

2 Peter 1:4-14 (New International Version)

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Prophecy of Scripture

12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,

14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

Good Morning, My Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I greet you this morning in the name of the one who created mothers:

Genesis 1:27-28 (New International Version)

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number;** fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

I greet you in the name of the One who choose a mother for us only Son:

Luke 1:31

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

I greet you in the name of the Son who as he hung from the cross stopped to teach us that Mothers were important and should be cared for:

John 19:26

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"

Mothers must be important to God the Father for He created them and choose one for His Son. Mothers must be important to Jesus the Son for He made provisions for His mother, before He returned to the Father.

But what is a mother? Is it the one who **gives you birth** and protects you like Moses mother? Is it the one who **takes you home and cares for you like her own** like Pharaoh's daughter cared for Moses. Is a mother one **who prays for you and then gives you to**

the Lord like Hannah did for Samuel?

What is a mother? I would like for you to consider with me that a mother is all of that, sometimes only a part of that, and sometimes more than that. A mother is a birth mother, a play mother, a godmother, a spiritual mother, a teacher who takes a special interest, an aunt, older cousin, grandmother, babysitter or the neighbor across the street. A mother is one who knows there is no downsizing, quitting or retirement from the job. A mother is one who cares, cries, and comforts. A mother is one who prays, praises and punishes. A mother can be a father who steps in when mother cannot.

To each of you who find yourself within my description HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

In the scripture for our consideration this morning we hear Peter speaking a word of warning to be on guard against false teachers.

But I want to focus our time on the tools that Peter provides to help young and mature Christians to grow:

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

One of the commentaries I studied this week compared this list to tools within a toolbox. With that as introduction would you pray with me and for me around this theme?

A TOOLBOX FOR A CHRISTIAN MOTHER!

SHALL WE PRAY! God of heaven and earth we glorify you, we honor you and we bring our unworthy selves to your presence. Today is the day set aside to honor mothers, but you have taught us in your Word that everyday is Mothers Day for you command says to honor our father and our mother. Father, we ask that you grant us the grace to hear a Word from you during this time of preaching. A Word that will encourage, a Word that will heal, a Word that will lead to forgiveness. Abba, I ask you to use me this morning to bring that Word to your people. AMEN and AMEN.

A TOOLBOX FOR A CHRISTIAN MOTHER

Now if you are old school you know about a toolbox as being something that might contain a hammer, a pair of pliers, a screwdriver, maybe a tape measurer, a level, a few nails, screws and even a pencil. An old school toolbox.

But if you grew up in the computer age you might think of a toolbox as containing commands or functions that do various things within a program. In a writing program the toolbox has spelling and grammar check; a dictionary and thesaurus; word count and readability statistics; a maybe even a word merge or label function. A new school toolbox.

New Mothers need a toolbox. They need to be able to separate the hungry cry, from the sleepy cry, from the wet cry, from the come play with me attention cry. **Experienced Mothers** need a toolbox. They need to know to when to stay up all night because you need their help; and when to go to bed because it is time for you to learn from your mistakes. **Mothers of adult children** also need a toolbox. When do you just listen? When do you give advice? When do you ask

the hard questions? When do you just hold them in your arms because you have no words? Mothers at all stages need a toolbox.

But a Christian Mother has some other stuff in her toolbox. Peter calls them "qualities" they will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive on our Christian journey. I want to believe that if you have these qualities in your toolbox you will share them with the children in your life.

Let's look at them

faith complete trust or confidence in someone or something:

goodness; moral excellent, giving pleasure,

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

knowledge;

Knowledge applies to any body of facts gathered by study, observation, or experience, and to the ideas inferred from these facts

2 Timothy 2:15

King James Version (KJV)

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

self-control;

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control

perseverance; staying the course under difficult and confusing time- tenacity, endurance, dedication

godliness; The words *godly* and *godliness* actually appear only a few times in the New Testament; yet the entire Bible is a book on godliness. And when those words do appear they are pregnant with meaning and instruction for us.

It is both the privilege and duty of every Christian to pursue godliness, to train himself to be godly, to study diligently the practice

of godliness.

mutual affection;

love

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Somebody will leave today and declare she only spoke to the mothers she did not have a message for me. If you hear them, gently correct them and remind them that the qualities of a Christian Mother ought to be the qualities of any Christian at any time and anywhere.