

If we do have children, we bring delight to God when we find joy in our roles as mothers. But what about those times when we find this mothering task to be a burden? What about those times when we lack joy or feel overwhelmed with the endless demands? **Motherhood is a huge responsibility, an enormous task.** In fact, there is probably no profession that requires greater sacrifice and servanthood. There is nothing easy about good mothering. As one woman said, "**it can be back-breaking, hear-wrenching, and anxiety-producing-and that's just the morning!**" It's easy to grow weary and to focus on all the sacrifices being made, rather than on the joys that motherhood can bring.

I vividly remember one particular weekend when I hit motherhood meltdown. My two older daughters were five and four, my youngest was still an infant, and C.J. (husband) was away on a ministry trip. The older girls came down with a vicious stomach virus, and I spend a solid twenty-four-hour period cleaning up behind them. Of course, they missed the bucket nearly every time. I was simultaneously cleaning up vomit, changing dirty diapers, and doing endless loads of soiled laundry. There was no relief, and I was utterly exhausted. I remember thinking, Really, is what I'm doing all that important? There are women out there working 9 to 5 who seem to be doing something much more important than this! It was a discouraging and emotionally depleting time.

When C.J. returned, he sent me out for my morning away, a weekly habit for us. I took my Bible and holed up in the corner of a nearby fast-food restaurant, **desperately seeking God for a fresh vision for the work of mothering.** As I prayed and studied God's Word, the Lord revealed to me that I wasn't "just" to be a mom; rather, God had called me to be a mother.

The perspective of having a calling gave motherhood a whole new significance, and I repented of my complaining and grumbling. It is common for weary mothers to lack biblical perspective, to need fresh vision for the significance of our calling. In those moments, there really is no other source of refreshment than God. I would encourage you to **offer your weariness and discouragement to Jesus in prayer, trusting His intercession on your behalf (Hebrews 7:25).** Only your Creator can provide you with the eternal perspective you need to see these fleeting years as vitally important in the lives of your children. God wants to give you fresh strength and new joy for the task, which He is more than able to provide from the riches of His grace that He lavishes on us "**with all wisdom and understanding**" (Eph 1:7-8).

MOTHERS DAY IS THE DAY TO RECEIVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON MOTHERHOOD!