



The Mother Who Fears the Lord

by Linda Minnick

*She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
Proverbs 31:26*

Who is a mother who fears the Lord?

The fear of the Lord is not a “fear” that causes us to run away from Him, but a fear that causes us to get as close to Him as we can because He is the safest place for us to be. Simply put, a mother who fears the Lord is one who pursues the Lord. How can that be? Why would she pursue what she fears? Because she knows her own sinfulness and the impossibility of ever being righteous and acceptable before God. She believes in His justice that demands eternal punishment for her sin. But she also believes in the love of God that offers her complete and eternal salvation. Therefore her goal in all areas of life is to pursue her relationship to Him. She has such reverence for Him and such complete regard for His ways that she seeks to know His mind and follow His wisdom in EVERYTHING.

1. Do I despise wisdom and instruction?

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2. Do I hate evil such as pride, arrogance, the evil way and the perverted mouth?


Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.

3. Do I consistently wait for His lovingkindness?

Psalms 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

4. When the demands of men contradict those of God, do I put God's cause before my own safety, comfort?

Exodus 1:17-21 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them." So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them.



A mother
who fears the Lord
is one who has a
right relationship
with God!

I. A mother who fears the Lord opens her mouth.

She opens her mouth . . .

While it's true that much is taught to our children by example, it is critical that we open our mouths! We MUST talk! What we say, when we say it, how we say it are also very important, but we MUST open our mouths!

WHY?

1. For nurturing our children in the discipline of the Lord
Ephesians 6:4 . . . bring them up (nurture) in the discipline . . . of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.

2. For nurturing our children in the Instruction of the Lord
Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

3. For Protection

- Abigail opened her mouth to protect her family when David threatened to avenge himself on Nabal, Abigail's worthless husband. *1 Samuel 25:24-31*
- A Wise Woman, the Bible says, spared her whole city from destruction when she opened her mouth to Joab who was pursuing David's enemy, a man named Sheba. *2 Samuel 20:16-22*
- Esther opened her mouth at the risk of her own life to spare her people from annihilation by the wicked Haman. *Book of Esther*

(See supplement)

II. The mother who fears the Lord opens her mouth in wisdom

She opens her mouth in wisdom . . .

1. What is wisdom: skill in applying the knowledge God has given you.
2. Where does it come from? From God alone.

*Proverbs 2:6-7 For **the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth (Scripture) come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;***

Contrast

1 Corinthians 1:19-20 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

3. Seek Wisdom for guiding yourself.

Job 28:12-28

Colossians 4:5-6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

*Malachi 2:5-6 “My covenant with him (Levi) was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered (feared) Me and stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he **turned many back from iniquity.**”*

4. Seek Wisdom for guiding your children.

- when not to speak
- how to speak
- what to speak
- when to speak

“If we be wise, we shall not only be wise for ourselves, but wise also for our children, and for their good, especially if we open our mouth with wisdom . . .”

Matthew Henry

David instructed his son Solomon with these words:

Proverbs 4:5-9 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding. Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty.

5. Pray for Wisdom for you and your children!

James 1:5-8 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

III. The mother who fears the Lord opens her mouth with kindness

*She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

She is subject to the “Law” of kindness. There is a law and it says, “Be Kind to one another.” This law is in her tongue—her speech. When she opens her mouth with wisdom it is with kind speech. In fact unkind speech is NOT wisdom! She speaks kindly in tone and intention.

Speaking kindly to our children is not “giving in” to them. That would not be kind!

“Those are truly kind that are wisely so; that are tender of their children’s comfort, but not indulgent of their children’s follies.”

Matthew Henry

“Parents, provoke not your children to wrath, by haughtiness and moroseness, and keeping them at an unreasonable distance, by constant chiding, and severe correction, lest they be discouraged; --but who are gentle towards them, as becomes parents towards those that are parts of themselves, and that derive their follies from them; who reprove with the meekness of wisdom, restrain with reason and a due consideration of all circumstances, counsel and admonish with compassion and affection, and rule with a steady gentle hand, such parents as these the children will rise up and call blessed.”

Matthew Henry

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification (building up—not ego) according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

1 Peter 3:8-12

... “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS (parents), AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

Which kind of Wisdom describes your home?

James 3:13-18

A Word Picture of the Mother Who Feels the Lord

She is discreet and obliging in all her discourse, not talkative, censorious, nor peevish, as some are, that know how to take pains; no, she opens her mouth with wisdom; when she does speak, it is with a great deal of prudence and very much to the purpose; you may perceive by every word she says how much she governs herself by the rules of wisdom. She not only takes prudent measures herself, but gives prudent advice to others; and this not as assuming the authority of a dictator, but with the affection of a friend and an obliging air: In her tongue is the law of kindness; all she says is under the government of that law. The law of love and kindness is written in the heart, but it shows itself in the tongue; if we are kindly affectioned one to another, it will appear by affectionate expression. It is called a law of kindness, because it gives law to others, to all she converses with. Her wisdom and kindness together put a commanding power into all she says; they command respect, they command compliance. How forcible are right words! In her tongue is the law of grace, or mercy (so some read it), understanding it of the word and law of God, which she delights to talk of among her children and servants. She is full of pious religious discourse, and manages it prudently, which shows how full her heart is of another world even when her hands are most busy about this world. (Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew Henry, Proverbs 31:26)

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