



POSITIVE &
ENCOURAGING
moments
for
MOMS



GRACE *from*
GOD'S WORD
for EVERY SEASON
of MOTHERHOOD

Written by
SUZANNE GOSSELIN

KLOVE
BOOKS

Positive and Encouraging Moments for Moms:
Grace from God's Word for Every Season of Motherhood
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Contents

Foreword by CeCe Winans	11
A Message to Readers	17
1. Top Recruit	21
2. Leaning into the Spirit.....	25
3. Childlike Faith	29
4. Long Days, Short Years	33
5. The Ministry of Presence.....	37
6. In Search of Soul Care	41
7. Nurturing Adventure	47
8. Strength for Hard Days.....	51
9. When Jealousy Creeps In	55
10. Taking Every Opportunity.....	59
11. Finding Balance	63
12. Being an Original	67
13. Grace in the Mom Guilt	73
14. Encouraging Your Child's Calling	77
15. Superpowers	81
16. No More Shoulds	85
17. Spirit-Led Mothering.....	89
18. Cultivating Gratitude.....	93
19. Peace in Motherhood.....	99

20. Embracing Your Kids.....	103
21. Important Work	107
22. Don't Give Up	111
23. Valuable Mistakes	115
24. Power in Imperfection	119
25. Battling Burnout.....	125
26. A Bigger Purpose	129
27. Promises for Weary Moms	133
28. Don't Do It Alone.....	137
29. Trust and Obey.....	141
30. The Cross of Motherhood.....	145
31. Asking for Wisdom.....	151
32. Patience in the Process	155
33. No Comparison.....	159
34. Wholehearted Pursuit	163
35. Faith over Fear	167
36. Proclaiming His Goodness.....	171
37. Setting the Tone.....	177
38. The Beauty of Adoption.....	181
39. Trusting God When the Plan Changes.....	185
40. Letting Go.....	189
41. Looking for Unexpected Gifts.....	193
42. Heroic Moms	197
43. Savoring the Seasons.....	203

44. You Are Never Alone	207
45. Joy Will Come.....	211
46. You Need a Tribe	215
47. Releasing Fear, Embracing Faith	219
48. The Power of Traditions	223
49. Motherhood Is a Battlefield	229
50. Hope for Hard Days.....	233
51. The God of Possible.....	237
52. Winning the Mental Game.....	241
53. Trust God in Disappointments	245
54. I Just Want to Be with You.....	249
55. The Power of a Praying Momma	255
56. Beautiful Momma	259
57. Leading Hearts to Living Water	263
58. Connecting with Grandparents.....	267
59. Our Unshakeable Hope	271
60. He'll Finish What He Started.....	275
NOTES.....	279





Foreword

BY CECE WINANS

MOTHERHOOD IS THE most terrifying, magnificent, overwhelming, rewarding role I've ever filled. From the moment my son, Alvin III, was placed in my arms, I felt the full weight of my inadequacy to raise this little human. I instantly recognized that I needed God's divine help to rise above my shortcomings as a mom and guide my son. Then came Ashley, a completely different little human, with a different personality and needs. And she tested me more than her brother (bless her)! I needed an extra dose of wisdom to guide her down the unique path God had for her.

When I was the young mom of two toddlers, there were many days when I felt depleted. So many people needed things from me, and I was stretched so thin.

FOREWORD

During that season, I often felt like my own wants and needs were selfish. When that check engine light of my soul would come on because I was exhausted, irritable, or dropping the ball, I'd ignore it and keep driving. Then I'd feel like I was letting everyone down and mom guilt would ensue. I needed the truth of God's Word to steady me and remind me of my mission: to lovingly raise my kids in the knowledge of the Lord. I also needed the wisdom, prayer, and tangible encouragement that came from my mom and the older women in my life. How grateful I am for their investment in me as I learned to navigate the sacred role of motherhood with all its ups and downs.

I was fortunate to learn from the best. My sweet mom, Delores Winans, would work all day as a medical transcriptionist at the hospital and then come home to train and nurture her brood. I remember her presence and availability. She would have conversations with us, sew our outfits, and help us prepare for school the next day. In the morning, she would pray with us, commissioning us to live for Christ in whatever challenges we would face that day at school.

When I was growing up, I wanted to be exactly like my mother. Even as a child, I understood that her beauty

FOREWORD

came from God dwelling in her. The law of kindness was on her tongue. I never had to guess what it meant to be a godly woman or question my mom's deep love for Jesus. Her example made me want to be a present and prayerful mom. When my kids were growing up and I had a regular tour schedule, I made it a priority to fly home after many concerts so that I could spend time with my family. I wanted to be there in the morning to have breakfast with my kids and pray for them before they went to school.

A mother's role matters greatly. In fact, research reveals that moms are the biggest influence on their children's spiritual journey and decision to follow Jesus. God has given mothers a defining role in their children's lives and spiritual development. And you must expect that the enemy will seek to trip you up in this important, sacrificial work. When my kids were growing up, there were some hard days (especially when they were teenagers). When I felt overwhelmed or stressed, I would call my mom or the older ladies at my church, and they would encourage me, pray for me, point me to God's Word, and remind me that I was not alone.

That's exactly what this devotional is meant to do. It contains the voices of mothers at all stages of the

FOREWORD

journey—some with young children, others with teens, and some whose kids are grown. None of us are perfect or have motherhood figured out, but all of us desire to see mothers thrive. I'm thankful for my own precious mother, and now my daughter, Ashley, is a mother, which makes me a grandma. It's amazing how much time, energy, and attention those sweet little babies require. Wherever you are on the journey, God goes with you. The moms in these pages are cheering you on, too!





A Message to Readers

HAVE YOU EVER had one of those days? You pull into your child's doctor's appointment ten minutes late. You drag a screaming toddler out of the grocery store. You forget to pick up your teen from soccer practice. You open the fridge at breakfast to discover an empty milk carton.

Motherhood is hard! At some point or another, most of us have asked ourselves questions like, *Am I doing this right?* or *Is every other mom doing this better than me?* It only takes a minute or two on social media to compare ourselves to the supermoms around us and start wondering if we measure up.

Motherhood is demanding, beautiful, unpredictable, and downright tiring. Baby cuddles on lazy mornings. Witnessing the absolute wonder of a child's curious, developing mind. Teaching a teenager to drive. Dropping a young adult off at college. Watching a daughter walk

POSITIVE & ENCOURAGING MOMENTS FOR MOMS

down the aisle. The assignment seems to be constantly changing as we scramble to keep up with growing bodies, expanding minds, and mounting emotions.

And the journey of being a mother never ends. It's a lifelong calling. Psalm 127 describes children as arrows that mothers and fathers launch into the world to accomplish great things. That's a *big* deal. We are raising the next generation who will show the world Jesus's love.

The thoughts and testimonies in this book are intended to inspire you to be the mom God designed you to be. You don't have to be like any other mom. In His wisdom, God knew the children you would have long before they were born, and He has specially equipped you to be their mom. Whether you're a mom of littles, older children, or those already out of the house, the nuggets of truth, Scripture, and quotes from some of your favorite K-LOVE artists contained in this book are meant to fortify you in the daily grind and remind you of your identity in Christ. We're in this together, and you, Mom, have been fully equipped for the task.

In His wisdom,

God knew the
children you would
have long before
they were born,
and He has
specially equipped
you to be their mom.



Top Recruit

*The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will do it.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24

Have you ever felt like there's too much day left at the end of your strength? The baby won't take his afternoon nap. Dad is coming home late from work. The house looks like a demolition site. The girls need to be picked up from dance class. And the washing machine is broken.

Maybe in the craziness of mom life, you've thought, *This is not what I signed up for!*

If you've been there, you're not alone. Being a mom is arguably one of the most demanding seasons in a

POSITIVE & ENCOURAGING MOMENTS FOR MOMS

woman's life. Maybe you imagined motherhood looking different (and simpler) than it is. Perhaps you imagined *yourself* looking different as a mom than you do. You may find yourself wondering if you would have signed up for this had you known all that was required.

In many areas of life, we enlist—we accept job offers, volunteer for organizations, or enroll in classes. But we don't sign up for motherhood. Yes, we may choose to bring a child into the world, or make one part of our family through adoption, but we are *recruited* by God to be that child's mother. How incredible to think that you are specifically chosen to be *your child's* mother.

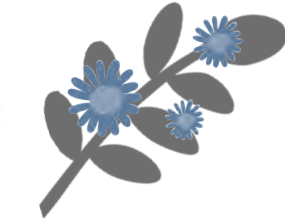
At times motherhood can seem like a mammoth calling, but God equips us for the task. Ephesians 2:10 tells us: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Being a mom to your child is one of the good works God has prepared for you to do.

Whether you're just beginning your day or finishing up a stressful one, remember that God has recruited you. And He'll help you do all the wonderful things He has planned.

TOP RECRUIT

“There are few assignments in human experience that require the array of skills and wisdom needed by a mom in fulfilling her everyday duties.”¹

—DR. JAMES DOBSON



Remember This

God has called you to be your child's mother. He will be faithful to help you accomplish all He has planned and provide for your every need. Trust in His wisdom and knowledge today.