

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com). Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



**An Outreach of Celebration Ministries**

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# Do Moms Matter?





Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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## Do Moms Matter?

Many years ago W. S. Ross said, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” With this simple, yet profound statement he was acknowledging the incredible impact a mother can have on the lives of her children, and therefore, on the world. Unfortunately, our society tends to devalue a mother’s role and influence in the lives of her children. In many circles, motherhood is not given the respect and honor it once was. There are many who believe that anyone can do for children what a mother does. Some women’s movements deny the significance of motherhood and tell women that their talents are better used outside the home. The cultural trend in our world today tells women to look out for number one first and to pursue their own career goals at any cost. The message is that motherhood is not a worthy investment of their time and effort and will cause them to miss out on life.

In her book, *The Power of a Positive Mom*, Karol Ladd refers to a study conducted by Edelman Financial Services that tried to identify the many occupations that a typical mother might be said to hold over the course of a year. The researchers, using the salary data supplied by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, trade groups, and human resource and staffing firms, estimated that a mother’s worth is approximately \$507,000 per year!

Here is how they arrived at that figure:

Animal Caretaker .....	\$ 17,500
Executive Chef .....	40,000
Computer Systems Analyst .....	44,000
Financial Manager .....	39,000
Food/Beverage Service Worker.....	20,000
General Office Clerk.....	19,000
Registered Nurse .....	35,000
Management Analyst .....	41,000
Childcare Worker .....	13,000
Housekeeper .....	9,000
Psychologist .....	29,000
Bus Driver .....	32,400
Elementary School Principal.....	58,600
Dietitian/Nutritionist.....	41,600
Property Manager .....	22,600
Social Worker .....	30,000
Recreation Worker .....	15,500

The Edelman study suggested that since a mother wears many hats and is on duty twenty-four hours a day she deserves a full-time, annual salary for all seventeen positions. In what

appears to be an attempt to elevate motherhood somewhat, this study still reduces the value of a mother to dollars and cents. The world may admit that a mother’s annual worth is \$507,000, but God says mothers are priceless. Do Moms really matter? God says “yes.” In a world of negative influences and declining moral values, kids need, more than ever, the positive influence of a godly mother.

“The hand that  
rocks the cradle  
is the hand  
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the world.”

God has given mothers the awesome job of helping to mold young lives into what He wants them to be.

One author put it like this:

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded at my will.

I came again when days were past,  
The form I gave it still did last  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
I could change that form no more at will.

I took a piece of living clay,  
And gently formed it day by day,  
And molded with my power and art,  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when days were gone;  
It was a man I looked upon,  
He still that early impress bore,  
And I could change it never more.



Mary Washington was widowed when her son George was only eleven years old. She was a very devote Christian who took very seriously her responsibility to teach her children biblical principles and to honor God with their lives. George Washington, our nation's first President, said this about his mother: "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All that I am, I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her." Another United States President, Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my mother."

The great inventor, Thomas Edison, lost his mother when he was very young. Still he had this to say about her: "I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time in my experience, I should never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber, I should have turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness were potent powers to keep me in the right path. My mother was the making of me."

Moms do matter and God has given mothers one of the most powerful, important jobs on earth. Mothers make many contributions to the lives of their children in ways that only a mother can. There are four gifts every Christian mother can give her children that are especially important today:

### I. The Gift of Encouragement.

One of the greatest investments mothers can make in the lives of their children is that of encouragement. A mother's encouragement gives her children confidence, security, and a sense of value which provides them with the emotional stability and well-being they need to survive in a world that can be cruel and unkind.

Karol Ladd says that reckless words and unkind criticism are like a highway demolition crew in a child's heart. They have the potential to cause great damage and make for a rocky road in life. A mother has the unique responsibility and privilege of filling in the potholes. Proverbs 12:25 says, "An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up." A mom

can be her kids' own special cheerleader and help give them the courage to keep going or to get up and try again.

Karol also tells the story about a man who dressed up in a Spiderman suit, attached suction cups to his hands and feet and climbed one of the tallest buildings in the world. When he reached the top, 125 stories up, the crowd that had gathered below broke out in applause. As the police were arresting him, reporters asked him man why he did it. He said, "I love to hear the applause." The man risked his life in a silly costume just for the applause of people. Everyone needs to feel important and appreciated. God intends for moms to help meet this need in their children's lives.

## A mom can be their kids' own special cheerleader

## An encouraging mom will see...

An encouraging mom will acknowledge her children's past performance. Everyone likes to be reminded of things that they have done right or well, no matter how long ago it happened. All children also need to have the positive qualities that are present in their lives today acknowledged. An encouraging mom will see the potential her children have through God's eyes. The story of Jacob in the Old Testament is a good example of this principle. Jacob, whose name meant "cheater," had an encounter with God one night and God said, "You will no longer be called Jacob (cheater) but Israel (Prince of God)."

When God declared Jacob to be a Prince, he hadn't yet changed outwardly at all. But God saw the potential in Jacob. The interesting thing is, from that moment on, Jacob began to act like what God had envisioned him to be—not a failure, but a Prince. God can give a mom the ability to see the Prince or Princess in her children. Mothers can set their children free to reach their full, God-given potential by painting a picture of what their children can become, instead of sentencing them to a prison of past mistakes. God gives Mothers the privilege of holding a crown of potential over their children's heads and encouraging them to grow into it.

### II. The Gift of Prayer.

Another role that moms can fill is that of intercessor for their children. There is something very special about a praying mother. Throughout

history, great and godly women have been praying moms on behalf of their children. The mother of the great Christian leader, Augustine of Hippo, was such a woman. Augustine was born in A.D. 354 to a Christian woman named Monica. Augustine's father was a pagan who had no respect for his wife's godly, moral values. Unfortunately, Augustine grew up in his father's footsteps. He attended the university in Carthage which was a city full of brothels, pagan temples, and immorality of every kind. It was in Carthage that Augustine was introduced to worldly, skeptical philosophies and where he adopted a very immoral lifestyle.

Monica was heart-broken and prayed over her son every day. At one point she was so grieved that she asked a local bishop to talk to her son about repentance and faith in Christ. The bishop went, but his visit did little good. He told Monica to go back home and continue to pray. He said to her, "...it is not possible that the son of all these tears should perish." Monica continued to pray for her son's salvation and eventually Augustine's heart began to soften toward the things of the Lord. After a period of truth-seeking, he was reading the letters of Paul in the Bible, when his eyes were opened. He committed the rest of his life to Christ.

John Newton was a very wicked sailor in the mid-eighteenth century. His Christian mother also believed in the power of prayer. God answered her prayers and John Newton was gloriously

saved, and his life was transformed. In 1779, that once vile sailor, wrote the words to the song, Amazing Grace. Moms matter because they possess an insight into the hearts and needs of their children like no one else. This insight into and bond with their children give them a special power when it comes to storming the throne of God on behalf of their children.

Not only are their children's lives enriched by the gift of a mother's prayers, but moms benefit in many ways personally, as well. Here are just a few:

A. Moms who pray for their children are more aware of God's presence in their lives. God is always with His children, but sometimes in the daily struggles and stresses of life, mothers need a fresh awareness of God's presence. Prayer is the switch that turns on the power of God, and makes Christian moms more aware of His working in their lives. Prayer helps them "practice the presence" of God every day because prayer forces them to stop and redirect their attention to God.

B. Moms who pray can also focus God's power on the needs their children have. Mothers can have all the power of heaven directed toward specific needs through prayer. When a mother spends time focusing her attention on God, she will be reminded that He is her power source and that the battle is not hers, but His. She can then begin to see the needs and the problems her children have in the light of God's great power.

C. Moms who pray for their children become more like Jesus. Acts 4:13 says, "And when they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they took note that these men had been with Jesus." It is a fact of life that we will become like those with whom we spend the most time. The more time a mother spends developing her relationship with God through prayer, the more like Him she will be.

....the potential her children have  
through God's eyes.

# A mother's unconditional love provides acceptance, affection and affirmation in the lives of her children.

D. Moms who pray for their children will also become wise. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." And Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Mothers can have wisdom for every situation, every relationship, and every problem of life. They simply need to ask God for what they need and then be willing to listen to and learn from the Perfect Parent who is too wise to ever make a mistake where one of His children is concerned.

E. Moms who pray for their children will have spiritual power in their lives. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:16 that because Christians are in Christ we can "approach the throne of God with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." This verse is reminding mothers that because of Jesus they have unlimited access to the very throne room of God through prayer. This access to God means they have all of His power available to them. The greatest power ever given to mothers is prayer.

### III. The Gift of Unconditional Love

Edwin H. Chapin said, "No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother's love." A mother's love begins the moment she realizes that she has a new life within her. As her children grow, a mother's love is expressed in many different ways and that love isn't always recognized or appreciated

by her children at the time. One mother put it like this:

- I loved you enough...to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.
- I loved you enough...to insist you save your money and buy your own bike even though I could afford to buy one for you.
- I loved you enough...to be silent and let you discover for yourself that your new best friend was a creep.
- I loved you enough...to make you go pay for the bubble gum you had taken and tell the clerk "I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."
- I loved you enough...to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes.
- I loved you enough...to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh it broke my heart.
- I loved you enough...to say "no" when I knew you would hate me for it.

Children must know and be assured of their Mom's unconditional love and acceptance. They must be secure in the fact that she will always love and accept them, even when their attitude or behavior is unacceptable. A mother's unconditional love can give her children their first, real glimpse of God. In I John 4:7-12 it says, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has

been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us."

A mom who has God's life and love living in her has the special privilege to show her children first hand what God is really like. She can be the hands and feet, the heart and soul, the eyes, ears, and mouth of God to her children. When mothers model the unconditional love and grace of God to her children, the home becomes the greatest instrument of growth and godly development a child can have. The foundations for all interpersonal relationships are laid in the early years of childhood. Dr. David Semens says that the four most basic concepts of life grow out of the interpersonal relationships we experience during these developmental years:

**A child's concept of self.** Home is like a mirror in which we see ourselves. Our self-estimate will largely depend upon the worth, or worthlessness, we see reflected in the people who mean the most to us. A mother's unconditional love provides acceptance, affection and affirmation in the lives of her children.

**A child's concept of God.** The home is like a skylight through which we get our first glimpses of God. This is an awesome responsibility! Most children will grow up having God and their parents all tangled-up, and how they see their parents is how they see God.

**A child's concept of others.** The home is a window through which we look at others. It affects the way children see others and the way children THINK others see them.

**A child's concept of life.** Home is a door to the world. A home without unconditional love gives a child a faulty idea of the world and of life. Love without limits is just as detrimental to a child as legalism, cruelty and abuse. Both extremes will all distort right concepts and cause serious emotional and spiritual problems.



#### IV. The Gift of Grace.

Moms will either help or hinder their children in living a life of grace. There is a verse in the New Testament that pictures beautifully God's grace for us. It is Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." A mom who lives out grace will help her children have a hunger for God. Many people mistakenly believe that a child will have an accurate perception of God and a passion for spiritual things because they are well-churched. This is not true. A child's concept of God will be shaped more by their home than by any other influence in life.

As this verse reminds us, forgiveness is an important part of grace. Children will either learn forgiveness or unforgiveness at home. The forgiveness that Jesus offers is unconditional and complete. We don't deserve it, and He provided it before we ever asked for it or even knew we needed it. This is exactly the kind of forgiveness that mothers must display if they are going to model to their children what God is really like.

A mother's relationship with her children must be a reflection of the Heavenly Father's relationship with her which has nothing to do with performance and everything to do with grace. God's grace—His unmerited favor and acceptance—is extended to us despite our failings, weaknesses, and sins. God's grace was proven two thousand years ago in that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

A mother's attitude toward her children must be the same as God's attitude toward her. Her interaction, communication and responses must be characterized by her acceptance of them, regardless of their performance. When she gets frustrated and discouraged with her children, she must remember that God never gets frustrated or discouraged with her. Titus 2:11-14 describes what every Christian mother desires for her children:

"For the GRACE of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It (grace) teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we

wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, EAGER TO DO WHAT IS GOOD." When a godly mother graces her children, she can motivate them to "do what is good."

The home must be the place where the first seeds of undeserved, unconditional grace are sown in a child's life. The impressions about life and about themselves that are implanted during the early years will have long-lasting, sometimes life-long effects on their personalities. That is exactly why this is such a serious issue; because just as a mother's grace has the greatest potential for helping her children; a lack of

grace has the greatest potential for hurting her children. It is the will and the design of the Father that mothers be His instruments of grace in their children's lives.

Webster's dictionary defines a call as "a divine vocation or strong inner prompting to a particular course of action." Mothers all have such a calling. Motherhood is a high calling from God, and it is a call that no one else can answer in the lives of children. Dr. James Dobson has said: "Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child's fears. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her kids to do their best and be the best..." Do Moms matter? They do.

Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well.