

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is holding a dark-colored cup of coffee with both hands and looking out a window. The background is a bright, out-of-focus view of a landscape with trees and a body of water.

Hello, Tired Mom!

BY HANNAH KRATZER

You are now well into the school year, the new books are looking tired and that 5th cup of coffee no longer makes a dent on your exhaustion. The sweet angels that you love and are dedicated to teaching are missing their halos and tired of your carefully planned schedule. Determined to go on strong and motivate yourselves and your children, you hunt down the next great book, research new activities, reconfigure the schedule so it works more effectively. Day after day, you responsibly have a quiet time, basking in the knowledge that all answers are in God's Word. As you find the perfect verses to memorize and apply, you understand the fact that you are using all the right tools to raise your children. These are all good things, but why at times do you feel as if you are going in circles?

Why the feeling of striving without result? Friends, it is because you and I are striving. Merriam Webster defines striving as 'to devote serious effort or energy, endeavor'. Our striving often gets in the way of us following the prompting of our loving Father. God does not say, 'Come to me, all you who are trying hard enough'. NO! He lovingly reaches out His hand, saying, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28) Jesus then goes further to tell us to take up His yoke. A yoke is a partnership, a pulling together. Our loving Father doesn't delight in our floundering, He is waiting for us to walk in step with Him. Striving has no place in our relationship with God. Save your striving for cleaning the house!

On the most frustrating days, if you will constantly, in spite of yourself, rely completely on God for wisdom in each and every moment, you will find the source that ends the striving. Remember, we can come boldly to the Throne of Grace, to find help in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16) Let Scripture be more than a roadmap, let it transform your heart. "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17) Ask the Lord for His prompting and leading in your day. Make it a habit to abide in Him, and then watch the deeper spiritual transformations begin to happen in your family's hearts.

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