny to be secured. Towards the end of this chapter I will discuss the importance of a spiritual mother's travail as it concerns the destiny of her children.

In spiritual matters, women as well as men can be pregnant with a burden or a vision and sometimes in prayer, it may be so strong upon them that they may begin to groan and twist. Additionally, their facial features may become contorted as a result of the extensive burden they are carrying and processing through prayer. They may carry on in this fashion which is called travail, until they feel a release... that is actually the time when they have given birth to something new.

No doubt, Isaiah 53:11&12 says, "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death."

Jesus was and still is an intercessor. And the scripture above says, He shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied. His soul is his mind, his will and his emotion. According to the latter portion of Joshua 22:5, Moses commanded the children of Israel to cleave, and serve the Lord with all their hearts and souls. Jesus cleaved to God in prayer. The

terminology, cleave means to cut into, be in close contact with, hold together and resist separation. That is why in the Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus travailed until his sweat was as great drops of blood gushing out of his pores, (Luke 22:44.)

He symbolically entered that realm of travail that women experience during child birth. During child birth, women exert a great amount of energy which makes them weak but like Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, they must persevere and bare the excruciating pain that is occurring in their body. Once the child is born, satisfaction comes to the mother and the memory of the pain is not so important anymore because of the joy that her newborn has brought to her.

When Jesus said it is finished on the cross, he was actually expressing his fulfillment because he had completed His Father's charge to give birth to the church! John 16:21 concludes this matter by declaring: "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."

The scripture goes onto say "by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many." A child whose parents has sickle cell anemia in their DNA, (which is a negative transference), may cause their child to become a beneficiary of what they are carrying. Likewise, a positive trait from the parent can also be passed down through the DNA. For instance, the parents may pass on an ability to win souls which can cause redemption or justification to come to a community or society.

Jesus, through travail gave birth to the church which is made up of people and the commandment he gave to produce more children was "Go ye therefore..." So you see, knowledge was passed down through the declaration that Jesus made.

Mothers sometimes have advanced knowledge or can ‘pick up’ when their child is in danger or on the wrong path of life. Some people call this a woman’s intuitive power. This intuition or perception is even stronger in Godly mothers because while they are in prayer, God may reveal an adverse situation concerning their child. When a child enters their latter teen years, they are not so apt to listen to the advice of their parents so, a spiritual mother has to stand in the gap for her child in order that the purposes of God may be preserved and fulfilled in her child’s life.

Susan Hinn, Benny Hinn’s wife was telling a story about how her oldest daughter went through a period of rebellion. I won’t discuss the things that were done but I would say this: Mrs. Hinn, went into her daughter’s room during her absence and travailed in prayer until her daughter turned around.

Chapter Eleven

TRUE STORIES OF MOTHERS WHO PRAYED

In this chapter I am featuring true stories of mothers who prayed for their children.

I decided to start this chapter with an inspirational poem about a praying mother.

Mother's Prayer (Author unknown)

I was but a youth and thoughtless, as youths are apt to be; though I had a Christian mother who had taught me carefully. There came a time when pleasure of the world came to allure. I no more sought guidance of her love so good and pure. Her tender admonitions fell but lightly on my ear, and for the gentle warnings, I felt an inward sneer. But mother would not yield her boy to Satan's sinful sway, Though I spurned her counsel, she knew a better way.

She made my room an altar, a place of secret prayer, There she took her burden and left it in His care. Morning, noon and evening by that humble bedside low. She sought the aid of Him who understands a mother's woe. I went my way unheeding, careless of the life I led. Until one day I noticed prints of elbows on my bed. I saw that she had been there, praying for her wayward boy. Who for love of worldly pleasure would her peace of mind destroy. Long the conflict raged within me, sin against my mother's prayers, Sin must yield - for Mother never, while she daily met Him there. And her constant love and patience were like coals upon my head. Together with the imprints of her elbows on my bed. So at last the fight was

won, and I to Christ was led, And mother's prayers were answered. By her elbows on my bed.

Susanna Wesley

Susanna Wesley was the mother of John and Charles Wesley. She was married to [Reverend Samuel Wesley](#), who was an Anglican Rector.

Susanna educated all of her children at home and made time to instill faith and prayer into each one. The children were taught not only to pray daily but also to give themselves in service to others and the Lord.

Charles Wesley, Susanna's youngest child became very accomplished although his memory is often overshadowed by his brother, John. Charles left the Anglican Church and traveled extensively with his brother until his health began to deteriorate. He is remembered for the many hymns he wrote which today are classics like "Christ the Lord is Risen Today", "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Hark, the Herald Angel Sing." Charles' greatest gift to Methodism was his hymns. These hymns are sung all over the world by various Christian denominations. He wrote over 7000 hymns; publishing 4,500 and leaving the rest in manuscript form which were later published in his honor. He accomplished his personal mission of massive song writing by writing three songs per week.

When he attended Oxford University, he founded the Holy Club. The participants of this club were called Methodists because of their methodical practices. Later, his brother John became the leader of the group.

John was special to his family because he escaped a near death situation as a five-year-old. John was trapped on the second story of the family's home which was on fire. John escaped through a window. His family lost everything in the fire but they were grateful that no one was injured. His parents said that John was "a brand plucked from the

burning." John's mother came to the realization that her son's life was sparred for a specific purpose and she paid close attention to his spirituality in an effort to shape his destiny.

Like all the Wesley children, John's busy day began well before dawn. He was expected to read from the Bible, say the Lord's prayer, recite Bible verses, say a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, and pray for his family members. Once all that was done, he could attend family devotions. Every Thursday, his mother spent an hour with each child. She instructed him to walk in the ways of Christ

John took his mother's advice, traveling on horseback, preaching the gospel sometimes two or three times a day. He formed many societies, established many churches, commissioned preachers, administered charities, superintended schools and [orphanages](#).

He married at the age of forty-eight to a widow, Mary Vazeille, and had no children. He died peacefully, at age 88 after a short illness, leaving 541 itinerant preachers under the name "Methodist."

Odith P. Jakes

Bishop T.D. Jakes is the founder and senior pastor of the Potter's House in Dallas, Texas.

This church, since its inception 11 years ago, has been one of the fastest growing churches in America. There are over 30,000 people who attend the Potter's House and there are over 400 people who are employed by this ministry.

Bishop Jakes credits a lot of his success to his late mother, Mrs. Odith P. Jakes. In 2006, he released a book entitled, "Mama Made the Difference: Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me".

In his book, he stated that his mother taught him to pray not so much by making him recite words to God but she taught him through her

lifestyle of prayer and by exposing him to the things of God.

He mentioned in the book that when his sister became sick, his exposure to prayer was solidified. His sister was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He said that there was nothing else to be done but prayer and his mother took the lead in that arena. He said, “I had never heard anybody pray the way my mother prayed when my sister was sick. I had heard plenty of people pray, but never like *that*; she literally bombarded heaven on my sister’s behalf.”

He recalled how intense his mother’s prayers were but states that they were not emotional prayers but prayers based on faith. He said, “Her passionate pleas were built on her deep and intimate acquaintance with God; her years of relationship with Him and her knowledge of His Word.”

As a result of his mother’s prayers, today his sister is a strong, healthy, beautiful mother and grandmother. Bishop Jakes mentioned in his book that a child who sees and hears their parents pray will learn to pray in his or her, own way. Bishop Jakes mother’s memory and prayer legacy will live on in his life and in the lives of his children’s children.

On October 10, 2006, Bishop and Mrs. Serita Jakes along with their church family, formally dedicated Clay Academy to the memory of his late mother. In the same month, a delegation from The Potter’s House commissioned by Bishop Jakes, traveled to Kenya to establish a computer lab at Kawangware Primary School. The computer lab was also dedicated to the memory of Bishop Jakes’ late mother.

Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams was the wife of President John Adams; who was the first Vice President of the United States of America and the second President.

Mrs. Adams is remembered for the many letters she wrote to her husband while he worked in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#). He was a delegate to the [Continental Congresses](#). Mr. Adams frequently sought the advice of his wife on many matters, and their letters were filled with intellectual discussions, words of endearment and prayers.

It is hard to believe that Mrs. Adams did not receive a formal education but her family had a collection of books in their personal library and her mother taught her how to read.

Mrs. Adams was no stranger to the church or politics as she came from a consistent line of clergymen and politicians. In 1825, her son, John Quincy Adams became the sixth President of the United States. When he was ten years old, she allowed him to go overseas with his father for over seven years. His father was in diplomatic roles in Paris, Amsterdam, St. Petersburg and England. When he was 14 years old, he accompanied Francis Dana to St. Petersburg and served him as a translator and secretary. Therefore, John became very familiar with politics at an early age.

When Mrs. Adams sent letters to her son, she often included scriptures, prayers and motherly encouragement. While he was in law school, he fell in love with a pretty lady and his mother persuaded him to postpone marriage until he could afford a wife. John agreed and called the relationship off. This action showed that he was obedient to his mother.

I believe she was prompted by the Holy Spirit to groom him in a fashion so that he would be prepared to lead one of the greatest countries in the world.

Her letters are featured in many books and have been placed on exhibition often. For example, Mrs. Adams apparently could not be

present at her husband inauguration so she wrote an inspiring letter that included a stately prayer.

"And now, O Lord, my God, thou hast made thy servant ruler over the people. Give unto him an understanding heart, that he may know how to go out and come in before this great people; that he may discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge this thy so great a people? 'were the words of a royal sovereign; and not less applicable to him who is invested with the chief magistracy of a nation, though he wear not a crown, nor the robes of royalty ...My thoughts and my meditations are with you, though personally absent; and my petitions to Heaven are, that' the things which make for peace may not be hidden from your eyes.'" ... That you may be enabled to discharge them with honor to yourself, with justice and impartiality to your country, and with satisfaction to this great people, shall be the daily prayer of your A.A."

Her letter may not be grammatically sound but it was a powerful example of love and devotion. She passed the same devotion down to her beloved son who made history by becoming the first President whose father also held the same office. President George W. Bush is the second President to attain this great accomplishment.

The Mother of Evans Roberts

Evan Roberts was born June 8, 1878. One of seven sons, his mother said, "I have another son to serve God now." Born to a humble and religious family, as a child, Evan took a Bible with him everywhere. His mother remembers that even early in his life he dreamed of revival. While he was a young coal miner, during breaks he would read II Chronicles 6 where Solomon prayed for revival. When he wasn't in the mines, he would be at home studying the Scriptures and praying.

A historian, J.T. Rees once asked his mother, "Did he pray much at home." She replied, "Oh yes! He used to spend hours in his room alone with God. Sometimes, I believe he spent whole nights in prayer." At times he would not come down to eat meals, telling his mother that prayer to him was more important than food.

The story of Evan Roberts and the Welsh Revival is the most thrilling, but also the most sad and sobering in all revival history. It has been reported that 100,000 people in Wales became born again in just nine months, (from November 1904 to August 1905.) This was the beginning of a world-wide revival that ushered hundreds of thousands more into the Kingdom of God. On the other hand, we see Evan Roberts, the principle revivalist of this move of God, becoming deceived, deluded and finally suffering a nervous breakdown which took him out of the public limelight to live the life of a recluse. Furthermore, the fruits of the revival in Wales (but not world-wide) were soon lost through criticism, fears of deception and a Welsh theology which suppressed the assurance of salvation. Within a generation there were no signs that a revival had ever occurred.

However, it is widely noted that during the revival, the people of the city experienced the following:

- Reduction in crime
- The courts had no cases to try. Magistrates were given white gloves to commemorate this phenomenon.
- Post Offices ran low or ran out of money orders because an overwhelming amount of people were paying their debts
- Bars were either closing or doing poorly in business
- Stores sold out of Bibles and New Testaments
- Sports arenas were abandoned

I believe the Welsh Revival became a reality and a blessing to so many people because a mother paid the price in prayer for her child.

Chapter Twelve

SINGLE PRAYING MOTHERS

Pearline Black

Rev. Barry C. Black serves our nation as Chaplain of the United States Senate. Appointed by former President, Bill Clinton in June 2003, Rear Admiral Black (Ret.), served in the United States Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the Chief of Navy Chaplains. He is the 62nd chaplain of the Senate. The first Chaplain was appointed in 1789. This is a life-time appointment.

Black was dedicated as a baby to the Lord by his mother, Pearline Black. He recalls that he and his family would be in church every time the doors were opened. When his mother was pregnant with him, she asked God to bless her unborn child. Black said he has never wanted to be anything else but a minister.

Black's father died at an early age, leaving his Godly mother to raise him and his brothers and sisters. Raising a large family alone, Mrs. Black, found that the church offered that supportive environment she needed to supplement her children's spiritual and social growth.

He recalls his mother giving him and his siblings a nickel for scriptures they had memorized. He said she had to change her reward system by putting him on a flat rate because he was "breaking the bank." Mrs. Black taught her eight children the importance of God and education as the way to a better life without poverty.

As a result of his mother's guidance, Black's life is a blessing to many. He shares the gospel and love of Jesus Christ with others. Black

opens each Senate session with prayer and offers spiritual guidance to members of the Senate, their families and their staffs. On occasion, Chaplain Black is called upon to advise senators on moral issues.

He attended two schools of higher education; Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania and Oakwood College in Alabama. He later became a pastor in North Carolina, where he met a group of sailors who had driven miles to attend his church service because they were not satisfied with the spiritual nourishment they were getting on their naval base. This prompted Black to join the Navy and become a chaplain. He rose to the ranks of Rear Admiral, commanding all the chaplains of the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Rev. Black is the first African-American, and the first military chaplain to hold the office of chaplain to the United States Senate. He is married and has three sons.

Hagar

The name Hagar means ‘stranger’. Hagar was an Egyptian girl who was a slave or maid in the household of Sarah.

Sarai could not conceive a child, which was the primary purpose for marriage in her day. She was probably considered a failure and possessed strong feelings of inadequacy and insecurity.

She decided to offer her maid, Hagar to Abram. Hagar slept with Abram for the sole purpose of procreation. This was obviously a promotion for Hagar the servant, to be sleeping with Abram the master.

Gen. 16:4 “*And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*” When Sarai realized that she was being disrespected by Hagar, she told her husband about it and he basically said, she is your maid so you decide

what should be done to her. So, Sarai feeling empowered by her husband, dealt harshly with Hagar, and she ran away.

An angel found Hagar in the wilderness and asked her where was she coming from and where was she going. Hagar told the angel that she was fleeing from her mistress, Sarai. The angel knowing her fate if she stayed in the wilderness, told her to return to her mistress, and submit herself. Furthermore, the angel informed her that her seed would be multiplied so greatly upon the earth that it would be unable to number them. The angel also told her that the Lord hath heard her affliction. That sentence says to me that Hagar was praying.

Yes, Hagar was wrong for despising her mistress once she found out that she was pregnant. However, Sarai was also wrong for sending a single, pregnant woman away to wonder in the wilderness.

God was interested in the seed Hagar was carrying and God was equally interested in a woman who did not have a covering or a comforter in one of the most joyous yet uncomfortable stages of life.

Although the angel informed Hagar that her child would be a wild man and that every man's hand will be against him; she was comforted by the Lord who had heard her affliction. So, Hagar returned to her mistress' house feeling a sense of empowerment by an awesome God.

Hagar represents women in the Bible who are excluded or despised by people around them because they are barren, servants and people who get pregnant out of wedlock.

Once Hagar returned, not too much is mentioned about her or her son until Abram (whose name was changed to Abraham) circumcised everyone in his house. Ishmael was 13 at the time he was circumcised. I believe, Hagar was of the mindset that her son would be the sole heir of his father, Abraham but God had chosen Isaac. On the same day that

Abraham was about to perform the circumcisions, God spoke to him about his unborn son, Isaac. Gen. 17: 19 & 20 says, “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.”

Once Isaac was born, his father was hosting a feast in his honor on the day that he was weaned. On the day of the feast, Sarah (whose name had also been changed) saw Ishmael mocking Isaac.

Again, Sarah wanted only one thing: the removal of Hagar and her son. Sarah knew that she had given birth to the child of promise and covenant. Therefore, she felt justified in casting out the bond woman and her son.

Abraham had to make a tough decision but God comforted his heart and told him “... In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” Gen. 21:14 – 19 says, “And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, what aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. And God opened her eyes,

and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.”

God is a covenant keeping God. He hears his children when they cry. Sometimes a prayer is made through a groan or through tears. God understands, responds and “is touched with the feelings of our infirmities.”

God heard the prayers of Hagar and he visited her and her son in the wilderness. That is the power of prayer... it moves the heart of God!

Chapter Thirteen

MOTHERS FROM JERUSALEM WHO GAVE BIRTH TO KINGS

Kings of Israel and mothers who were from Jerusalem:

Saul (reigned 40 years)
David (reigned 40 years)
Solomon (reigned 40 years)

Kingdom Divided

Jeroboam (reigned 22 years)
Nadab (reigned 2 years)
Baasha (reigned 24 years)
Elah (reigned 2 years)
Zimri (reigned 7 days)
Omri (reigned 12 years)
Ahab (reigned 22 years)
Ahaziah (reigned 2 years)
Jehoram or Joram (reigned 12 years)
Jehu (reigned 28 years)
Jehoahaz (reigned 17 years)
Jehoash or Joash (reigned 16 years)
Jeroboam (reigned 41 years)
Zachariah (reigned 6 months)
Shallum (reigned 1 month)
Menahem (reigned 10 years)
Pekahiah (reigned 2 years)
Pekah (reigned 20 years)
Hoshea (reigned 9 years)

The Israeli Mothers that I found

Solomon... Batsheba
Jeroboam... Zeruah
Nadab... Ano
Ahaziah... Athaliah

Saul (reigned 40 years)
David (reigned 40 years)
Solomon (reigned 40 years)

Kingdom Divided

Kings and Queen of Judah

Rehoboam (reigned 17 years)
Abijam or Abijah (reigned 3 years)
Asa (reigned 41 years)
Jehoshaphat (reigned 25 years)
Jehoram (reigned 8 years)
Ahaziah or Jehoahaz (reigned 1 year)
Queen Athaliah (reigned 6 years)
Joash (reigned 40 years)
Amaziah (reigned 29 years)
Uzziah or Azariah (reigned 52 years)
Jotham (reigned 16 years)
Ahaz (reigned 16 years)
Hezekiah (reigned 29 years)
Manasseh (reigned 55 years)
Amon (reigned 2 years)
Josiah (reigned 31 years)
Jehoiakim (reigned 11 years)
Jeconiah, Jehoiachin or Coniah (reigned 3 months)
Zedekiah (reigned 11 years)

About the Author

Archbishop Nicholas Duncan-Williams the Presiding Bishop and General Overseer of Christian Action Faith Ministries Worldwide (Action Chapel International) with more than 100 affiliate and branch churches located in North America, Europe and Africa. Anointed in the ministry of prayer, healing and the prophetic, his teaching has touched countless lives in a dramatic and life-changing way for over two decades. What he is offering to the younger generation, as well as to established Pastors, is counsel, direction and opportunity, which can be categorized as mentorship. God has equipped him on countless occasions to run crisis-threatened churches and prophetically point them in the right direction.



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<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2332/Black-Barry-C.html> "Barry C. Black Biography Studied Bible and Oratory, Heeded His Calling, Found His Place and Mission, Appointed to Top Posts
October 20, 2006

Pastor Barry Black, Capitol Hill's 67th Chaplain

By Marie Jon

Cherry Hill to Capitol Hill

Barry C. Black marks several 'firsts' as U.S. Senate chaplain By Michael Hill

Baltimore Sun reporter February 18, 2008 www.exploreli.com