



## 7 Proverbs For The Weary Mom

**It is not where I expected to come face to face with the complete uprooting and overhauling of my motherhood.**

In fact you could say that I was completely blind-sided. It was all together a pleasant surprise as well as a punch in the gut. **It was Proverbs.** And it was my newfound treasure-trove of hope nuggets and map markers and U-turn signs— and exactly everything I hadn't known I had been searching for. **It changed everything.**

I had always had a gripe with the book of Proverbs. As a Bible college student I had struggled with its exposition. As a believer I had struggled with its obscurity. And as I writer I had most definitely struggled with the author's seemingly complete lack of aim, rhyme, or reason.

**As a mother, I found it to be exactly what I needed it to be. And I hope that you will, too.**

Before you sit seven of these Proverbs, short bursts of truth offering hope and healing and wisdom for all of us weary moms. My prayer is that they will restore you, just as they have done for me. That through the truth of His Word, God will lay at the doorstep of your heart exactly the encouragement you need through these words.

Hang in their, weary moms. Because we have the Creator of the universe and the Lover of our souls willing and waiting to deliver us into the most full and abundant kind of motherhood, more extraordinary than we could ever imagine. **And it all begins in His Word.**

# 7 Proverbs

## For The Weary Mom

- Freedom From Fear
- Freedom From Self-Doubt
- Freedom To Navigate
- Freedom From Want
- Freedom To Speak Life
- Freedom From Anxiety
- Freedom In Confidence

### About The Author...



Eryn Lynam is wife to an adventure-loving man and Mama to three exuberant tow-headed boys. She writes at [www.ErynLynam.com](http://www.ErynLynam.com) where she shares her family's everyday adventures, captured by words on a page and the lens of a camera. She writes on faith, family, marriage, motherhood, and what it looks like to live the abundant life. Oh, and that jar of 936 pennies that forever changed how she views and approaches motherhood.

[www.ErynLynam.com](http://www.ErynLynam.com)

### About The Artist...

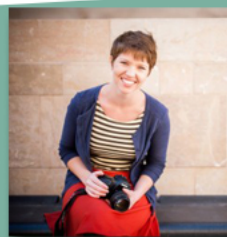


The artwork you will see throughout this devotional was hand-painted by artist Becki Campbell. Becki is a grace-guzzling, God-seeking artist who longs to shine His glory into the lives of those around her.

**Purchase The Artwork!** All of the beautiful artwork in this devotional is available as prints and can be purchased from Becki's shop at:

[www.shinyreflection.com/shop](http://www.shinyreflection.com/shop)


### Also a Huge Thanks To...



Abbigail Kriebs from [inkwells&images llc](http://inkwells&imagesllc.com) for her gracious, expert, professional editing services.

[www.inkwellsandimages.com](http://www.inkwellsandimages.com)





Whoever listens to me  
will dwell secure  
and will be at ease,  
without dread  
of disaster.

PROVERBS 1:33

### *Freedom From Fear*

*“but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”  
(Proverbs 1:33)*

The moment I found out I was pregnant with my first child, I was convinced that we were going to lose him; it was my first glimpse into the realm of debilitating fears that plague us moms.

Somewhere deep within my abdomen there was new life growing, born of my own flesh and blood, and now forever tethered to my spirit—yet he was only the size of a poppy seed. And how do you keep a poppy seed alive?

As new moms, from the moment we first glimpse that positive response from the pregnancy test, holding it gingerly in shaking hands, an overwhelming mixture of both hope and dread begins burgeoning within us.

A child grows and develops in such incomprehensible beauty within our body. Our skin tenses as our abdomen grows to accommodate our little one. We take notice of the most minute and odd changes—our hair falling out in the shower, our fingernails growing at rapid speed, and how if we lay a certain way we can feel our child's kicks just a little bit stronger.

Our bodies are undergoing significant changes to care for our baby. But it is not only an increase of blood volume that begins coursing through our veins—fear begins to seep its way in and course through us as well.

It is also in that moment that an adoptive parent receives a referral letter with a beautiful face; questions rush in and with them, fears. Fear of the unknown. Fear of the journey from this referral letter to the Coming Home day. Fear of all that will reveal itself in those first months.

There is so much we cannot control while our child is still in our womb, or in a country across the ocean. We cannot hold, cannot touch, cannot see, and can hardly protect. Yet somehow we convince ourselves that once our child is at last in our arms, that maybe then we will be able to protect them. It is a rude awakening when that moment finally comes, and we are handed our new bundle of life, and all at once we realize just how much is still out of our control, perhaps even more now that they are not cradled within the womb.

Disaster seems to lurk all around. Just a glance at the news and we are threatened with the reality of all of the evil that permeates our world—evil that our child will live amongst. We try with all of our might to protect them, pushing plastic-pronged safety caps over outlets and slicing grapes into halves at lunchtime. But who among us has the power to guard a child from cancer? Or from a car wreck? Or from a schoolmate bringing a weapon to school? Our hearts constrict and suffocate under the dread of disaster. These fears debilitate us as moms, holding us back from the rich motherhood for which God has designed us.

And so what can we do? We must choose to embrace life.

As author Lisa-Jo Baker says it in her book *Surprised By Motherhood*,

***“...with each new baby, we are that much more vulnerable to having our hearts broken into tiny little bits forever...Against all odds, knowing that sickness, sin, failure, and disaster lurk on the fringes of every day, we choose to embrace life.”***

This little verse in Proverbs Chapter 1, tacked on right at the end of a string of verses depicting calamity, it leaves us with hope to “dwell secure” and “be at ease”, to live “without dread of disaster.” It is possible, and it is oh so magnificently freeing!

This verse is part of a beautiful personification of wisdom “herself.” When we listen to wisdom through the taking in of God’s Word, Truth triumphs over and extinguishes our fears.

Wisdom speaks, and in essence she says, “Hey, Mama who is peeking around every corner with desperate prayers against disaster and tragedy; Mama who lives within the vile grip of fear for her children—you can be free. You can live apart from the dread of disaster. You can dwell secure and be at ease. Just come to me. Listen to me. Seek wisdom, and relax.”

**Further Study:** Proverbs 3:25-26, Psalm 91:1-6, Proverbs 2:1-9, 1 Peter 3:6, Psalm 34:4-7

**Ask Yourself...**

What are three reoccurring fears concerning your children that plague you as a mother? Write them down, and then write a prayer of surrender to God, laying these fears at His feet.

What is one way that you can commit to listening to God on a more regular basis? Filling our minds and hearts with His truth is one of the greatest strategies we have available for vanquishing our fears.





She perceives  
that her  
merchandise  
is profitable.

PROVERBS 31:18

## *Freedom From Self-Doubt*

*“She perceives that her merchandise is profitable”*

*(Proverbs 31:18)*


He walks through the door to find me sprawled across the sofa, yoga pants spattered in spit up and spaghetti sauce. The boys can hardly muster a “Hello” because they are transfixed on the television. Over dinner—takeout of course—I throw in a couple mentions of activities we did that day. The park. Storybooks. Playdough. Anything to make my time seem more valuable than I actually think it was.

Although I know my husband thinks the world of me, when he comes home from work to find me bone weary after what seems like a day of getting so little done—I sometimes feel as though I have to prove something to him; to validate the hours I spend at home with our children.

**Us mamas tend to wrap so much of our worth up into how much we can fit into a day.** We begin to quantify the value of our time by how much we can accomplish, how well we manage those pursuits, and how put-together we look while doing it.

In this digital world painted by Facebook updates, blog posts, Instagram feeds, and Pinterest boards, we have a glimpse every single day into the homes of other moms. More energetic moms. More patient moms. More creative moms. Better moms. We see moms running successful businesses from home and moms fitting in yoga classes between school activities. Suddenly we look around for our own accomplishments, and they can be so hard to find beneath the piles of dirty dishes and the colony of dust bunnies under the kitchen hutch.

Whether we realize it or not, we allow these glimpses to craft a definition in our mind of what our own motherhood should look like. **We begin to doubt our contributions.** That’s when storytime and bedtime snuggles become not enough. **That is when we become not enough.**





I'm tempted to feel this way when I take a look at the "Proverbs 31 Woman". She exhibits grace, strength, wisdom, and great commitment in all she does. She is everything I want to be. Yet instead of envying her or comparing myself to her, I find comfort from her perspective concerning her responsibilities.

We see it in verse 18. I'm apt to skim over it, but then the depth of that one simple sentence stops me, granting me room to breathe and rest. "She knows that her merchandise is profitable." She did not doubt her work. **And I need not doubt my own.**

Of course we need to look at this characteristic of the Proverbs 31 woman in light of everything else we can read about her. She feared God, placing Him first in all things {Proverbs 31:30}. She was also a hard worker.

When we follow God's call on our life, and depend on His wisdom and strength in order to fulfill that calling, then we can be confident that our work is good, **because ultimately it is His work.**

*"She perceives that her merchandise is profitable"*  
(Proverbs 31:18)

We don't have to play the comparison game. We don't have to shrink back in self-doubt when we see another woman with higher credentials, more life experience, more expensive clothing, or a Pinterest perfect home, or a thriving ministry. **We can know that our work is good when we are working for the Lord.**

Some day your "merchandise" might look like a successful business you can run from home, a ministry position, or a successful blog or book. But for today it might look like rocking a colicky baby, or making a sugar-cookie-mess of the kitchen with that aspiring baker you birthed into this world. And that's ok. It is more than ok, really.

**It is beautiful, because it is Kingdom work.**

**Further study: Proverbs 31:31, Proverbs 16:3 Psalm 138:8, Psalm 90:17, Hebrews 3:20-21**

#### **Ask Yourself...**

Does scanning social media leave you feeling like less of a mother compared to the other moms around you? Commit to reading a chapter in Proverbs each morning, before spending anytime online. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, one for each day. If it is December 4th, read Proverbs 4. If it is June 16, read Proverbs 16, and so on...

What are ten strengths, talents, or passions that the Lord has gifted you with? Write a list of these abilities. Now write a prayer asking God to show you clearly how to use those abilities to serve Him, in His strength--not your own. Pray that He will always receive all of the glory for any work He does through you.



In all your ways  
acknowledge Him,  
and He will make  
straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:6



## *Freedom To Navigate*

*"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths"*  
(Proverbs 3:6)



Mothers face an immense amount of decisions on a daily basis, and it can leave us overwhelmed and paralyzed. We feel the pressure to take a next step, to move ourselves and our children forward, but we are so terrified of making a wrong move that we just stay put.

I was tempted to do just that one morning, as I sat across from my husband of nearly four years. Our only boy was at home being watched by friends, and my belly was swollen with our second child due in mere weeks. I picked up a grape and dipped it in cream cheese spread. Grayson sipped his coffee. The morning was unrushed and a break from our normal routine. We had always wanted to try this restaurant, and brunch has long been our favorite meal. Yet it wasn't only the eggs Benedict and house-made veggie sausage that brought us there that morning. We had an agenda. I pulled out my journal and a pen.

**We knew that if we did not map out our next step, then we would never move forward to discover what God had waiting for us next.**

Within a couple of hours we would draw up a plan of sorts. A date would be chosen; a deadline for making an even grander decision—one laid before the Lord that would lead us, before the year's end, to a new state and a new life.

We knew that God wanted us to take a next step. And we told Him that within one month's time, we would take that step, and that we were trusting Him during that time to guide us in which direction to begin walking in.

I thought of my little boy at home, still in his footie pajamas and likely consumed in a world of wooden trains, and I felt the kicks of our new boy softly against the inside of my abdomen. It is decisions such as these that take on a much heavier weight when we have children to consider. And when those little ones depend upon us for security, decisions big and small can leave us paralyzed, terrified of making a wrong move.

***“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths”***

***(Proverbs 3:6)***

Within six month's time, we were unloading boxes and setting up home in a place we had never envisioned ourselves—but God had. It wouldn't take long for Him to confirm within our hearts that this was indeed that next right step that He had in store for us.

**Looking back over my life I see a steady stream of these checkpoints.** What I saw as stormy torrents of uncertainty, were actually God's hand as work as a rudder, taking over the navigations for me when I was unsure of which direction to head in next.

Our baby's well being and futures weigh heavily on us mothers as we attempt to sort out every opportunity they, and we, are given. Satan knows this, and he has a way of weaseling his way into our minds and evoking great fear of taking a wrong step.

**He hates the idea of us walking forward in God's plan and blessing, and he'll do anything to deter us, or to keep us from moving at all.**

This is why we must set our confidence in Christ, acknowledging Him as our great Navigator. When we come before the Lord and lay down our own plans, hopes, and understanding—surrendering ourselves to His greater plan and placing Christ at the center of all we do—we can be confident that He will set our feet firm on a straight path. **He will establish our steps.**

This is when we gain great confidence to take that next step before us. This is when fears are vanquished and we are freed to make those decisions that have been holding us back from God's best for us. Because that path that He is setting us on—it is a path leading to a life more abundant than we could ever have envisioned for ourselves and our family!

**Further Study:** Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 4:26, Proverbs 4:18, Proverbs 2:6-9

**Ask Yourself....**

What is a big decision that you have put off making out of fear of choosing a wrong direction? Lay that decision at the feet of Jesus. Write a prayer asking Him to show you the next step in that decision. You don't have to see the whole picture, just ask him to show you the next small step, and then take that step in faith.



The fear of the LORD  
leads to life,  
and whoever has it  
rests satisfied.

PROVERBS 19:23

## *Freedom From Want*

*“The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied.”*

*(Proverbs 19:23)*

When we moved from Wisconsin to Kansas City we spent a month living downtown while we searched for a house to buy. We were desperate for a place to stay and took the first apartment we could find. It ended up being far less than ideal, with 3 flights of stairs to haul all of our belongings, two kids, and groceries up. It wasn't clean. It wasn't sanitary. It wasn't in a safe part of town. And we would soon discover that it was infested with bugs.

I yearned desperately for some sense of security, a little morsel of stability. I wanted a permanent home in which I could watch my boy play in the yard and where I could set up a nursery for our infant. I wanted friends in this foreign land I was trying to call home. I wanted assurance that this was a right move, after uprooting our young family and moving states away from all we knew.

I wanted time to sort things out in my heart, **and I wanted peace despite a sea of unknowns.**

Most of all, I wanted some sort of confirmation that I was still a good mom, even though everything seemed so uncertain. I wanted to know we hadn't made a mistake, that we had not put our kids in jeopardy.

**There was a whole lot of wanting going on in my heart.**

Our wants often change from season to season. After we found a house to purchase and settled in, my desires for stability would change into desires for a church home; desires for more money and time to make our house into a home; desires for some sort of purpose beyond getting through this time of transition.

During some seasons of motherhood, we long for a better financial situation so that perhaps we could afford a more comfortable home in a safe neighborhood with a good school for our kids. Or maybe we wish we were in better health or had more energy to meet the demands of motherhood.





Then there are those deeper desires that tend to travel from one phase of motherhood into the next. Such as our yearning to know that our children are safe. Or our longing for more time to invest in them, all while wanting more time to ourselves. We wish we were more wise and had more knowledge so we could better teach and guide our children. We wish we were more patient, more kind, more creative, more resourceful, and more productive.

**We wish for more out of our motherhood.**

***“The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied.”  
(Proverbs 19:23)***

Sometimes these desires are rooted deep within us, where perhaps we are not quite satisfied with being “just a mom” or we are unsatisfied with how we are handling the job of motherhood.

But it is when we make this mistake of looking at our job performance in motherhood for satisfaction that we are left empty and longing. Because our satisfaction cannot come from our to-do list or an over-packed schedule.

Our satisfaction as moms must come from Christ, and in placing Him at the center of every piece of our motherhood. This is what it means to have the fear of the Lord.

**To “fear the Lord” means to stand in awe of Him, and to have great respect for Him.** It means to place Christ first in all things, because we recognize that all good things come from Him, and are for Him.

When we recognize that our children, and the job we’ve been given to raise them, are direct gifts from the Lord - and that they are for Him, then we find space to rest satisfied in whatever phase of motherhood we are in. Because we understand that it is a gift, and we also understand that whatever God has called us to, He will provide for.

**And so we are left with no reason for want.**

**Further Study:** Psalm 17:15, Philippians 4:11-13, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 1 Timothy 6:6, Hebrews 13:5

**Ask Yourself...**

When have you been unsatisfied in your motherhood? Were you looking to your own desires and expectations, or were you looking to Christ and His calling on your life? Write a prayer asking God to help you set aside your own ambitions, agendas, and expectations, and to help you to see His bigger plan for your motherhood.





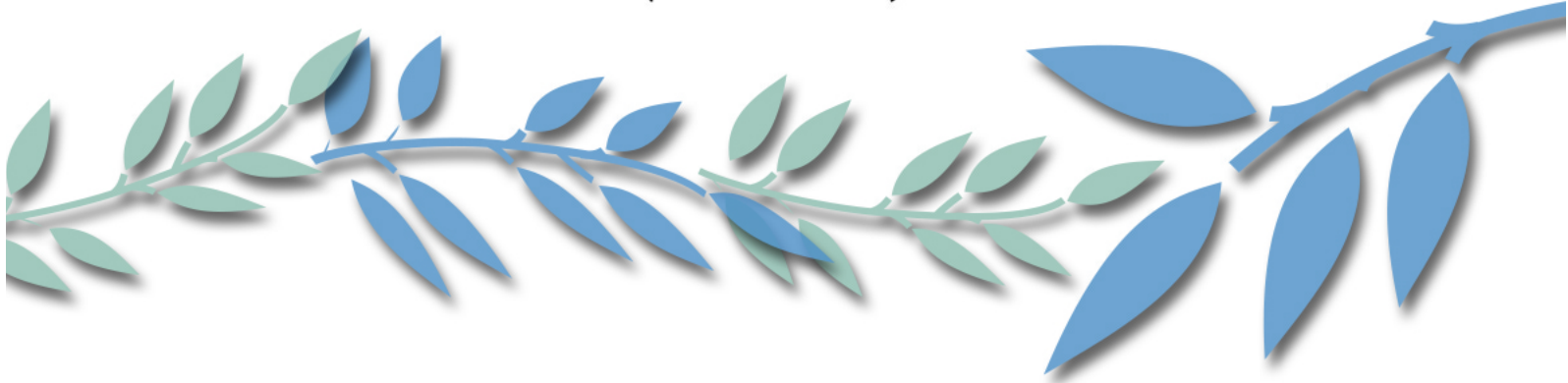
The mouth  
of the righteous  
is a fountain  
of life.

Proverbs 10:11



## Freedom To Speak Life

*"The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life."  
(Proverbs 10:11)*



We know it at the outset; rubbing that first swollen belly, that the precious one inside that we can hardly wait to hold, caress, kiss – we know that we will pain their tiny, precious heart. Our actions, reactions, and words hold the potential to leave scars. Our love is fallible. Moms and dads are superhumans, but they're still humans: fallible and finite.

We know these things, but we can't understand it until we rock the broken child, wipe his salty tears, and whisper apologies. **With the slip of the tongue we fall very, very short of passing onto them the love of Christ.**

**"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only as much as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."**

**(Ephesians 4:29)**

The years we have with our children are so very short, far too short for empty words. **We are called to pack into these years all of the word of life that we can.**

What we say absolutely has the potential of tearing our children down. One quick word, one harsh reaction, one slip of the tongue can undo days, weeks, even years of relationship building. It is both terrifying and sobering to hold this power, especially when we so often fail to wield it well.

Yet it is also in the power of our words that we can gift our children with the most abundant kind of life.

**Our words can impart to our children the very life of Christ, and all because Christ has bestowed His very own righteousness on us.**

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

**God looks beyond our fallibilities and regrets, and He sees only the blood of Christ.** He sees us as whole, clean, and in completely right standing before Him. He calls us righteous, and I fall to my knees in absolute gratitude. It is this righteousness, a righteousness not of our own but only by His gift, that we have full power in Christ to speak life straight into our child's spirit.

***“The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.”  
(Proverbs 10:11)***

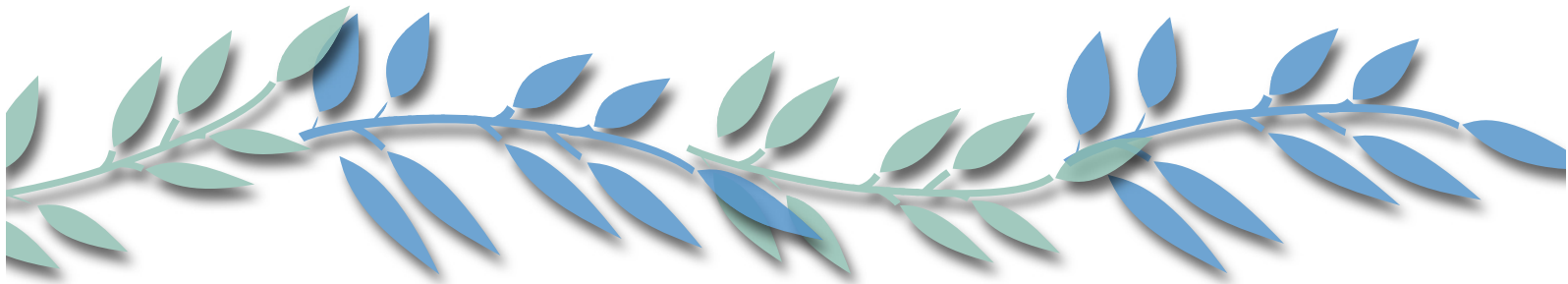
When we are walking in Christ’s righteousness, claiming it as our own and fully depending on Him to make it more of a reality in our life every day as we seek Him, then He will speak life through us. When our words are influenced by Christ’s righteousness, our children will find life, hope, kindness, and truth that will guide them into the most abundant life, a life with Christ.

I don’t always get this right. My words have been the cause of tear-streaked cheeks and trembling lips. But during those times that I have sought out God’s grace and help as I intentionally speak life to my children, I’ve witnessed the great transformation that takes place inside of them. **These words change everything.**

Confidence, security, and joy bubble out of them, and they begin to speak their own words of life. My son climbs into my lap, burrows deep into my side, looks up and smiles before speaking his own words of life to me:

“I’m going to give you a kiss because it makes you so happy. I’m always here for you. I’m always here to make you happy.”

An incredible thing happens when we choose to intentionally pour words of life into the soul of our child—the **same words begin to pour out from their own hearts**. Begin today claiming Christ’s promise of righteousness, allowing His words to transform you and your children.



**Further Study:** Proverbs 31:26, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 13:14, Proverbs 15:4, Proverbs 15:28, Proverbs 16:24

**Over the next week:** Focus on speaking the following words of life to your child often, and watch as it transforms their hearts, and your own.

- A simple “I love you” as you look right into their eyes
- A verse at breakfast time
- “I’m proud of you because \_\_\_\_\_”
- “I saw you do this today \_\_\_\_\_, and it made me so happy.”
- “I saw you conquer this today \_\_\_\_\_, I was watching, and you did great!”
- “I appreciate that you did this today \_\_\_\_\_”
- “I’m sorry I did this today \_\_\_\_\_. Sometime’s moms sin too. Will you forgive me?”



Her ways  
are ways  
of pleasantness,  
and all her paths  
are peace.

PROVERBS 3:17

## *Freedom From Anxiety*

*“Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.”*

*(Proverbs 3:17)*

Motherhood is hard and brutal and exhausting and at times it demands all we have to give, and then a little bit more. **It will ask everything of us**—and then will ask the same of us tomorrow, after an insufficient night of interrupted sleep.

I feel it in the ache of my muscles as I scrub the breakfast dishes. Tension rises, traveling up through my chipped nail polish, further still to the suds and splashes of grease, up to my temples where it manifests itself in a budding headache. I scrub the pan, but egg scraps put up a tough fight. I bend my elbow to scrub with more vigor, and as I do, my shoulders seize under the pressure—not the pressure from battling egg remnants, but the pressure from the day.


I tease myself, thinking that maybe if I can rush and push and force and battle and get everything on that taunting to-do list crossed off, maybe then I can sit and relax, perhaps play a game with my boys. But the thing is—no matter how many tasks I cross off that list—there are always more to be added. There are always some tasks I never get to. And so the pressure remains, tugging at my shoulders and pounding in my head.

**We were not meant to mother this way.**

We were not meant to dread the early morning, curse the ticking clock, or find the needs of our little people an inconvenience.

We were meant to savor them. We were made to enjoy these days. **We were created for a peace-driven motherhood.**

When we choose to follow Jesus, we are promised an all-consuming and incomprehensible sort of peace—the very peace that He has tailored. A peace masterfully conceived and crafted in such a way to release us from the all-consuming everyday pressures, **and graft us to the very One Who is Peace Himself.**





We see it in John 14:27, in the words He spoke to His disciples just before He ascended to Heaven.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”  
(John 14:27)

It is a peace found nowhere else except in Christ Himself, and in this peace we find hope for all of our days—hope to live those days well, and to take immense joy in the journey—including those arduous and trying days.

As moms we often become caught in a life-draining cycle of setting aside this peace in favor of our busy schedules. We commit too much. Plan too much. Attempt too much. Drive too much. Go too much. And pursue peace far too little.

Yet His promise is one of day-to-day peace; a foundational peace that will guide us through our each and every day of motherhood. It is a peace that sustains us every sunrise to sunset, and then through the sleepless nights.

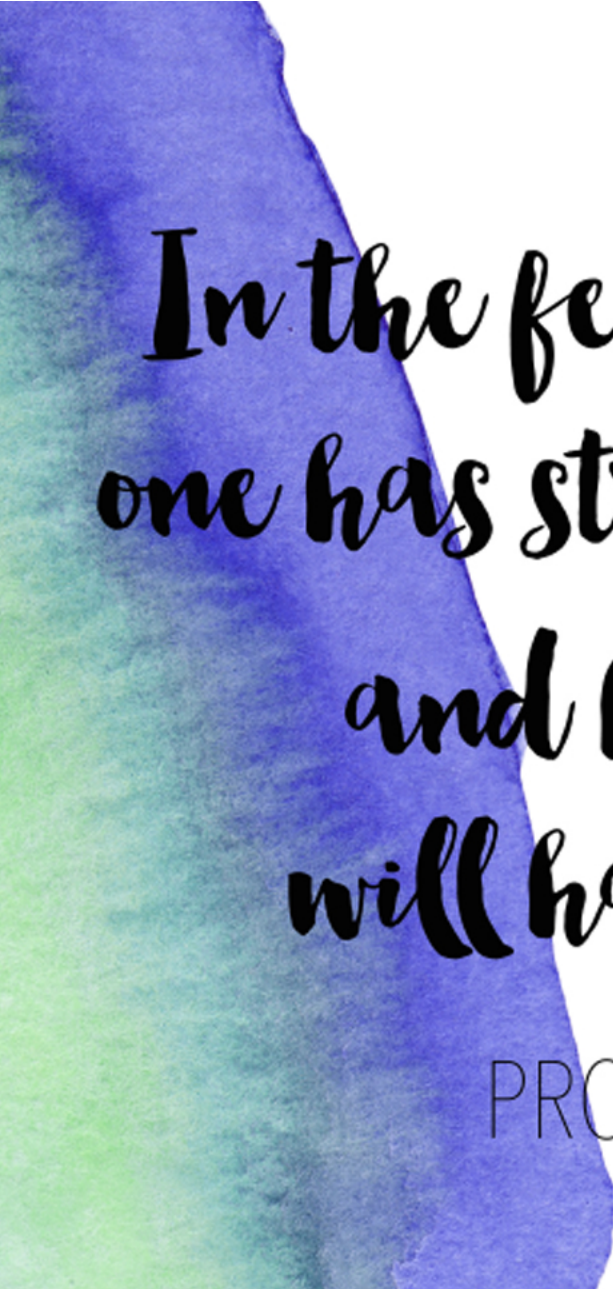
**“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)**

This peace is not only our gift, it is our calling. We were made for it. And when we choose to seek it out in God’s Word, to believe it, to embrace it, to claim it as our own—our motherhood transforms. Our home takes on a whole new culture with the heartbeat of Christ at its center. **New life begins to course through our family, strengthening those ties for days and years and generations to come.**

**Further Study: Proverbs 12:20, Psalm 119:165, Isaiah 26:3, Isaiah 26:12**

**Ask Yourself....**

What are some specific ways that the devil has stolen your peace as a mother? Perhaps it is through fears and anxieties, or feeling inadequate, or uncertainty concerning the future. Write these down, and be as specific as possible. Write out a prayer asking the Lord to remind you every single day to cast all of your anxieties upon Him, because He cares for you. Resist the devil, and he will flee.



In the fear of the LORD  
one has strong confidence,  
and his children  
will have a refuge.

PROVERBS 14:26

### *Freedom In Confidence*

*“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”  
(Proverbs 14:26)*

It is astonishing to me that we can carry and grow these babies within us, deliver them into the world in a whirlwind of a messy and chaotic performance called labor, and then be discharged three days later with the task of raising that fragile and tiny human into an adult.

**We know nothing, yet everything is expected of us.**

As we learn how to strap diapers just right to avoid leaks, and sway just perfectly to soothe that precious babe to sleep, we gain this false sense of security: a belief that maybe, just maybe, we have this. Perhaps we can do this thing called motherhood.

But then the baby wakes at three in the morning with a frightening temperature. Or the fatigue of sleepless nights hovers in a fog over your days, casting a shadow of anxiety over your spirit. And then a couple of years in that little babe begins to hone the craft of communication, and she begins asking questions—ones you just don't have answers to. And then that baby boards the school bus for the first time, and comes home distraught over feelings hurt on the playground. **Never does this motherhood gig get any easier or more predictable.**



*“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence,  
and his children will have a refuge.”  
(Proverbs 14:26)*

Right when we think we are figuring things out, right when we begin to gain some confidence, the unexpected shows up and our foundation begins to crumble. Whenever we trust in our own performance to carry us through these mothering years, that is exactly when we find ourselves in a very dangerous place. **We need a confidence not fabricated from ourselves or what we have to offer.** We were never meant to be enough for our children, but rather to point them to the only One who can ever be enough.

The only true confidence to be found in motherhood is the confidence we find in Christ. This is the sure footing and foundation that will stand the pressures of sleepless nights, questions without answers, driver's education, broken hearts, and college applications.

When we turn from our own performance as mothers to the performance that Christ displayed on the cross for our souls and the souls of our children—we find all the confidence we need for each and every day of navigating these children into adulthood.

**We must turn away from every assumption that we as mothers are enough.** God never created us to raise babies without His help. And in His grace He offers all of the help and peace and confidence that we so desperately need.

**And all we need to do is place Him at the center of our motherhood.**

This begins with acknowledging our children as a gift straight from Him and that, ultimately, they belong to Him. And with this acknowledgment comes the peace that He loves them and will care for them. We can trust Him with their souls and bodies and minds and futures.

**He's got this.**

And when we trust Him in every area of our mothering, when we give Him His respectful place as Author and Creator and Protector—that is when we discover the one confidence big enough and brave enough and sufficient enough for the great task that God has set before us. This is when we find room to breathe, no longer depending on our own efforts or abilities, but instead resting in Him as He gives us all we need for carrying out this great calling of motherhood.

**Further study:** 2 Corinthians 3:4-5, Proverbs 3:26, Philippians 3:3

**Ask Yourself...**

What is an area of your motherhood that you feel very confident in? Perhaps it is in your ability to teach your child new skills, or to remain patient during tantrums, or to always have the right words to say when your child is hurt. Have you thanked the Lord for giving you those abilities? Celebrate the areas He has gifted you in, and ask Him to help you place all of your confidence in Him, not those abilities.