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# Daily Devotional - How Do You Honor Your Mother?

MAY 09TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Daily Devotional - How Do You Honor Your Mother?

## Exodus 20:12

The command to “honor . . . your mother” isn’t a suggestion, and nobody is exempt. Her character or effectiveness as a parent is not the issue. God established this guideline for Israel because a respectful home was crucial to the nation’s future success. The same is true for us today. God blesses our homes when we respect our mothers with words, attitudes, and actions.

**LOVE HER UNCONDITIONALLY.** We’re called to love our moms as God does. He didn’t qualify His love with expectations or conditions to be met first. He lavished affection on us “while we were yet sinners” ([Romans 5:8](#)).

**FORGIVE HER COMPASSIONATELY.** Since there are no perfect mothers, at times we’ll have to forgive them. If your mom seems harsh or unloving, show compassion. As a child, she may have experienced hardships that wounded her spirit.

**REMEMBER HER GRATEFULLY.** This Mother’s Day, thank Mom for all she did for you when you were young. But don’t let it end there. Nothing is more hurtful than feeling forgotten. Make room for her in your busy schedule. After all, she made countless sacrifices for you.

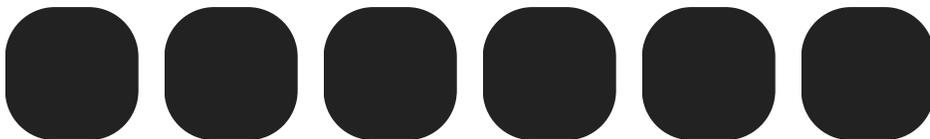
**TREAT HER KINDLY.** Let your mother know she's valued. Take time to listen attentively to her words, and help her out when she is in need.

Does your mother feel loved and honored? What can you do to bring a big smile to her face? In our adult years, it's easy to distance ourselves from our moms because life gets hectic and multiple demands steal our time. Make it a habit to pray for her daily and contact her regularly.

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## Daily Devotional - The Blessing of Praying Parent

MAY 08TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - The Blessing of Praying Parent](#)

[1 Samuel 2:1-10](#)

Hannah experienced great sorrow prior to the birth of her son Samuel. Through that difficult time, however, she demonstrated a strong love for the Lord and a dependence on Him through prayer.

Samuel had a mother who loved God deeply. In fact, Hannah saw herself as the Lord's handmaid, whose life was in service to Him ([1 Samuel 1:11 KJV](#)). Even when her misery was overwhelming, she acknowledged how important He was to her, and she modeled a godly lifestyle.

We are commanded to love the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength ([Mark 12:30](#)) and to give Him first place in our life ([Deuteronomy 5:7](#)). If we love God, we will make sure our children know about Him and understand the importance of a relationship with Him through Christ. Our lives, though flawed, will reveal the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

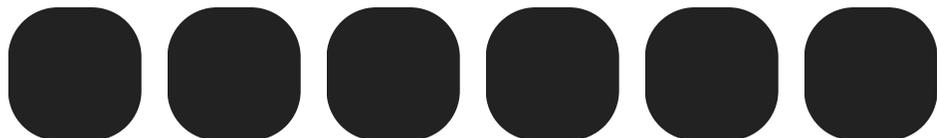
Samuel was blessed because Hannah was a woman of prayer. After telling of her petition, which stemmed from misery, Scripture records her declaration of praise, which came from a heart rejoicing over God's answer to her cries. A praying mother gives high priority to bringing family concerns before the Lord. I remember my mom kneeling with me by my bed to pray. I can still recall the phrases she used and the things she talked over with Him.

Children need committed parents who 1) demonstrate love toward both the family and God, and 2) help them experience the power and joy of prayer ([James 5:16](#)). Even one parent can make a powerful difference when Christ is the center of the home. I know my mother did.

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## Daily Devotional - Hannah's Example

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MAY 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Hannah's Example

### 1 Samuel 1:1-20

In today's passage, the prophet Samuel describes his godly parents and the difficult time they had before he was born. From looking at the life of his mother Hannah, we can learn some important principles by which to live. Though her situation involved motherhood, the lessons apply to both men and women.

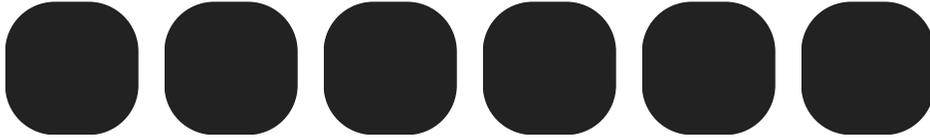
**STAYING COMMITTED TO FAMILY.** One of the women in Hannah's life tormented her unmercifully. While physical danger wasn't an issue, there was constant emotional turmoil because she could not avoid this person. How tempting it must have been to try and find a way out. And yet Hannah stayed in the home, prayed to the Lord, and did her best to cope. She demonstrated a commitment to family that overrode her need for relief.

**COMMUNICATING LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE.** Hannah considered her son Samuel a gift from the Lord (1 Samuel 1:20). I picture her telling him day after day, "God gave you to me. I love you and look forward to what He has planned for you." We have the power to build up our children and our spouses—or tear them down. Through our prayers, words of affirmation, and hugs and kisses, we show how much we value them. Demonstrating godly love strengthens the people who are most precious to us.

Some of us live with people who make life difficult. At times we are negatively impacted by the choices they make. God understands your situation just as He was fully aware of Hannah's. Draw close to Him and experience His love and commitment to you. Then express the same to others.

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## Daily Devotional - Supreme Love

MAY 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Daily Devotional - Supreme Love](#)

### [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#)

There is no value or human expression of greater importance than love. Paul's incomparable treatise on this subject in [1 Corinthians 13](#) is sandwiched between two chapters that deal with spiritual gifts. The Corinthians focused too much on their display of such gifts, so the apostle showed them the "more excellent way" ([1 Corinthians 12:31](#)). Interestingly, he made no attempt to define love but instead described its importance and expression.

The type of love Paul is talking about isn't human in origin but, rather, comes from God—a part of His very nature. It's unselfish, sacrificial love that acts on behalf of someone else. Since the Lord wants to transform our character into the image of His Son,

this priority makes perfect sense. You see, whenever we display such selfless care for one another, that's when we are the most like Christ.

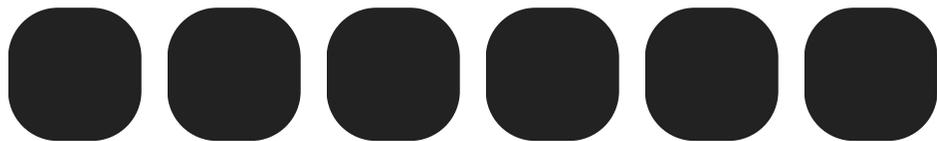
The first three verses of this chapter issue us a warning. Without the motivation of love, all our good deeds—even service for the Lord—will profit us nothing. In God's eyes, a loving spirit is more important than all our impressive words, knowledge, faith, generosity, and self-sacrifice. When we stand before Christ to be judged for our good works, those deeds done for selfish reasons will not be worthy of reward.

We are all blinded to some degree when it comes to our motives, so discerning why we serve God or do good deeds can be difficult. Pray to know your heart's hidden intentions, and replace any self-centered motivations with His "more excellent way" of love. Then your works will be of eternal value.

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## Daily Devotional - The Challenges of Forgiving Ourselves

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## Daily Devotional - The Challenges of Forgiving Ourselves

### Psalms 32:1-2

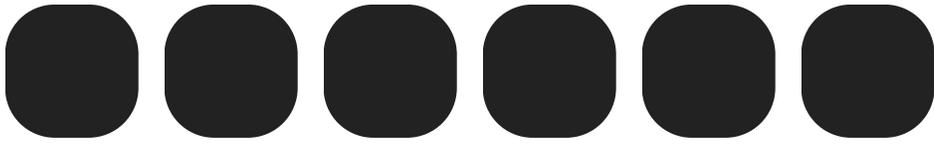
Yesterday, we considered why people fail to forgive themselves for wrongdoing. Today, let's look at seven questions to ask yourself when you struggle with self-condemnation.

- 1. Why should I continue to condemn myself when the Lord no longer condemns me?*
- 2. Is my self-condemnation drawing me into a closer relationship with God, or is it driving me further from Him?*
- 3. What good am I doing by refusing to forgive myself?*
- 4. Does self-condemnation help or hurt my relationships with others?*
- 5. Does my refusal to forgive myself impress God? Does He find me more devout because of my guilt and shame?*
- 6. Is there any biblical basis for withholding self-forgiveness?*
- 7. How long do I intend to condemn myself? What will be the end result?*

Normally, the answers to these questions are obvious. However, if you're in the throes of self-condemnation, the truth may seem hazy.

Often the only way to work through times of self-doubt and remorse is to focus on the basics of who God is and what He wants for your life. If you are struggling with an inability to forgive yourself, prayerfully consider the seven questions above. Read them aloud, and let them work through your spirit. You may even want to open a journal or take out a sheet of paper to record your thoughts as the Lord speaks to you. Don't be surprised by some intense wrestling in your heart as you consider these points—and as God reorders your thoughts about yourself.

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