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The Power of Praying Parents

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The Power of Praying Parents

S. JOSEPH KIDDER

The Text

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (3 John 4).

Introduction

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I met Larry during Christmas. He was rough looking and heavily covered with tattoos—up and down his arms, on his neck, even on his head. In the course of our conversation, he told me that he was the head deacon at his church. I was taken aback! I don’t normally see myself as judgmental, but I could not understand why a church would let a guy who looked as rough as Larry be the head deacon. That is when he shared his story with me.

He grew up in the Church and was the product of Adventist education from elementary school until the first year of college. When he got to college, he did not feel like he fit in with their strict rules and regulations. He left school and ended up joining the Hells Angels. He totally embraced the gang life—drugs, women, drinking, full-body tattoos.

During Larry’s years away from God, his mother woke up at five o’clock every morning to pray for her son. She had little contact with Larry and often did not know where he was,

whether he was dead or alive—in jail or out of jail—but she kept clinging to hope. For fifteen years, Larry’s mother faithfully prayed for her son and claimed Bible promises on his behalf.

Fifteen years later, Larry finally decided it was time to leave the Hells Angels. He and his girlfriend settled down in the Bay Area. He got a job, but stole from his boss to support his drug addiction. He was caught and fired. Soon after, he ran out of money. He and his girlfriend were evicted from their apartment and shortly thereafter, she left him. Larry, unable to recover, lived on the streets of San Francisco. He ate from trash cans and scavenged for necessities.

Larry became so depressed that he felt suicide was the only option. One Sabbath morning, he took his gun and pointed it at his head. With his finger on the trigger, he heard a voice telling him to go to church. He had not been to church in fifteen years so he ignored the voice. Resetting his grip, he heard the voice again saying, “Go to church.” He tried to ignore the voice again. This happened several times. How did Larry respond? What happened to him? We’ll get back to that shortly.

Covering Our Children with Prayer

Every single day we may find ourselves doing a lot for our children—loving and caring for them, nurturing, teaching, training, helping,

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leading, equipping, encouraging, protecting, and so much more. We spend precious hours just living out life, helping with homework, and driving them to activities. We spend money on sports, lessons, and various classes to help them grow and become all they can be, providing opportunities for them to do what they most love in this world. But in the midst of busy, full lives we have to ask ourselves: Are we praying for our children?

I am not referring to quick prayers that have little thought behind them. I mean *really* praying specific, powerful, promise-filled, hope-inspired prayers. The only thing of eternal significance that will stand the test of time is our prayers for our children. Our prayers for our children never die. They live on in their lives. Their relationship with Jesus is the only thing they can take with them to heaven, and for this we should pray for them.

When my two children were young, after supper we would have family worship. Shortly after that I would typically leave for a meeting or pastoral visitation. My wife would tuck the children in bed after praying with each one of them. When I would return home, I would go into their rooms and also pray with them. Then my wife and I would go into our bedroom and pray for our children's salvation, protection, future, and character. Many times we would claim specific Bible promises on their behalf. To this day, my adult children remain committed followers of Jesus.

There is nothing more powerful than the earnest prayers of parents who humbly kneel down and lift their children before the Lord. Ellen White writes,

“THE POWER OF A MOTHER’S PRAYERS CANNOT BE TOO HIGHLY ESTIMATED. SHE WHO KNEELS BESIDE HER SON AND DAUGHTER THROUGH THE VICISSITUDES OF CHILDHOOD, THROUGH THE PERILS OF YOUTH, WILL NEVER KNOW TILL THE JUDGMENT THE INFLUENCE OF HER PRAYERS UPON THE LIFE OF HER CHILDREN. IF SHE IS CONNECTED BY FAITH WITH THE SON OF GOD, THE

MOTHER’S TENDER HAND MAY HOLD BACK HER SON FROM THE POWER OF TEMPTATION, MAY RESTRAIN HER DAUGHTER FROM INDULGING IN SIN. WHEN PASSION IS WARRING FOR THE MASTERY, THE POWER OF LOVE, THE RESTRAINING, EARNEST, DETERMINED INFLUENCE OF THE MOTHER, MAY BALANCE THE SOUL ON THE SIDE OF RIGHT.”
WHITE, ADVENTIST HOME P. 266

In my pastoral ministry I have seen the difference it makes when parents pray for their children. Those children are protected by God. They often decided to follow Jesus and more often than not, come back to the Lord when they go astray.

Prayers are powerful because we have a God who does even the impossible when we pray. Hannah prayed for something that was impossible for her—to have a child—but God granted her wish. The same God who granted Hannah's wish for a child honors the prayers of parents for the salvation, protection, and future of their children. Hannah knew Who had helped her: “I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him” (1 Samuel 1:27). My hope is that every parent will be able to claim this promise on behalf of their children.

Now I would like to share with you seven important areas for which to pray concerning your children. At the end, there is 31-day prayer plan which may help you get started praying for your children. You may repeat it or adapt it as you wish.

1. Salvation

As a father, my greatest desire in the world is to see my children walking with the Lord, and I pray for this all the time. John had it right when he wrote, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (3 John 4).

I want to pray that my children have an experience like Paul who said, “I want to

know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10-11, NIV). When children do this, is there any greater joy that a parent can have?

Prayer for Our Children’s Salvation:

“Father, I pray that my daughter will confess with her mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in her heart that You have raised Christ from the dead.

May my daughter call on Your name (Romans 10:9,13)! Father, lead my daughter in the paths of righteousness for Your name’s sake. I pray that You will shed Your love abroad in her heart, and teach my daughter to delight in You (Romans 5:5).

Jesus, bind Satan and break his power over my daughter for he is a defeated foe. Please send your angels and godly men and women to minister to my daughter.

Holy Spirit, I ask that you draw my daughter to Jesus Christ and into a close, personal relationship with Him.

Thank You, Lord, for Your gift of salvation. Thank You for saving my daughter. I pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen.”

2. Character

We desire very strongly for our children to be Christ-like. The Apostle Paul’s prayer was that they would follow his example, as he followed the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). We pray that our children not only know doctrine, but that they would know Jesus and have His character. Our greatest hope is that others will be able to see Him in them, that their light would shine before others, that others may see their good deeds and glorify their Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

It is not enough to simply “wish” that our children would be like Jesus. We must be godly examples of Christ to our children, and we

must earnestly pray His character into their lives. In my own Bible study I love to discover the character of God in His word. Whenever I list these characteristics, I prayerfully ask Him to place those characteristics in my children and me. There is no greater act of worship than to be Christ-like, for we were created in His image for fellowship with Him.

Prayer for Our Children’s Characters:

“Father, thank you that my son is Your child! You have chosen him to be holy, and he is dearly loved. Out of that love, may my son’s life be marked by tenderhearted mercy, by kindness, by humility, by gentleness, and by patience. May he grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Let my son’s light shine before others, that they may see his good deeds and glorify You (Matthew 5:16).

I pray that my son will be quick to forgive an offense, forgiving as quickly and completely as You forgave us! And above all else, I pray that he will live a life of love which binds us all together in perfect unity (Ephesians 4:32).

May my son’s heart be filled with the peace of Christ and thankfulness. Let every detail of my son’s life —words, actions, and thoughts— be done in the name of Jesus, thanking You every step of the way.

May my son learn to do right, seek justice, and defend the oppressed. May he take up the cause of the fatherless and plead the case of the widow (Isaiah 1:17).

I pray my son will serve You faithfully with all his heart and consider what great things You have done for him” (1 Samuel 12:24). In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

3. Relationships

Our prayers should be centered on God guiding our children “along the right paths for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:3) and leading them in choosing their friends and future spouses. We are to pray that they will have relationships

that are positive and which will lead them to Christ.

Ask God to protect your child daily from those who would be an evil influence to them. “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night” (Psalm 1:1, 2, NIV).

One of the biggest influences on our children are their friends. We pray that God will bring committed Christians like the apostle, Andrew, to their paths who will help lead them to Jesus. We also want our children to be like Andrew and bring other people to Christ.¹ We might even pray that God will miraculously remove a friend of questionable character from our child’s life.

Prayer for Our Children’s Relationships:

“Father, bring to my children’s paths the friends You want them to have. Lord, keep them from the wrong influences. Provide my children with godly relationships and fun things to do that are also pleasing to You.

Father, thank You that my children walk in the way of godly Christians and keep the paths of the righteous. Thank You, Father, that You provide wise and godly friendships for my children. May my children find godly spouses that will encourage them in their faith and walk with the Lord (2 Corinthians 6:14). In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

4. Joy

We desire to bring happiness to our loved ones. That desire is a tiny reflection of God’s desire to lavish our children with happiness beyond measure. The concept of joy is found more than 200 times in the Bible, thus showing the value God places on it.² Joy is even a fruit of the Spirit, a result of having the Holy Spirit in our lives (Ephesians 5:22).

The ultimate joy is having God’s presence in our children’s lives. “You make known to

me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand” (Psalm 16:11, NIV). Picture the unimaginable, eternal delight that God wants to give. Make eternal happiness in God’s presence your reference point and goal as you pray for your children.

Ultimately, only God can offer total, eternal happiness. This joy is not based on material possessions, accomplishments, or circumstances, but contentment in the Lord. Paul says, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13, NIV).

Prayer for Our Children’s Joy:

“Oh Jesus, You alone know what will make my daughter happy and whole. You alone have set her on the path to eternal happiness in Your presence, so do whatever You think is best. I only ask that You fill her with Your Holy Spirit, as I place her in Your hands. May Your joy be her strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

May she be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that she may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that she may know You (Colossians 2:2). May my daughter keep her life free from the love of money and be content with what she has, because You have said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ (Hebrews 13:5, NIV). May Your presence and eternal delight rest in her heart, mind, and soul forever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

5. Protection

When I was studying at Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon, a civil war between the Christians and the Muslims broke out. The college was located in the Christian territory at the edge of the battle line. Many rockets would fall on the campus, increasingly becoming more and more dangerous. My mom prayed every day and claimed the promises of protection in Psalm 91 on my behalf:

“WHOEVER DWELLS IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL REST IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. I WILL SAY OF THE LORD, ‘HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS, MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST.’ SURELY HE WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE FOWLER’S SNARE AND FROM THE DEADLY PESTILENCE. HE WILL COVER YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS, AND UNDER HIS WINGS YOU WILL FIND REFUGE; HIS FAITHFULNESS WILL BE YOUR SHIELD AND RAMPART. YOU WILL NOT FEAR THE TERROR OF NIGHT, NOR THE ARROW THAT FLIES BY DAY, NOR THE PESTILENCE THAT STALKS IN THE DARKNESS, NOR THE PLAGUE THAT DESTROYS AT MIDDAY. A THOUSAND MAY FALL AT YOUR SIDE, TEN THOUSAND AT YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT IT WILL NOT COME NEAR YOU.”
PSALM 91:1-7, NIV

The reason I am alive today is because she claimed those promises for me. Therefore today, I pray a prayer of protection on behalf of my children for the many dangers they face every day. I also ask God to protect them from sin and evil. Every day they face such temptations as drugs, alcohol, pornography, and even friends who could lead them down the wrong paths. In our struggle against evil we are dealing with spiritual powers. Therefore, we are to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the attacks of the evil one.

“FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER. PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL’S SCHEMES. FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS. THEREFORE PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT WHEN THE DAY OF EVIL COMES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND YOUR GROUND, AND AFTER YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND.”
EPHESIANS 6:10-13, NIV

One powerful weapon that every Christian parent has is the ability to pray a daily hedge of protection around their children. “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:3, NIV).

Be specific in claiming the promise in Scripture that is related to the kind of protection that is needed for your children. For example, for protection from sin you can claim a verse such as Romans 6:14: “For sin shall not have dominion over you (King James Version).” For protection from discouragement, you could claim this promise: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6; and see also Hebrews 13:5).

Prayer for Our Children’s Protection:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray a hedge of protection around my children. I thank You that You are a wall of fire around them. Thank You that You have given Your angels charge over my children to keep them in all their ways. I thank You that Your angels surround them while they are out and away from home. Thank You that You protect them from harm, accidents, and all kinds of danger. In peace may they lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make them dwell in safety (Psalm 4:8).

“Thank You, Lord, that You are the fortress and the refuge of my children. Thank You that Your Word is a lamp for their feet and a light for their path. Thank You that the wicked one can’t touch them, and no evil will befall them.”³

“Father, bless them and keep them; Make Your face shine on them and be gracious to them; Turn Your face toward them and give them peace (Numbers 6:24-26). In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

6. Future

It is our sincere prayer that our children will now and forever walk faithfully with the Lord as Enoch did (Genesis 5:24) and that Jesus would be their lifelong Friend and Savior.

For our children's future we pray that they will choose Jesus to be their guide in every decision they will make. We want them to make decisions not based solely on logic or the needs of the moment, but based on God's will guided by the Holy Spirit (Psalm 119:105).

We must ask God to help them make wise decisions. One of the most important decisions they will make is the choice of a spouse. This decision should be made with much prayer, counsel, and wisdom. God promises wisdom to all who simply ask: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5, NIV). We pray that our children will desire God's will, surrender their lives, and ask Him to be their directing agent. Our prayers should be centered on them choosing wisely and choosing someone God would approve, somebody who will encourage them in the Lord.

We pray for our children to have a future that is secure in Christ. He is in control and will be present with them long after we are gone.

Prayer for Our Children's Futures:

"Lord, I thank you that you know the plans you have for my son—to prosper him and not to harm him, to give him hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). May You supply all of his emotional, physical, and spiritual needs according to Your riches in glory (Philippians 4:19). I pray that my son will not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But may his delight be in Your law, and may he meditate on it day and night (Psalm 1:1–2).

"I pray that my son will trust in You with all his heart and lean not on his own understanding; in all his ways submit to You, and that You will make his paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6). May my son forget what is behind and always strive toward what is ahead. (Philippians 3:13). May he be confident that the good work You began in him will be carried out to completion until You come again (Philippians 1:6). In Jesus' name, Amen."

7. Faithfulness

Our desire for our children is to be faithful in the small and big things of life. We want them to be faithful to God, their spouses, children, work, finances, and Church.

The Early Church was very faithful in their church attendance, praise and worship, and prayer. "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts," (Acts 2:46, NIV). We yearn for our children to do the same thing.

When the time comes when they must stand for their faith, we want them to stand like Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who had a choice between worshipping the king and avoiding the fiery furnace or worshipping God alone and potentially dying. They said to the king:

**"KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, WE DO NOT NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES BEFORE YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF WE ARE THROWN INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE, THE GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM IT, AND HE WILL DELIVER US FROM YOUR MAJESTY'S HAND. BUT EVEN IF HE DOES NOT, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF GOLD YOU HAVE SET UP."
DANIEL 3:16-18, NIV**

In order to make sure we are faithful in the big things, we have to be faithful in the little things. Luke writes, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much" (Luke 16:10, NIV).

When I became an Adventist, I faced a challenging dilemma—be faithful to God and honor His Sabbath or go to the university and take my exams on the Sabbath. I decided that I would be obedient to God and follow His will. When I failed to take the exams for two years running, the university kicked me out. My family nearly beat me to death for becoming

an Adventist. I was abandoned by them and thrown out onto the street. That was 38 years ago. As I reflect on that time, I see that God was making all things work together for good for my family and me. Today I pray that my children will do the same and stand faithfully for God in the small and the big things of life, no matter what the price.

Prayer for Our Children's Faithfulness:

"Lord, You are always faithful to us. Your Word shows us time and again that You are faithful. I pray that my children will be faithful to You, that they would not wander from You. I pray that You teach them what it means to be faithful to You, to Your Word, and to Your Church. Give them steadiness as they follow You. Teach them to be faithful in small, simple acts of faith, as well as big acts of faith. I pray that like Joshua they will declared, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

"Lord, I pray that they would be like Daniel who could have avoided the lions' den, but chose instead to be faithful to God (Daniel 6:10-16). I pray that You will give them Your Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). I pray that they will be strong and courageous and not be afraid, but to stand for You at all times (Joshua 1:9). In Jesus' name, Amen."

The Power of a Praying Mother

Allow me now to return to the story of Larry, the ex-Hells Angels gang member whose mother prayed him back to God. After several suicide attempts and hearing the voice of God, Larry finally gave in to the voice and went to church in San Francisco.

The church was full so Larry sat in the last pew at the rear of the church. Because he was living on the streets with no access to a shower or basic hygiene, he smelled so bad that everyone sitting within a 5-pew radius got up and left the sanctuary. The pastor soon stood up to preach. He put his Bible and notes on

the pulpit and looked out at the congregation. Larry caught his attention. The pastor leaned forward, staring at Larry for about a minute before going back to his notes. But he could not preach. Once again he leaned forward to stare at Larry and once again he unsuccessfully went back to his notes.

Now the whole church began to focus on Larry. Still unable to preach, the pastor left the pulpit and started walking to the back of the church. He headed straight for Larry. He fell at his feet, embraced him, hugging and kissing him and crying for joy. Larry had been his roommate in college. Of all the churches for Larry to go to, he came to one where God had prepared a reception of unconditional love.

One month before Larry gave up his suicide attempt and went to church, the pastor and his wife hosted some of their college friends who were traveling to Yosemite Park. That evening after supper the group reminisced about their college days and pulled out a yearbook. Flipping through the pages, the pastor's wife saw a picture of Larry and wondered aloud what had become of him. They spoke about what they knew of his life—far from God, into drugs and gang life. After a moment they stopped their conversation, feeling convicted to pray for Larry.

The following day, when their friends went home, the pastor and his wife made a commitment to pray every day for Larry in hopes of seeing him again. A month later Larry showed up at their church! No sermon was preached that Sabbath. Instead, the pastor shared this story and the church celebrated.

The evening I met Larry, he and his fiancé rose to leave the dinner table where several people were eating. A few minutes later a couple in their 60s left. Then another guy left. I was curious, so I rose and followed them to see where they were going. They had gone out to a side room. The people who rose to leave, I later learned, were the parents and brother of Larry's fiancée. Larry was giving them Bible studies. Now I understood why this special man was the head deacon.

The faithful prayers of Larry's mother and the prayers of his former classmates did not return void. They were answered in an incredible way. Larry did come back to his family, to the Lord, and to the Church.

Conclusion

As you pray for your children: pray through Scripture; start a prayer journal in which family and friends write prayers for them; form a prayer circle; turn your worries into prayers; develop a prayer war room (putting prayers and answers to prayers on the wall); pray big (intensely, defensively, and offensively with your children and with your spouse). Our children need our persistent Bible-based prayers. When we form our prayers from the Scripture, we are speaking God's own will for them (Hebrews 4:12). We must make a commitment to pray for them all their lives. It is the best gift we can give them.

Being a parent is tough, but God calls us to persevere in this endeavor, fixing our eyes upon

Him (Hebrews 12:1-2). It requires patience, humbleness, selflessness, and truth. Our love for our children must protect, trust, hope, persevere, and never fail (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). My desire is that we will continue to pray for our children and grandchildren until all of us are safely home with Him.

Notes

- ¹ Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Christ (John 1:40-42). He also brought a small boy with his fish and loaves to Christ (John 6:6-9). We also read that he helped bring Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-22).
- ² There are over 200 verses referring to joy in the NIV translation of the Bible. http://www.faithgateway.com/25-bible-verses-about-joy/#.WWzqTBS_tII. Accessed July 19, 2017.
- ³ Prayer adapted from <http://www.cfaith.com/index.php/article-display/105-featured-c5-articles/21626-prayer-to-stand-in-the-gap-for-your-children>. Accessed July 17, 2017.

31 Days of Prayer for Our Children

1. Salvation—“Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.” (Isaiah 45:8; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 3:5)

2. Growth in Grace—“I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

3. Love—“Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them.” (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:2)

4. Honesty and Integrity—“May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection.” (Psalm 25:21; Proverbs 10:9)

5. Reliance on God—“May my child grow to trust You with all of her heart and not lean on her own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 3:5).

6. Love for God’s Word—“May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb.” (Psalm 19:10)

7. God’s Protection—“I praise You for You are faithful; You will strengthen and guard my child from evil.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

8. Mercy—“May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36; Luke 1:50)

9. Respect (for self, others, and authority)—“Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as Your Word commands.” (1 Peter 2:17)

10. Biblical Self-Esteem—“Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:10)

11. Faithfulness—“Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts.” (Proverbs 3:3; Proverbs 14:22)

12. Courage—“May my children always be strong and courageous in their character.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

13. Purity—“Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions.” (Psalm 51:10)

14. Kindness—“Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

15. Generosity—“Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

16. Peace—“Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace.” (Romans 14:19; Isaiah 26:3)

17. Joy—“May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 1:6; Psalm 92:4)

18. Perseverance—“Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them.” (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 15:58)

19. Humility—“God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all.” (Titus 3:2; Proverbs 22:4)

20. Compassion—“Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion.” (Colossians 3:12; Psalm 145:9)

21. Responsibility—“Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load.” (Galatians 6:5; Colossians 3:23)

22. Contentment—“Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength.” (Philippians 4:12-13; 1 Timothy 6:6)

23. Faith—“I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children’s hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them.” (Luke 17:5-6; Hebrews 11:1-40)

24. A Servant’s Heart—“God, please help my children develop servant’s hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men.” (Ephesians 6:7; Romans 12:11)

25. Hope—“May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

26. Wisdom— “When my child lacks wisdom, help her understand that she should ask You. You give generously and without criticizing.” (James 1:5).

27. Passion for God—“Lord, please instill in my children a soul that ‘followeth hard after thee,’ one that clings passionately to You.” (Psalm 63:8; Psalm 42:1; 1 Lamentations 3:25)

28. Self-Discipline—“Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair.” (Proverbs 1:3; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6)

29. Prayerfulness—“Grant, Lord, that my children’s lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

30. Gratitude—“Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 2:7; Psalm 107:8).

31. Obedience to God— “Remind my child to obey You rather than men” (Acts 5:29).