

Strong-Willed?? Strengthening the Will of Your Child...

Just WHAT is a strong-will??? Do some people just come with a strong will? Take a look at Romans 7: 18-19; 21-25. Does this sound like a common battle?

Yes! There is a war inside for good and evil...the flesh and spirit! The key to making it easier for our children to do those things that they *so* desire to do is in strengthening their will. Although strengthening their will is not easy, it is possible.

Tips for Strengthening the Will of Your Child...

♥ **Build Good Discipline!** What are some ways that you can build good discipline into your child?

♥ **Help Them To Succeed!** Go back to the passage above...

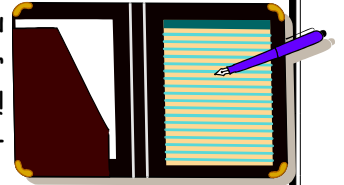
*"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing...When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in my members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

Sound familiar? I think that this is a struggle for all people. Your child KNOWS that it is very hard to do the good that we want to do. It is also very difficult to stay away from the things that we are not supposed to do. If it is hard for an adult, imagine how tough it is for a child! One of our greatest roles as parents is to come alongside of our child to "help" him or her to do the good and not to do the bad. How can you help your child to succeed?



An Idea for You: Knowing the areas of struggle is half the battle. What are the areas of struggle now for your child? List below. Make a list in your prayer journal to help you make a matter of prayer as you pray each day.

Another Idea for You: There is nothing more encouraging than those you love pointing out where you are succeeding. If we want to encourage our children toward success, nothing helps more than a bit of encouragement! What are some areas that you see your child doing well? Make a list below (and in your prayer journal) as a praise and affirmation list.



- ♥ **Instruct Them!** Take a look at *Genesis 18: 18-19*. This passage is powerful! In our society where it is considered a SIN for parents to command children, it is imperative that we understand that one of the reasons that God chose Abraham as a vessel He would use was because He KNEW Abraham, that Abraham would command, instruct, his children after God! How about you? As difficult as it may be in our society, are you faithful to command your children unashamedly after the ways of the Lord? Why? Why not?

Do you want to instruct your children after the Lord, but you have no idea where to begin? Look up the following verses to see the provision God has already provided in order to help you teach and instruct your children. Jot down the provision below...

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

1 Peter 3: 1-2

What About Teens...Must They Rebel OR Can We Continue Heart-to-Heart???

In our home, we are full-fledge in the teen years now. I remember sitting looking at my little baby boy and his big brown eyes while thinking to myself about how I dreaded the teen years. Yes, when he was a baby!

Oh! That is not all. I remember thinking the same thoughts throughout the years as I would think of how delightful my children were, then follow those thoughts with almost a panic attack as I would think of the inevitability that they were growing up faster and faster every day.

I want to be completely honest here. Woman-to-woman, heart-to-heart, I must admit that in the depths of my heart I never wanted to lose my children. Yet, there was a nagging fear plaguing me. Then, it happened!

I sat there at dinner with my new teenager and realized that I **STILL** liked him! He did not turn into a gnarling, venomous teenager promptly at midnight on the eve of his first teenage birthday! In fact, as I shared with him over the meal what a relief it was that I still liked him, we both burst into giggles and a flood of "relief" tears!

Now, he has been experiencing changes almost on a daily basis. I now have to point my finger UP to get in his face. I now have to watch out or I pinch his hiney instead of his father's!!!! (EEK! Did I mention that as he enters teen years, I am entering into middle age!) Changes...but I still like him! We have entered into young adulthood and we are still heart-to-heart!

This is not an elusive dream. This can be your's too! But, how? That is what this section is all about. Again, let's dig into the word and see how we can continue heart-to-heart...

1. **Encourage them (and YOU!) to see themselves through God's eyes!** Take a look at Luke 2: 41-52. This is the story of Jesus as a young teen boy. There is a bit of struggle going on. How was Jesus seeing Himself through God's eyes?

How were his parents doing?

Do you think that they were taken "off guard" by Jesus' emerging adulthood?

Have you ever been shocked to see the "person" that your child is becoming? Why is it such a shock?

How can we prepare so we will be ready for the changes that occur?

2. **Don't cut the cords...** Take a look at Isaiah 54: 2-4. There is so much pressure from infancy to "cut the cords." This passage gives a different perspective as it instructs us to "lengthen the cords." What is the difference?

I believe that this is a key to continuing heart-to-heart with your teen. In *Genesis 2:24* we see the time that we are to "CUT" the cords. As our children marry their covenant partner, they (and we) are commanded to "cut" the cords, leave and cleave. Until then, God's perfect design is for our children to be part of the ministry that we have through our family. How is your child able to use his or her gifts in your home now?

How do you base decisions for extracurricular involvement for your child or yourself upon what you are and what you do as a family? Is there a battle?

How can you lengthen the cords, while protecting them from any of the world's scissors that would cut the cords?

3. **Walk your walk!** Yep! This is the age where they are no longer naïve. They KNOW who you are and they watch your walk. If you have lived a life of hypocrisy, it must end now or you cannot continue heart-to-heart. God's plan for this age is for you to continue teaching along the way. Take a look at Deuteronomy 6: 6-9. God's plan for parents is for the parents to teach what is on their heart, all along the way. Whatever is on your heart will be passed on to your child. At this age, there are no lies...there is no deceiving them. What is on your heart?

Do you want for your children to "pick up" what is on your heart?

What are some things that you would like to impart to them in these last few years?

Does your life match up? Why? Why not? What can you do to ensure that YOU walk the walk??

4. **Learn to let go!** Take a look at Genesis 2: 24. Are you ready to let go?

The days leading up to my wedding are some of the most special days of my life. I remember a precious conversation with my father as he was battling with letting his little girl go. He shared with me that he was perfectly confident as he let me go. He said he was ready to see

me "do all that he taught me to do." It was my turn to bring glory to my father by picking up the torch and going on.

As I consider that the time is drawing nigh to let go and pass the torch, I still feel that there are a few more things that I want to teach my children. What about you? What are some of the things you would like to teach to your children?

How can you insure that each day is seized so that you are ready to let go?

5. Pass the torch!

*"So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel."
1 Chronicles 23:1*

Take a look at 1 Chronicles 28: 2-21... I love this story. This is a powerful example of THE WAY to pass the torch from one generation to another. Let's look at this story in greater detail.

What do you think made the transition from David to Solomon so easy?

It is obvious that Solomon caught a passion for the things that were precious to the heart of his father. How do you think that passion passed from one generation to the other?

What are the things that are on your heart? How can you pass that torch to your children?

David followed the Lord. He had a deep passion for following God. His great passion brought him to reign as the King over his people. God blessed his entire reign. Yet, there was one thing that David had in his heart to do that he would not get to do in his life...he would have to pass the torch to his son. In this passage we see how he did it. Go back through the passage and jot down some of the things that he did to effectively pass the torch...

Do you relate with this story? Are there things that God has called you to do in your lifetime? Are they are preparation for your child to pick up the torch and finish the work in their lifetime? How do you feel about that?

Are there other things that YOU WANT for your children to achieve, but they are not the "works" that God has designed for them? What are they? Are your preferences interfering with passing on the torch?

One thing that God spoke to my heart in this passage was that David's purpose was to build his own home and that his son would be the chosen one to build the temple for God. Take a look at Isaiah 61: 4. Many of us have a great work before us of rebuilding in the midst of ancient ruins. Our greatest need is to build own home. Then, our children can have something to offer to our world. What needs to be done in your home to rebuild the ancient ruins?

How does this prepare for the day you pass the torch?

What difference does this make?

What has God given you to accomplish for the kingdom? Do you know?

What will God leave for your children to accomplish?

How are you equipping them for the task?

If not, get a vision! Develop your relationship with God! Get to know HIM well enough that you have something to offer others. Then, pass the torch to your children!

You have before you a child. A soul. A person that God has planned from eternity to use for a great work. Get a vision! Surrender your all to the Lord! Give them all you have! Hold out that fire...that passion! Give them your blessing! Then, take that torch...hold it out for them to catch. Pass it to them so they may run with it!

"Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD."

Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...KEEP Your Home!!

Society downplays...actually DOWNGRADES the value of the homemaker. The church rarely addresses the role or the value of a homemaker. But, beloved, I want for you to know that God values women! The woman is the one who makes HOME—HOME. The woman is called to KEEP THE HOME. Let's look at this, another role of the hidden woman...becoming a *Keeper of the home*.

Let's take a look at Titus 2...

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, KEEPERS AT HOME, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed."

What have you thought about this passage in the past? What impression do you get when you think of a *Keeper of the Home*?

I have to tell you that my personal perception of the woman's role in the home was marred for many years. First, it was marred by our society's prejudice against the godly homemaker. Secondly, it was even marred by the very rare teaching on this role by the church. Even when it *was* taught, it was often poorly taught. This is a role that is rarely studied in a Biblical sense, so much that is taught and believed is unbiblical, therefore very, very confusing and often so hurtful that many women simply reject this vital role. How has society affected your view of a *Keeper of the Home*?

What are some of the things you have learned about being a *Keeper of the Home* from your pastor,

Bible teachers, or from Christian books?

Regardless of what you *think* or what you have been taught, stick with me through this section. I guarantee that we will dig deep so we can get a truly Biblical perspective of the awesome calling for the *Keeper of the Home*.

First, let's look at a few definitions...

What do you think it means to be a *keeper of the home*?

Do you feel that it is too hard to match up to this image? Why?

Look up the following words...

Keeper

Keep

Keeping

Do you find anything that is different from what you have been taught? What is it? How do those

definitions expand your view of the *Keeper of the Home*?

Are you surprised by any of the descriptions of a *Keeper*? Which ones?

As you look at the definitions, what would be the role of a *Keeper of the Home*?

Look at a few of the definitions that I found to these words...

Keep...to hold; to retain in one's power or possession; to preserve; to retain; to preserve from falling into danger; to protect; to guard or sustain; to hold or restrain from departure; to tend; to take care of; to feed; to pasture; as to keep a flock of sheep or a herd of cattle in a yard or in a field; to preserve in any tenor or state; to regard; to attend to; to hold in any state, as to keep in order; to continue in any state, course, or action; not to neglect or violate; to fulfill; to perform; to obey; to observe in practice; to maintain; to supply with the necessities of life; to have in the house; to entertain; to keep watch or guard; not to betray; to restrain; to curb; to withhold; to hold in subjection; maintaining the family estate

To Keep...to remain in any state; to last; to endure; not to perish or be impaired to lodge; to dwell; to reside for a time.

Keeper...one who keeps; one that holds or has possession of anything; one who retains in custody; one who has care, custody, or superintendence of anything.

Keeping...holding, restraining, preserving, guarding, protecting, performing.

Isn't this great? Is it different than you have ever heard? Do you think that society is even close

to how precious the role of a woman in the home really is? How about the church, the typical Christian books, are you also finding them off target?

Beloved, the woman is a treasure to God. She is valuable! Certainly FAR from inferior! She is priceless! She is FAR ABOVE RUBIES! Don't run from your calling as a *Keeper of Your Home*. So much depends upon you! Let's look deeper. You are going to love this!

Far Above Rubies...

Let's look at a Biblical picture of the KEEPER of the home... We will look at the epitomy of the Keeper of the Home...The Proverbs 31 Woman!

Turn to Proverbs 31 10-31. Read through the passage. Take a look at the same passage in the Amplified Bible. I want for you to use these passages to make a couple of lists. Now this may take you a few days, but you will find these to be treasures for years to come.

List the specific areas within the domain of a *Godly Keeper of the Home*...

List the things that a *Godly Keeper of the Home* DOES...

List character qualities that a *Godly Keeper of the Home* would possess...

The *Godly Keeper of the Home* described in Proverbs 31 dug in and did whatever was needed to take care of her family and those within her household. As a *Keeper of the Home*, we are charged to do whatever is needed to take care of our family and those within our homes. This is not a generic one-size fits all calling. The "look" will be different for each and every home. Each and every family. Each and every woman.

Well, except for the godly character. The *Virtuous Keeper of the Home* is faithful at all times EVEN in the mundane things! She served/serves WILLINGLY! Even in the mundane Even in the things that are repetitious or must be redone! She did/does EVEN more than was/is required. (Philemon 22) She is a blessing to all within her sphere of influence.

Step up to the call! Build your home! Pour ALL you have into your home! Subdue your home! Make your home a slice of heaven on earth! Become a *keeper OF the home AND a keeper AT home*.

Build Your Home...

"Through skillful and godly wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], and by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

Proverbs 24: 3-4

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." Proverbs 14:1

So, we want to be like the wise woman. We want to **build** our home. We do not want to tear it down with our own hands! But how shall we then build??

Three areas that make a whole world of difference! Let's take a look...

Build Relationships...

Have you asked yourself what God is all about? I mean, has it ever crossed your mind that there has to be some plan for man? Can we know such things?

Go back to the beginning...Look at the complete unfolding of God's history with man. There is one underlying theme...relationships!

- ♥ First, of all, God **created man** for relationship between God and man.
- ♥ Then, we see **creation of woman** because *"It is not good that the man should be alone..."*
- ♥ Then, we see **the fall**, the first ramifications affected relationships.
- ♥ Then, as we **come on down history**, we constantly see **God revealing WHO** He is to man.
- ♥ Then, the **ultimate sacrifice**, all of sin paid for in full by God so man could once again have a relationship with God and others.
- ♥ Oh, and don't forget **the end**...

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. (Revelation 21: 2-3) True communion! Relationships!

Yes! The main thing is relationships! If we are going to build our home, the first place to begin is with the foundation! The foundation must be built upon relationships or the home will not stand!

Are relationships a priority in your home? How can you tell?

Where are the trouble spots at this time in relationships within your home now?

What are some ways that you can improve relationships?

Relationship with God

Our relationship with God is primary! Without personal redemption...without life surrendered completely to Him, we find that nothing else works out. We can't be godly wives, godly mothers, godly homemakers, or godly mentors without first being godly!

When there are problems and our homes seem to be falling to pieces...we seem to be plucking down our home with our own hands, we need to **look at our relationship** with God. Do we know Him? Do we have an understanding of Him, His ways, and what He has to say? Are we responding properly to Him? How can you improve your relationship with God?

If these things are **out of order**, **all else will crumble around us**. Commit to God anew! Commit to get to know Him! Commit to know His Ways! Commit to find out what He says about every area of life! Commit to live totally for Him!

Relationship with Your Husband

"The woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

1 Corinthians 11: 7-9

Our main calling as women is to the awesome role as a **helpmeet** for our husbands. We are to **bring glory to our husbands so they may in turn bring glory to God**. Isn't this beautiful? We are those **hidden women** who...reflect back to our husbands, who build up our husbands, and who do all

that we do to help them subdue and have dominion over the world! How are you developing this relationship?

Where there is a beautiful marriage, all else falls into place. Two become one. There is security and stability in the lives of the children. There is a ministry to the world. This is the means that glory goes to God. Others see God's perfect plan for man and woman! There is hope. There is abundant life!

Catch? Yes! The catch here is that beautiful marriages do not just happen. It takes work! It takes commitment! It takes priority! In what ways are you working on your relationship with commitment? Does it show that your marriage is a priority?

Want a great marriage? Don't hold anything back! Give your ALL...all your gifts...talents....bents... knowledge...understanding...and wisdom! Be a real helper to your husband! Give him assistance during the tough times. Protect his heart and his name. Step in the gap and pray hedges of protection around him in all that he sets forth to do. Adapt yourself and your whole life to him...to God's plan for him. Be his best friend! Die to your ways and your ideas and your plans! Decide now that you will live your whole life as your husband's chief support. Be the one who gives him that respect that he needs. Be the one who knows all that he is and yet still admires him more than even his little 2 year old boy! Be the one who loves him unconditionally, enough to give up all life could possibly offer you to build him up! Die to all you had in mind for your life and commit to promote *him*. Contribute to his growth, his enlargement, his excellence!

Patiently nurture him and encourage him to develop interests whether Bible Study, SWAT team, Flight Training, Metal detecting, Sailing, or Email. *He needs down time too!*) Those things will help him to re-fuel, re-charge, and become strong.

Be the one to affirm him and his manhood. Get excited about his leadership. ENJOY his masculinity. Devour his sexuality. Appreciate his work! Reassure any insecurities! Be the one who believes in him...inspire him to greatness! Have the vision for all God wants to do in his life! Encourage him! Be

his teammate as he works toward that calling! Relieve him where he needs relief...
Where can you come alongside to help him?? What are you doing to build your man?

See a weakness? What then? Pray, Fast, Cry out to God. Look for ways to make things easier, any way you can, to help them succeed! Love them *in* their weakness! Be joyful and positive, always uplifting and encouraging! Let God supply your needs, not your husband. Things will relax...you may change *your* heart!

Decide now to pour yourself into your husband! Build your marriage! Let the little things go so that you have time to get to know your husband...so you will have time to minister to him in little ways! Take that time for the relationship and you will find that all else will fall into place!

Relationship With Your Children

Let the world pass on...they are only little for a little while! There is only a little while to minister to their little hearts! Only a little while to teach them about who God is. Only a little while for you to instill a vision for all that God wants to do in their lives! Only a little while for you to light a fire in their soul that will give them a passion to be great...to step up to the call!

What can you do today to make the most of your time with your children?

If this were the last day you had with your children, what would you do today?

Is your schedule any different now? Why?

What can you do today to treasure every moment? To grab every second?

Build Memories

Take a look at Joshua 4: 1-9. In this passage God commands his people to collect stones that would serve later as a remembrance for the deeds He had done along their journey. Likewise, we must collect "memories" along the way that remind us and our loved ones of the precious moments God has given us along the way...of the deeds He does along the way in our journey.

What do you think of when you think of home? What gives you that cozy feeling?

Is it the smells drifting from the oven in the kitchen into the very crevices of your bedroom?? What about those family stories that you heard over and over and over? What about those bedtime stories and late night talks all cuddled up in Momma and Daddy's bed? Could we go on and on?

God knows that one of the things that build a strong home is memories. Memories give us identity... we find *our* story. Memories give us security. They provide us with the anchor that holds us when the sea is raging. Memories give us strength...they remind us that we made it through other trials and we can keep on, keeping on through this one! Memories pull it all together.

Our home can have relationships. Our home can have structure. Our home can have direction. BUT without memories we lose the tie that binds!

Want a strong home?? Tie strings all along the way! Tie strong cords with your family! What are some ways that you currently tie strings with your children?

Establish *your* family traditions and rituals...bedtime stories, tea, long discussions, walks in the woods, read alouds, adventures, family stories, prayer journals, or YOUR family "thing!" Work

together...in and around the home, in ministry, in business. Take time for fun! Make the effort to have fun!

The memories that you build in these days are the stones that your children will come back to use in teaching their children about... about priorities, about commitment, about life, about marriage, about the ties that bind. Pick up the stones and leave them for your children...they will be the memorials that will reach out for generations to come!

What are some of the memories that you treasure with your family?

When was the last time you did these things?



Do a little research project...today ask each family member what their favorite memory with the family is. Schedule a time to make another memory!

Build Your Influence

Want a ministry? Want to build influence??? Take a look at Isaiah 54: 1-3. How does it say that we are to build our greatest ministry? Where do we pour our energy?

I am sure if you have been in church very long, you are familiar with Matthew 28: 18-20. How do these two passages of Scripture match up? Do they contradict one another? OR do they confirm one another?

I believe that they work hand-in-hand! Sure, Christ has commissioned His followers to be the ONES who take the gospel to the whole world. He passed the torch to His followers everywhere to disciple those in the world. BUT, going back to Isaiah 54, I have some great news as to how WE, as godly women step up to this call.

First, build your home, your tent! Then, enlarge the place of your tent!

How??? Go back to Isaiah 54 and glean tips. Jot them down here...

This passage has become one of my favorite passages in the whole Bible. For a long time, I had a very hard time reconciling the seemingly contradictory commands in the Bible. This passage is key for the *Godly Keeper of the Home* to really build influence and fulfill her role in the kingdom of God. Let me give you a few tips that I gathered from this passage...

- ♥ **Be happy to be barren!** Barren! No way? What does this mean? How can a mother be barren? I believe that this passage is all about being barren in WORKS. Being sold out to God. Being a woman of greatest influence. To be these things, we must lay down our ideas, our ways, our methods, our interpretation of how things should be. We must accept God's plan and His yoke. (Matthew 11: 28-30) Then, we will find that HE does the work and brings the harvest!
- ♥ **Give up trying to create your own ministry.** As God has enlarged the place of my tent, I have to issue a warning from what I have seen along the way. The greatest temptation that we, as women, have is to covet what others have. It is simply too enticing to covet another's "garden" that is full of fruit and flowers in all of the most beautiful of displays. What we do not see is the work and the pain that is the cost long before the first flower blooms or the first fruit appears. It was not until I completely died to my OWN ideas of what a ministry should be like and began the hard work of planting, hoeing, pruning, protecting, and nurturing my own garden that God was able to finally show me each step of the way a glimpse of what our ministry was to be and become. Of course, now I only have a glimpse, but I also have the REST that only God can give to those that trust HIM and walk in relationship with Him rather than pursuing a ministry.
- ♥ **Stop working to build your own influence.** Another kin to trying to make a ministry is to work to build influence. All we do is in vain if we neglect the most important...our homes. God's plan is not for us to build our own influence. He wants for us to pour ourselves out for those we love, influence is just a fruit of what we sow. Stop working for influence and it will come as a fruit in its season!

Does this perplex you? God's ways are certainly not our ways! His are much more powerful! God's plan for the home is for the woman to be content in her own tent. Her influence comes from within her tent. It is God Who brings the increase. It is God Who uses her to influence. He brings fruitfulness on all sides and influences countless people through her obedience!

Want influence? Do it God's way! Rest in Him! Don't strive or struggle to be seen. Be content in your own home. Build those relationships with God, your husband, and your children. Center all around your family. They need to be in order so others can see how God's Word can affect a home! Those relationships need to mirror the beauty and peace that is available for all in God's way!

Build memories. Strengthen the ties that bind. You will very soon be lengthening those cords...they must be strong enough to hold as you stretch forth your influence. Cutting them too early only collapses the tent. If they are weak or tattered, they can't hold growth! Build those strong ties, they are essential for enlarging the tent!

Enlarge the tent. You can be a woman of influence within your own home. Don't swap this power for an artificial substitute! You are the *maker* of your home. YOU set the thermostat. YOU set the pace. Slow down so you can make your home great. Slow down so all in your home can endure. Slow down so you can build your greatest work, your home!

Build Your Home!

Take a look at 1 Samuel 2: 35. How do we assist God in building a "sure house?"

Who ultimately builds the home? (also see 1 Chronicles 22:11)

Pour ALL Into The Home!

Pour ALL you have into your home...your Spiritual Gifts ...your wisdom...your abilities...your godliness... your creativity...your passion...your love...YOUR ALLLLL! Give the best to your home...those within your tent!

A Gentle and Quiet Spirit...

It is the *Godly Keeper of the Home* who makes the house a HOME SWEET HOME! She lends the home her spirit. It becomes what she pours into it. Humbled? Oh, beloved, this thought sure humbles me. It is truth!

When things get out of sorts in my home, usually the first place I can look to find the source of the problem, is usually in the mirror. When my home is sweet, comforting, peaceful, quiet and gentle, it is usually a reflection of how my spirit is at that time. Likewise, I only admit this because we are woman-to-woman, but when my home is full of strife and contention...sharp words and poor attitudes, I usually only need to take a peek again and I will usually find my spirit is off! How about you? How does your spirit affect your home?

What are some practical ways you can monitor the atmosphere of your home by monitoring your own spirit?

Take a look at 1 Peter 3: 1-7. Your home will naturally have the same atmosphere as YOUR spirit. What is the spirit that God says in this passage that is precious for a godly woman to have?

God wants you to have a gentle and quiet spirit. What do you think that means?

Look up the following words...

Gentle

Quiet

How are the definitions a bit different from your first impression of the words?

These are some of the definitions that I found...

gentle- mild, meek, soft, not rough or harsh or severe, tame, peaceable, soothing.

quiet- still, being in a state of rest, not moving, free from alarm or disturbance, peaceable, not giving of offense, not exciting controversy, disorder, or trouble; mild; meek; contented; calm; smooth; unruffled; not restless; tranquil.

What does this look like? Am I a gentle wife and mother...soothing, peaceable, mild? Am I hard to please...negative...rough and tough? Am I truly happy to be at home or do I secretly wish to be out in the world and my whole family knows it? Am I anxious and distressed about many things? Am I resting, unruffled and tranquil in the situations that I face? Can my family catch God from me?