

Corrie is kind, even when others are not. She is nice to the rude cashier. She reaches out to the lady at church who is unfriendly and distant to her. Corrie is gentle as she interacts with her children throughout the day. Even when she corrects them, her tone of voice is kind. When a rude relative questions her on homeschooling (What about socialization? Isn't Susie a little behind in her reading? Are the kids involved in any activities outside the home? What about the prom?), Corrie does not become defensive, but kindly and patiently answers their questions.

Corrie does not envy the homeschooling moms who seem to have it all together. (Actually, no homeschooling mom has it all together, no matter how things appear.) She does not envy the family whose children begin calculus in seventh grade and sing together in perfect harmony. While her family of nine is crowded into a 1,000 square foot house, Corrie is not envious of her friend, who has two children, and lives in a 3,000 square foot house (and even has an extra room just for school). She is content with the family and circumstances that God has given to her.

When Corrie's children behave better than another mom's children, Corrie is not boastful or conceited. When her four year old is reading and her friend's seven year old is not, Corrie does not smugly suggest that her friend should homeschool just like her. When Corrie's teenagers love the Lord and are active in church, Corrie knows that this is far more because of God's grace than her parenting. Because of this, she does not look down on parents whose teenag-

Corrie is not selfish. She continually defers to others. She enjoys devoting her life to her family. Personal fulfillment takes a back seat to serving her family and others. While she may get together with a friend from time to time or go to a ladies' Bible study, her life does not revolve around "me time" but instead her focus is on being a helpmeet to her husband and raising her children for the Lord.

Corrie is not provoked. When her day does not go as planned, Corrie accepts this as "interruptions" from God. When her child is disobedient or disrespectful, she does not become angry, but gently and firmly corrects his behavior. Corrie does not get irritated when she has worked hard all afternoon to make her husband's favorite dinner and he calls to tell her he will be working late into the evening that day.

Corrie does not keep a record of wrongs done against her. Ten years into her marriage, she will not bring up how her husband blew it on their honeymoon. She understands that her husband, parents, children, friends, and spiritual leaders will hurt her sometimes (just as she will hurt others sometimes). She does not replay these hurts over and over again in her mind. Instead, she prays for the person who hurt her and thinks of ways she can be a blessing to them. Knowing that a bitter heart is Satan's playground, she refuses to hold grudges.

Corrie finds no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth. She takes no pleasure in worldliness. No matter

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

ers and young adult children have strayed. Instead she is filled with compassion and prays for them. Corrie does not look down on her friend whose marriage is struggling. Instead, she feels grateful that her marriage is strong and prays for her friend.

Corrie does not act improperly. She is not obnoxious. She is not rude. She does not monopolize the conversation. Corrie does not insist on everything being her way. She does not try to be the focus of attention. She does not have a critical spirit.

how fascinating or funny the story line might be, she does not watch movies or TV shows that glorify sin. She is not amused when her children behave sinfully, no matter how cute they might be. Instead, Corrie rejoices when her children respond to others in a Christ-like manner. She takes great joy in teaching her children the truth of Scripture.

Even when life gets really tough, Corrie bears all things and endures all things. When she has a child who is extra stubborn, she continues to love this child and to discipline him. When her child with special needs just doesn't

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