

# Whatever is Lovely

Mother's Day • May 12, 2019

*Whatever is **true**,  
whatever is **noble**,  
whatever is **right**,  
whatever is **pure**,  
whatever is **lovely**,  
whatever is **admirable**,  
- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -  
think about such things.  
- Philippians 4:8*

There are a lot of things about motherhood that aren't very pretty.

Some of motherhood is a mixed bag.

And some of it's really lovely.

We don't want to look back and realize – those were the good old days, and I missed it.

How do we make the most of today?

1. Cultivate gratitude

*Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NLT)*

a. Gratitude thrives in the soil of hardship.

*Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle. Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut. – 1 Samuel 1: 9-11(NLT)*

b. Gratitude is an antidote to misery.

c. Gratitude results in surrender.

*When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They brought along a three-year-old bull for the sacrifice and a basket of flour and some wine. After sacrificing the bull, they brought the boy to Eli. "Sir, do you remember me?" Hannah asked. "I am the very woman who stood here several years ago praying to the LORD. I asked the LORD to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him*

*to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life.” And they worshiped the LORD there. - 1 Samuel 1: 24-28 (NLT)*

2. Receive encouragement.

a. Don't compare.

*So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. - Romans 8:1(NLT)*

b. Do aspire.

*She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. - Proverbs 31: 25-27. (NLT)*

c. Let God take care of you.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. - Psalm 23:1 (NLT)*

1. Be still with Him.

*Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. - Luke 5:16 (NLT)*

*Abide in me, and I in you. - John 15:4 (ESV)*

2. Connect with Worship – Serve – Groups

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. – Colossians 3:13 (NIV)*

**Recommended Reading:**

*A Simplified Life* by Emily Ley

*Grumpy Mom Takes a Holiday* by Valerie Woerner

**Recommended Movie Night:**

Mom's Night Out – A Christian comedy that will make you laugh and cry!