

'LOVE FROM ABOVE'
(Understanding the Abundant Christian Life)
Studies in 1st John

'Motherly Love'

"Let your father and mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice" (Proverbs 23:25)

The Book of **Proverbs** is 31 chapters of *wisdom from above* that God revealed through numerous Spirit-filled authors. **Proverbs** is an awesome section of Scripture that provides sage guidance for all the seasons of life: **Chapters 1-9** (*Adolescent and teen-age wisdom for young people*); **Chapters 10-18** (*Wisdom for latter teens and pre-marriage young adults*); **Chapters 19-24** (*Family wisdom for the child-raising years*); **Chapters 25-29** (*the empty-nest & retirement age wisdom*); and **Chapters 30-31** (*Senior citizen wisdom from grandma and grandpa for the next generation*).

It's notable that although the last 7 chapters were compiled by others about the latter seasons of life, the first 25 chapters about home and family are by Solomon. According to ancient Jewish tradition, **Proverbs 31** is probably a biblical contribution from Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, about the virtuous woman. If Bathsheba is speaking from experience, we can see why she probably became like the woman of God described in the passage. What contributed to her spiritual evolution in grace? The key may have been that *"her children rose up and called her blessed; her husband also, he praised her. Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all"* (**Proverbs 31:28-29**). With *motherly love* of Solomon for his mom, along with admiration of his father David, it's no wonder she was able to be glad and rejoice as wife and mother. In her day, Jerusalem may well have been known not only as *the holy city of God*, but just maybe, *the city with motherly love* as well.

Every Sabbath, Orthodox Jewish mothers around the world set the family table and light the candles to start the evening worship. And although there is no such Christian custom, godly women who know, love, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ set the spiritual table of godliness every day in homes everywhere around the world. This is in keeping with the holy role set forth by the LORD at the very first of the **Hallel Psalms** section of Scripture (**Psalms 113-118**): *"...(the LORD our God) grants the childless woman a home, as a joyful mother of children"* (**113:9**).

Besides a sacrificial, gracious, dedication and care of moms for their kids, *motherly love* is more than something she gives. It's also something, which when she gets it back from her family, will inspire her to be even better. As her *virtuous children* prove their love and bless her, she becomes even more spiritually lovely to both God, her family and others (**Proverbs 31:30-31**). For most of us, mom won't be around forever, so it's wise to let her see how much you love her while you still can.

In the Bible, the word *day* can mean a literal 24-hour day, or it can figuratively refer to a long period of time or era. **Mothers' Days** come and go as an annual calendar holiday. To make it more than that, requires a personal commitment to extend it past a Sunday in May. In fact, there's no law against having *mother's day* more often whenever you *"...honor your father and mother"* (**Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:2, Colossians 3:20**). There is a promise to children and youth who do this as a lifestyle: *"...it will be well with (them) and (they) will live long on the earth"* (**Ephesians 6:3**)! Be sure to thank God for virtuous mothers today and accessorize that thanks with acts, words and gifts of love as well.

So, apply the Spirit-inspired principle written by John, the apostle, to all godly mothers today:

*"...little children, let us not love in word (written) or in speech (spoken)
but (also) in deeds and in truth" (1 John 3:18).*

'Happy Motherly Love Day!'

Fully Enjoying God

(Developing Joyful Christian Fellowship)

1 John 1:5-2:2

“...And these things we write to you that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:1-4)

Walk in Light

(Fellowship without any ‘darkness at all’ is enjoyable)

*“This is the message which we have heard from Him (Jesus Christ) and declare to you, that **God is light and in Him is no darkness at all**. If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in dark-ness we lie and do not practice the truth. But **if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**”* 1:5-7

Abide in Truth

(Fellowship without any lying or liars is enjoyable)

*“**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**”* 1:8-10

Rest in Christ

(Fellowship with Jesus Christ as our Advocate is enjoyable)

*“My little children, these things I write to you, **so that you may not sin**. And **if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**. And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world.**”* 2:1-2