

*A Woman's Place Ministries
P O Box 936
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November 2000

Greetings from Nebraska! We just had our first snow of the season, and we are praying for good weather come our moving day on December 4. For those who have not heard, my husband and I will be relocating to Sacramento, California next month. I will be joining the faculty of an excellent college, founded by a UPC pastor. It is not a Bible college, per se, but General Education, and it is fully accredited. That makes a big difference if one plans on transferring credit to another college, etc. We also plan to begin Distance Learning (correspondence) in the near future. So if you know of a young person (or an older person) looking into college, please have them check us out. Patten College at the Rock - 9467 Ranch Park Way - Elk Grove, CA 95624 1-800-762-5990

We care very much for our young people who might be leaving home for the first time. Those first two years can mean the difference between their going on strong for God, or slipping into worldly patterns. At College at the Rock, this is our concern, and we will do all we can to help our young people grow closer to God while getting their education. So we have learned it is possible to have an ACCREDITED college and still be spiritual.

I will also be a part of a fantastic apostolic magazine called "Connect." You might want to subscribe to this, and can get information from the above address. Also, please let me know personally if you know someone who might be interested in advertising in it. It's an excellent way to get the word out about Your Ministry!

I have had several people express concern that I would no longer have the Newsletter and my e-mail address after my move to Sacramento. Please be assured: I will continue to do the Newsletter, and I will have the same email address. You are still free to write to me at any time. "A Woman's Place" will still be here for you. That will go with me wherever I go.

COUNSELING COURSE

Brother Ensey's new "Christian Counseling from Scripture" course is doing great. We have had a good number of people enroll so far, and I have already begun grading papers. I am so excited about this course! If you ever plan on helping people, please check it out. Go to my website www.awpministries.org and go down the left side to "Helping Others." Click on that link.

A WORD TO PARENTS WHO HAVE "FAILED"

I hear from so many heartbroken mothers whose children have left church. Most often, these dear mothers blame themselves: "What did I do wrong? What could I have done differently?" Living with mistakes made in the past is very difficult. You cannot guess how many tears I cried into my pillows, crying for all the hurt and pain I brought upon my children before I came to the Lord. I was guilt-ridden, and could never get any lasting peace about it. I would often hear this scripture quoted: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) While it was meant to

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comfort parents whose children had backslid, it was no comfort to me. It brought condemnation to me. It reminded me that I had raised my children in the world, under ungodly and painful circumstances. It brought home to me that I had not "trained up my child" right. In fact, it seemed I had done everything wrong. And so I'd think, that verse is fine for those who raised their children right, but not for mothers like me.

Have you ever felt that way? But you know, recently something about that scripture jumped out at me, and I had to stop and ask: Who is the author? Solomon wrote Proverbs. King Solomon, son of David. And yet, I had to ask of Solomon-what did he do when HE was old? The Bible tells us that he did evil, and went after other gods, and his heart was turned away from the one true God. Read I Kings 11: 4-6 "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father."

Was this backsliding David's fault? Surely, David had his faults, but what Solomon chose in his later years fell on Solomon himself, not on his parents. We cannot measure our own worth in God's eyes by how our children live! Adam and Eve had perfect circumstances and the Perfect Father. And yet look how they sinned! Look how they failed God. Can we say that God failed? Of course not. God cannot fail. As the song says, "Jesus never fails! Jesus never fails!"

By the same principle, I urge you not to look at those parents whose children seem perfect. Do not compare yourself! And do not compare your children to theirs. First of all, the Bible admonishes against that. And we have no idea what is in another person's heart. That child who seems so perfect may not be what he or she appears to be. But even more important is this fact: we are not to brag, or take any credit, when our children turn out good! It is not us, it is God. My daughter is such a blessing to me, she serves God and is a caring, nurturing mother to her five children. She and her husband are training my grandchildren in the ways of the Lord. This blesses me! But I know I cannot take the credit. I can only look to God and say, "Thank you, Jesus! You did it-in spite of me!"

So I hope this helps you today to lay aside the weight of guilt that does not belong to you. We know we have sinned. We know we did wrong by our children. I John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us," and verse 10: "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." So it is good and well to admit we DID do wrong by our children. BUT-on the other hand--If you have truly repented of those sins, God has forgiven you. He promises, in I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We have been forgiven, ladies! We have been cleansed! Let it go! Lay it to rest! Trust in the Lord with all Thine heart, trust Him to bring that wayward son or daughter home. Trust Him, their Maker, to know how to fix them! When He says Fight, fight in prayer. And then leave the war in His hands and REST in Him. I believe we need to do more worship and

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praising-praying in faith and not in worry and fear. God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (Ephesians 3:20).

I care about you-and so does He!

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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