Weekly Devotional 3-4-2012 Children Obey Your Parents

Ephesians 6:1 – “Children obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right.”

 Funny thing yesterday I must have had 7 or 8 conversations about children and parents and re-posted several. This morning out of my little brown box comes this scripture. All parents have some problems with their children when they are in their teenage years. There is some rebellion as our children try to find their own way, their own identity. We learn by example, our parents.

 It is easy for us to read this scripture as it says, “Children obey your parents, for this is right.” However, some may ask what about if the parents are not right, what if they do not live a right life, are children still to obey their parents? This is a major question that arises from not only this scripture but from where Paul took it from the fifth commandment which states, “Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your Father and mother as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you." This is the only commandment which has a condition to it. The condition is “that your days may be long…”

 I learned in a lot in Seminary about this commandment. God gave it because He is the Father of us all. This is the first parent/child structure given to us. It is a covenant commandment. God made His covenant with Abraham, with Noah, with Israel, and with us we are His children. Most of the time in life we try so hard to do things on our own not relying on God for help. Think about it… watch a little child when they are trying to do something. You go over to help them and they get upset they want to do it on their own! This personality stays with us all through our lives ~ we want to do things on our own thinking we know best. Our parents have already walked the road and have experiences to share with us to help us not make the same mistakes they may have made. We can learn from them if we just will not try to be such a strong-willed child. Just like we can learn from the Bible if we are open to the teachings it lays out for us. It is God’s love letter to us His Children. I love this poem on God’s Love Letter to you:

**My Child,**

You may not know me,
but I know everything about you.
Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down and when you rise up.
Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways.
Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.
Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image.
Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and have your being.
Acts 17:28

For you are my offspring.
Acts 17:28

I knew you even before you were conceived.
Jeremiah 1:4-5

I chose you when I planned creation.
Ephesians 1:11-12

You were not a mistake,
for all your days are written in my book.
Psalm 139:15-16

I determined the exact time of your birth
and where you would live.
Acts 17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14

I knit you together in your mother's womb.
Psalm 139:13

And brought you forth on the day you were born.
Psalm 71:6

I have been misrepresented
by those who don't know me.
John 8:41-44

I am not distant and angry,
but am the complete expression of love.
1 John 4:16

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you.
1 John 3:1

Simply because you are my child
and I am your Father.
1 John 3:1

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could.
Matthew 7:11

For I am the perfect father.
Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand.
James 1:17

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs.
Matthew 6:31-33

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

Because I love you with an everlasting love.
Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless
as the sand on the seashore.
Psalms 139:17-18

And I rejoice over you with singing.
Zephaniah 3:17

I will never stop doing good to you.
Jeremiah 32:40

For you are my treasured possession.
Exodus 19:5

I desire to establish you
with all my heart and all my soul.
Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and marvelous things.
Jeremiah 33:3

If you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me.
Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you
the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

For it is I who gave you those desires.
Philippians 2:13

I am able to do more for you
than you could possibly imagine.
Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager.
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

I am also the Father who comforts you
in all your troubles.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When you are brokenhearted,
I am close to you.
Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb,
I have carried you close to my heart.
Isaiah 40:11

One day I will wipe away
every tear from your eyes.
Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain
you have suffered on this earth.
Revelation 21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you
even as I love my son, Jesus.
John 17:23

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.
John 17:26

He is the exact representation of my being.
Hebrews 1:3

He came to demonstrate that I am for you,
not against you.
Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression
of my love for you.
1 John 4:10

I gave up everything I loved
that I might gain your love.
Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus,
you receive me.
1 John 2:23

And nothing will ever separate you
from my love again.
Romans 8:38-39

Come home and I'll throw the biggest party
heaven has ever seen.
Luke 15:7

I have always been Father,
and will always be Father.
Ephesians 3:14-15

My question is…
Will you be my child?
John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you.
Luke 15:11-32
 **Love, Your Dad
Almighty God**

 And yes I do still obey my Mom, I may have to think about it for a day or so, but I always call her back and tell her, "Mom I took your advice and thank you for it because I do feel better~!" Parents may not always be right but most of the time they are pretty wise~!

My prayer for you is: Please read the above love letter focus on the Scriptures attached to each line. My prayer is that you will realize how much God loves you and how all He wants is the BEST for you~! GOD bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you always and forever.