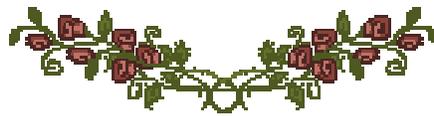


High School!  
Yes! It Can Be  
Easy Too!  
E-Book



By Cindy Rushton

*High School!*  
*YES! It CAN Be*  
*Easy Too!*



*By Cindy Rushton*

# *High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!*

*By Cindy Rushton*

Copyright 2002 by Cindy Rushton  
Revised copyright 2005 by Cindy Rushton  
All Rights Reserved  
Published in the United States of America

Published by  
Rushton Family Ministries  
1225 Christy Lane  
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674  
<http://www.cindyrushton.com>  
[Cindy@CindyRushton.com](mailto:Cindy@CindyRushton.com)



# Other Books By Cindy Rushton...



A Charlotte Mason Primer  
A Cup of Tea???

A Wise Woman Builds Her Home Bible Study  
CHRIST-Centered Christmas  
Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...KEEP Your Home! Bible Study  
Fill Your Cup Back Up...

High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!  
Homeschooling: Digging Into All of the Options  
Homeschooling...The Easy Way MEGA Issue  
Homeschooling...The Easy Way Workshop Manual  
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 2  
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 3  
Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature  
Language Arts...The Easy Way  
Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook  
Make Your Own Alphabet Book  
Make Your Own Brain-in-A-Binder Printables  
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Boys  
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Girls  
Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook  
Make Your Own English from the Roots Up Notebook  
Make Your Own Mommy Journal  
Make Your Own Mommy Record-Keeping Notebook  
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Book  
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook  
Make Your Own Recipe Notebook  
Make Your Own Science Notebook  
Make Your Own Student Record-Keeping Notebook  
Marriage 101: Hey! What's This All About???

Ministering to the Heart of Your Child Bible Study  
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child  
Nature Study...The Easy Way  
Notebooking...YES! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too!  
Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too Workshop Manual  
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Homeschool Mom  
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Mom!

Spiritual Mothering: The Call to Mentoring, Mothering, and Ministry Bible Study  
Step-by-Step Through Daniel

The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ABBA FATHER  
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ISHI  
The Hidden Woman of the Heart: A Bible Study for YOUR Heart  
The Never-ending Rushton Reading List  
The Ultimate Mommy Menu Planner!

Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volumes 1 and 2  
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 3  
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 4  
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 5  
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 6  
Time for Tea Reprint book for Volume 7  
Who? Me? A Virtuous Woman???

YES! YOU! A Vessel God CAN Use!

PLUS! Lots More Coming Soon!!!  
Stay Tuned!

# *In Loving Dedication...*



To YOU, my beloved reader!

This book was quite accidental. It began as an article (as you will tell as you read through the following pages) for our *Homeschooling The Easy Way* Magazine. As I poured my heart onto paper, I found that there was SO much that needed to be written that this book would be appropriate.

My prayer is that you will be encouraged to continue reaching for the high calling ALL the way through the high school years. Don't turn back! Don't become a slave to the ways of the world! Homeschooling in the high school years CAN BE EASY TOO!

Trust Jesus as never before. Learn of Him. Put aside the yoke that is harsh, hard, sharp and pressing and put on that yoke that is easy and light!

Ready for encouragement? A little bit of help? Pour a cup a tea...settle in for a bit... I think you will find the encouragement and help that you are looking for!

Love, Cindy

## *High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!*



Got your attention? Where are you? Time for High School? Overwhelmed at just the thought, much less, getting it all in during these years? Bugged down with credits...college...transcripts? Is it hard to balance High School with your busy home, homeschool, and extracurricular activities? Ready to give up...quit...find the nearest bus stop???

I have to tell you that I KNOW what you are feeling. I think that every single range of feeling associated with homeschooling throughout the high school years has hit me full force at one time or another. You are not alone. This book is JUST for you.

Now, you have to realize that as I write this book, I feel as though if there is a topic that is to be written with fear and trepidation, it is the very formidable topic of *Homeschooling High School THE EASY WAY!* There is NO way that any ONE article or book can fully exhaust ALL of the questions that plague a homeschooling parent. My prayer is that as you sit back with a big cup of tea, that you will find some very real encouragement from one mom to another AND some practical ideas that will help you gear up for a big finish!

## Yep! We ARE Here!



You will giggle when I tell you a bit about my preparation for this book. I was talking with Harold over coffee about how writing on high school was about as challenging as writing on submission to our husbands. Both topics are THE areas that I am walking through and really listening close to God each moment of each day. I have such confidence in God as I look back over the years of His constant provision to my every need. As I share about high school, I am STILL walking out this portion of my journey. I have one student who has graduated from homeschooling throughout the whole journey. We are wrapping up high school with our daughter. I have many things I am able to praise Him for providing already...many other things that He is providing RIGHT NOW as I write this... AND, the tricky part, many things that I am praising Him for providing in the near future that I simply do not have right now.

As Harold and I were talking, I told him about a letter we included by Beth Holland in the *Homeschooling The Easy Way* issue that this book (in article format) was written for. I simply LOVED her letter. (See it in in our archives online.) I commented on how much it ministered to me since she was in the "thick-n-thin" of high school and it was refreshing to see another family doing what we are doing. He looked at me funny and asked me what did I think I WAS doing. It caught me off guard. I must have looked at him funny, because he asked me if I realized that WE were in the "thick-n-thin" of high school too. You know, I almost had a mid-life crisis when I realized that we WERE doing this thing that I had thought might happen ONE DAY...

Yes. We are in the midst of high school. We are in the middle of Algebra, research papers, thoughts about college and career, pimples, hormones, clothes, and voice changes. The time for high school is here and we only have a few moments left to instill and deeply impress all that God has placed upon our hearts upon the hearts of our children. This brings me to the most common question that we face from fellow homeschoolers, close friends, perfect strangers, and our beloved family. High School...can it be EASY too?

## *High School... Can It Be EASY Too???*



Yes! High School CAN be easy too! Let's go back to the verse that sets the foundation of *Homeschooling the Easy Way*...

*Matthew 11: 28-30 (The Amplified Bible), "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne."*

Where are YOU? As you look at high school, are you laboring? Heavy-laden? Overburdened? Bugged down?

Are you worried about credits? Trying to get the last bit of things stuffed into your child? Worried about college? Pre-occupied with transcripts? Having difficulty balancing teaching High School with life?

Need a bit of that REST... RELIEF... EASE... REFRESHMENT... RECREATION... and BLESSED QUIET???. Ready to quit? FORGET this thing called Homeschooling???

My dear friend...YOU! YES! YOU! You CAN homeschool during high school THE EASY WAY TOO!

A while back, I was lifting up my heart to the Lord about my deepest need to hear Him for high school too. Matthew was entering into high school. Quite frankly, it scared me to death.

Let's face it. There are not a lot of pioneers in this area. This is the time that many, many people turn back from the commitment to homeschool. Not to mention, those that remain, are seldom untouched by the very same pressures that we all face when we begin to homeschool. The fears hit anew. The confusion mounts. The lack of direction is more than obvious. Things may get better in the

near future, but I have to say that there is precious little help and encouragement for the homeschooling high schoolers who want to have a different path, with different options than those traditionally offered in public, private, and many home schools. We found ourselves called to blaze back over the old paths from long ago—paths that have been long desolate! It was very, very difficult at times. All I could do was to cry out to the Lord for HIS WAY...HIS PATH! And...oh! Was He completely faithful!

As I cried out to the Lord for Him to show me clearly HIS PATH, HIS WAY, and HIS BURDEN for the high school years, He took me back over the journey thus far. He renewed to me His Words of instruction and encouragement that He has brought to me so far on the journey and, I am so excited to say, He gave me some new words that I think may be just for you too. Turn to Galatians 4: 9, 12. The following is taken from the Amplified Version:

*"Now, however you have become acquainted with and understand and know [the true] God, or rather to be understood and known by God, HOW CAN YOU TURN BACK AGAIN TO THE WEAK AND BEGGARLY AND WORTHLESS ELEMENTARY THINGS [of all the religions before Christ came], WHOSE SLAVES YOU ONCE MORE WANT TO BECOME? Brethren, I beg of you, become as I am [FREE FROM THE BONDAGE...]"*

In seeking God for this book, I believe that this passage is a message that is not just for me, BUT is also for all of us today as we consider homeschooling during the high school years. We can keep on going FREE from the bondage. We do not have to turn back now that we have reached the high school years! We can keep on walking in the good old paths—where there is relief, ease, refreshment, recreation, and quiet for our souls!

For many implementing the Charlotte Mason Approach, or the Unit Study Approach, or the Classical Approach, or even the Principal Approach, it is easy to relax and even to trust God during the elementary years, but as high school sets in, panic arises, pressures mount, and it is simply too frightening to get away from the Traditional Approach and customs of education, so we can continue on with real education in the high school years. The fears hit hard. The questions are thrown our way that send chills down the bone. We wonder if what we are doing will REALLY work! There is a gnawing question of whether THIS is the time to get "serious" about education and just stop having so much fun!

The real question is NOT "*When are we going to get SERIOUS about the education of our children?*" or "*When are we going to stop playing and teach our children that school CANNOT always be fun and delightful; but SHOULD and MUST be work!?!?*" The real question that needs to be looked at is whether we can really trust God during the high school years or not.

Yes, think about it... Can we trust God? Can we trust God each step of the way? Can we trust God with every single detail? At what point will we have to turn to the ways of our culture? At what point must we take upon ourselves the "burden" and "yoke" that is so common to our culture? Which subject...which decision is THE ONE that God leaves up to US to figure out all on our own? Will God bring us to a point in the journey and leave us there without His help and provision? Does He care about everything...EVEN the high school education of our children?

Beloved, God has much encouragement for you EVEN as you homeschool your children throughout high school. He has encouragement for you as you continue to stay the course toward the mark He has set for you. You CAN hear Him in High School! He is there WITH you and will never, ever leave you or forsake you.

## Hear God!



How can we hear God for high school too? Let's read Matthew 11: 28-30 again, only thinking about the call to teach our children throughout high school...

*Matthew 11: 28-30 (Amplified Bible), "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne."*

How can we hear God? Let's learn how from this Scripture...

### Come to Me...

**First, go to God!** Learn of Jesus! Get HIS Yoke! Walk with His burden! What does this look like? What is HIS yoke like? The above passage describes two yokes: one labors and is heavy laden. It OVERburdens. It is harsh, hard, sharp, and pressing. The other causes rest, ease, and relief. It brings refreshment for the soul. It is gentle, meek, humble, lowly. It results in relief, ease, refreshment, recreation, blessed quiet for the soul. It is wholesome, useful, good, light AND EASY to bear! It is all our choice. There is a burden either way we go, but we can choose which we are yoked (committed or obligated) to in our journey. Want to hear God during High School. Learn of Jesus. Get HIS Yoke. Walk with His burden!

How? Wonder just exactly HOW that you can KNOW His burden, His yoke amidst all of the options out there? Take a look at the simple how to's found in Romans 12: 1-2...

*"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your*

*mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. Romans 12: 1-2 (Amplified Bible)*

I love this passage! I believe that it holds the secret to the only way we can ever be freed up from the bondage that keeps us from hearing God in any area of our life, especially our homeschool during the high school years. Let's look again at that passage:

⇒ **Present ourselves to God as a complete, living sacrifice...**

This means that all we have and all we do must be completely yielded, dedicated, and committed to Him and His Way EVEN in High School! Yes, *all* that we are and all that we wish: our plans... ambitions... ideas... methods... techniques... fears... concerns... *all* must be presented to God as a living sacrifice each day. Now, I have to admit, that this is right where the rubber-meets-the-road. You had better believe that I have **MY** preferences and ideas of how things should be done in my homeschool. Don't you? I would be lying if I did not **BOLDLY** confess that I have some pretty high expectations for my children and their education. In fact, most of my fears and mistakes during these homeschool years stem back to this area of LIFE commitment.

We all deep down have plans, ambitions, ideas, methods, and techniques that must be crucified if we are to hear God and HIS plan for the lives of our children each and every day. Oh, we may not think that we have a problem in this area, but there is something in each of us that wants to see success in the lives of our children SO bad that we will work ourselves AND our children to the bone in order to get success. EVEN if that success would inhibit God's best in the lives of our children.

If we desire to *know* the good, acceptable, perfect will of God for *ourselves* or *our children*, we must first obediently present ourselves as a complete, living sacrifice each and every day. There may be things in our lives (things that are very precious and difficult to get rid of) that must be burnt up as a sacrifice for God's best. OR we, like Abraham (Remember the story: Abraham willingly brought his beloved son to the altar of

sacrifice only to find that once God had checked his heart to see his willingness to sacrifice his best. As God saw his heart, He allowed Abraham to take his son back down off that altar and sacrifice a ram, provided by God, that day.) may find that what we bring as a sacrifice before the Lord each day is acceptable in His sight, our heart is still in tune, and our beloved sacrifice can return home with us again that day. However, the key is not in what God does with our sacrifice, it is in our heart coming before Him daily, presenting ourselves and all that we have and hold dear before His throne as a living sacrifice FOR Him each and every day!

⇒ **Do Not Conform...**

This means that we are to forsake the world's traditions, the world's standards, the world's ways, and of course, the world's bondage. As we search for God's standards, God's way, we find God's freedom. There is great freedom for us as we surrender to God's plan for our family. This is simply not possible unless we trust that God has a good plan. His plan is not just good; it is beyond anything that we could muster up for ourselves. In Jeremiah 29: 11 God says to us,

*"For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace, and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."*

God has a good plan! A very, very good plan! There are verses after verses in the Bible that detail how precious each of us are to Him and the good plan that He has for us IF we will just walk in it. Another one of my favorite passages that I claim for my children comes from Deuteronomy 28: 1-14...

*"IF YOU WILL LISTEN DILIGENTLY TO THE VOICE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed you shall be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your beasts, and the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough. Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed when you go out."*

*The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouse and in all that you undertake. And He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you. The Lord will establish you as a people holy to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. And all of the people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name [and in the presence of] the Lord and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord shall make you have a surplus of prosperity, through the fruit of your body, of your livestock, and of your ground, in the land, which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens to give you the rain of your land in its season and to bless the work of your hands; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the Lord shall make you the head and not the tail, and you shall be above only, and you shall not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day and are watchful to do them. And you shall not turn aside from any of the words that I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."*

I want this for MY children. God has a tremendous plan for them. I want for them to have it ALL!

What do you think? Does God have plans for you? Your children? Yeeppie! He sure does! Far too many people live very empty lives because of a couple of things—they do not seek for God's good plan OR they do not forsake the world's standards, the world's ways, and the world's bondage. There is SO much more that our children (and we) can have if we will only forsake the world's way and go all the way with God without turning back. Only in God's design will we find direction for the path our children are to walk upon!

⇒ **Be transformed by the daily renewal of your mind...**

This means that if any of us desires a changed life, it begins as we sit at the feet of Jesus. As we daily immerse ourselves in His Word, we will begin to be transformed. When you sit at the feet of Jesus, you will soon have different priorities... different beliefs... different ambitions... and soon, you will be able to prove what is good, acceptable, and perfectly in the will of God. If we never experience this transformation, we will always find ourselves burdened under a yoke of bondage. We will always find

ourselves looking in all the wrong places for direction, approval, meaning, satisfaction, purpose, and rest! As we seek God, die to SELF, and allow Him to renew our mind each and every day, He is free to give us encouragement and wisdom that we need to make Homeschooling EASY, even during the High School years! All we have to do is sit at His feet and allow Him to work!

So, take this passage to heart! Sacrifice SELF daily. Do not conform to the pressures and ways of the world. Renew your mind. Get rid of the myths and keep your focus. Sit at the feet of Jesus AND don't get up until He tells you exactly what you are to do each step of the way. Trust God and He will give you His plan that you will KNOW is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. Then, you can rest from the pressures and focus on preparation for the call on the lives of your children.

## *Preparation for the Call...*



Call...yes! Each and every person has a unique call for their life that ONLY they can fulfill. One of our primary roles as we homeschool is not to prepare our children with a generic education, but to step up to the call of training them SPECIFICALLY for their calling. For their life purpose.

High School is not just a time to cram in courses...to prepare for college, as if it were the prize before us...to meet a list of credits just for a diploma. These things are so far from the real goal—the high call before us—that there is no wonder that so many godly parents get tired and weary in these years. In fact, so many forfeit a real, living education during some of the most important years in the lives of children in pursuit of these things that are only tools along the journey, meant to help prepare the child for his or her ultimate calling.

We are in a day that we have to be real honest about WHAT we are embracing and WHY we are embracing it. Oh, I fail here too. I want for you to know that I, too, have expectations, dreams, and preferences for my children and their lives. Some are “right-on” and some are influenced by the world and the pressures all around me. I remember one day that we were riding down the road (we do that a lot!) when God confronted me about my little “high places” through a simple family conversation.

Harold told me that a fellow employee of his had asked a lot of questions about homeschooling, especially since we were now homeschooling during the high school years (his children were 3 and 1 at the time ☺). Harold shared with me that he had told him some of the things that we were doing and some of the things that we felt were necessary in order for our children to have a full education (stick with me, there is more on that in this book). I was so proud of his WONDERFUL answers.

He told me that this dear friend's biggest questions were relating to how our children would get into college (although this fellow employee DID NOT have a college education himself!). As he shared what he had told his friend, Matthew piped in. Now, keep in mind two important things: he has ALWAYS been

homeschooled AND he sits week-upon-week hearing *me* speak at Homeschool conventions, retreats, and seminars.

He told us that he had been praying about what to do after finishing high school and (GASP!) he did not feel that college was necessarily God's will for him. Of course, being the *GODLY HOMESCHOOL MOM* that I am, I told him that I *KNEW* college HAD to be God's will because he was going to be perfectly prepared through our homeschool education to move into college easily. He, showing his first touch of individuality, said (respectfully, of course) that what I was saying simply did not match up to all that I had believed and taught about hearing God about homeschooling. (WHO asked HIM to think????) I felt a rush all over. The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart that I had not even considered that there might be *another way*.

He continued to share that Dad's (Harold) education was not even a consideration for his employment because the state is required to be an "*equal opportunity employer*" and cannot give preference when hiring or promoting an employee due to education because all applicants and employees may not have the same opportunities to attain that education. YES! That is exactly what Harold had been told all those years ago when he was hired for the job that he had originally gotten his education to qualify for! Again, I ask you, "WHO asked MY son to think??" Matthew appealed to us that we needed to die to our expectations and how things had "always been done" so we could really hear God while we prepared him for his calling. This normally very quiet and compliant child had really been thinking and hearing God more than I could have imagined. At this time, I realized through Matthew that the future was HIS and the real goal of education was not to go down a certain wide path that much of the high school crowd are "herded" down.

College is not THE END that we are working toward. In fact, as hard as it is for me to actually write this down in order to let you know, a diploma really has little value. Both are intended to prepare children for their future. But, both are not a guarantee of preparation. Both are simply tools along the way. The real goal is for our children to be prepared and equipped for God to use them in their life call all of their lives. What really matters is whether our children are equipped with skills to learn, filled with a passion to learn, and encouraged to believe that they can learn ANYTHING that they would like to learn. After that, God can take them anywhere.

I don't know if you are like me, but those were the very things we taught to our children during the elementary years. So what about high school? What do we do then? This brings me to another way that we can hear God and know His burden, His way when we are presented with so many options. Take a look at Proverbs 22:6...

*"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Do you remember this verse? Heard this verse over and over? Maybe seen a few too many moms and dads who are disappointed with their older children after years and years of claiming this verse as their own? YOU can have a different result! This passage can become a guarantee to you! Let's look at it a bit closer...

*"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

The word **train** means to *disciple* or *dedicate* our children. What are we to train them up for? We are to be discipling and dedicating them in the way **they are to go**, which is using their spiritual gifts and natural bents.

This is the most crucial training that we must embark upon during the high school years. No where else in the world can our children get a better preparation for their calling than learning at home with us during this precious years. If we will dedicate ourselves to discipling them along the way and training them to use their gifts and bents each and every day, then we can be sure that they will have the perfect preparation for their calling. They will be ready for their life purpose.

All it takes is learning of Jesus, getting to know our children and their spiritual gifts and natural interests, practicing those gifts in every day life, developing those natural talents and interests, teaching who we are, and becoming the family that God wants for us to be. Then, not only is homeschooling in the high school years easy, but the burden is truly light! Homeschooling is easy and light... and the path is clearly marked which way to go!

## *Hitting the Myths That Hit The High School Parent...*



As we homeschool, there are key times that it just seems that fear and doubt attack with full-force. As I began homeschooling, I hit them "head-on." Oh, I did not really know that they were fears or doubts. I thought they were just "questions" that needed to be answered...really bad days...pitiful curriculum...or a lack of good scheduling on my part. I found myself more frustrated, stressed, encumbered by the pressures that were unknowingly placed upon me from the time I was little. You see... I was public school educated. I had in my mind that they must have known great secrets of teaching children that I simply could not know because I was "just a mother!" ☺

As I began homeschooling, God showed me that the frustrations, stress, pressure, fears, and doubts were a result of myths that are propagated about education. I had fallen "hook, line, and sinker!"

As time went on, there have been other times that I have found myself once again in battle with the fears and doubts that you have probably faced along the way too. As we began to plan for the high school years (ok...AND now after high school days!), ALL of the fear, doubts, worries, uncertainties hit anew and harder than ever.

What about you? Are you having trouble? Frustrated and don't know why? Feeling outside pressure? I found that many of my trouble spots through the years have resulted from fears or believing the myths of education to the detriment of trusting God and believing that ***"He which hath begun a GOOD WORK in you WILL perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*** (Philippians 1:6) Let's "hit" the myths that commonly hit us head-on, causing us to miss God's best for our children...

### **Myth #1...Schools are intended to educate children**

The poor mother who finds herself in a battle between being a homemaker and a schoolmistress will often struggle with the fear that schools "might" be

accomplishing more than she can accomplish in the home. This pervasive fear often leads her to do too much or many of the "wrong" things for her child. This often leads her and her child down the road to burnout. The stress and frustration often results in the mother deciding to quit homeschooling especially as the pressures mount close to the high school years. At the minimum the child loses that love of learning that God intended.

Want to know the MAIN emphasis of education in public schools? John Taylor Gatto, author of one of my MOST favorite books *Dumbing Us Down* (page 26) shares the alarming MAIN thing...

*"If we're going to change what's rapidly becoming a disaster of ignorance, we need to realize that the School institution "schools" very well, though it does not educate; that's inherent in the design of the thing. It's not the fault of bad teachers or too little money spent. It's just impossible for education and schooling to ever be the same thing...Schools are intended to produce, through the application of formulas, formulaic human beings whose behavior can be predicted and controlled."*

The emphasis of education in schools of our day is not for children to become well educated, but rather well controlled. Is this what we want? Before we go to the next quote, I would like to ask you to take a moment and jot down... WHAT you think brings a child a good education?

What do you want for YOUR children? (Direction toward their calling...thinking skills...creativity/exploration...thinkers...to know and love others...)

Well, let's move on. Geoffrey Botkin wrote in *The Great Escape...*

*"American parents used to think something called age segregated socialization was as important for a child as trips to the dentist. Socialization does have profound influence on the child, but that influence is normally more harmful than helpful. The idea originated with a few radical 19<sup>th</sup> Century educators who were 'self-proclaimed socialists.' They advocated public school socialization as the means to reduce an average child's individuality, creativity, and intellectual curiosity, so that adult compliance with change is easily achieved..."*

What does this mean? This means that the roots of our modern day educational system come from the ideas of people whose sole plan was (and is) to transform worldviews from our old traditional Christian Worldview of right/wrong...standing for what you believe...living out God's individual plan and calling in your life...making a difference with your own ideas and creativity...and learning as much as possible. You know, the basics of what we deem as education based on the Word of God, to a Socialistic Worldview where we find our children pressured to be educated the **same**, dress the **same**, fill in blanks with the **same** answer, and do what is dictated by someone else.

Just in case you are wondering if this is true, here are some interesting quotes.

*"John Dewey claimed that teaching children to read was a 'great perversion' and that a high literacy rate bred 'destructive individualism.'"*

Lorraine Curry, *Tips and Topics Newsletter...*

*"Of course, most parents are not worrying about the finer points of mass social engineering or the **real** intentions of John Dewey. They simply want their child to learn now to be popular and happy and comfortable among his peers. If a child is deprived of the regimented socialization of the public school environment, will he grow up to resemble a social freak, a nerd, or an egghead?"*

Geoffrey Botkin

Ever have a conflict? Ever worry if you are doing enough? Feel tempted to compare your children to those educated in public or private schools? Do you ever wonder if it is now TIME for them to go to a public or private school for a REAL (??) education?

Think about what is really going on. Renew your mind so you can see the battle for worldview—the battle for ideas. The battle between the old ways and new ways. The battle between old thoughts and new thoughts. Realize that the focus of schools is not to educate children. Your children are right where God wants for them to be EVEN throughout the high school years.

## Myth #2...Schools help our children to become socialized...

If that last quote did not move you to run the other way from the "socialization trap," then let's take an honest look at what schools teach your children in order to "socialize" them...

### Schools Teach...

- ✓ **Class position.** Children learn very young where they are to fit in and what is expected of them because of who they are. There is no such thing in homeschooling. Children, taught in the home learn to value all people, regardless of where they come from or where they are going.
- ✓ **No true intimacies** with either family or school! Intimacy is not the goal of schools. In the home, the child can develop true intimacy with family—intimacy that lasts their whole lifetime. In the home, the child can have plenty of time to develop great intimacies with studies as well. They can be free to spend years on a topic of interest and study at their own pace. We can give them TIME that is necessary to love learning and love people! This gives our children perfect preparation for their life after high school.
- ✓ **Indifference** to the adult world (REAL world!). In schools, children are segregated into groups of children their same age, studying the same studies. There is very little contact with the REAL world until they are thrust into it on summer vacations and finally upon graduation. In the home, children are from infancy around people of all different ages and interests. They are introduced to REAL people as they go alongside of their parents in their day-to-day life. They see and experience REAL life from the beginning, so they KNOW what life is like for all people. They come to care about the world and their calling and life purpose in the world. Only in the homeschool (REAL LIFE) are the children truly prepared for real life!
- ✓ **Don't like or feel comfortable around adults, elderly, children, or anyone different than themselves.** This is very rarely seen in a godly home with parents who love and minister to others. Homeschool children usually see no differences in people. They seem to be almost blind to faults...to disabilities... YET, they are keen to notice needs of others.

- ✓ **To avoid solitude!** "Schooled" children cannot deal with solitude...they want all of their time planned for them. Contrast this with a child who is taught at home and allowed plenty of TIME to explore, play, and follow areas of interest in studies. The difference is unbelievable. These children NEED more and more time. They have a voracious love for learning that never ends. This love naturally spills over to others. Solitude builds a greater person!

Socialization is a myth. The REAL goal is for our children to have good relationships. This only happens when we build our children and give them a loving, caring, accepting home atmosphere that is worth sharing with others! This only happens when they are taught directly to love others as they love themselves.

### **Myth #3...Schools Prepare Children for Real Life!**

*"But the people themselves begin to understand and to clamor for an education which shall qualify their children for life rather than for earning a living. As matter of fact, it is the man who has read and thought on many subjects who is, with the necessary training, the most capable whether in handling tools, drawing plans, or keeping books. The more of a person we succeed in making a child, the better will he both fulfill his own life and serve society."*

Charlotte Mason, *Philosophy of Education* (pp. 2-3)

The best preparation for life...REAL LIFE IS the real life in the home!

### **Schools teach...**

- ✓ **Dependence!** The students become desperately dependent and actually addicted to having to depend upon others to tell them what to do...what to think...what to be...so on! This does not end at graduation. Think of how many people are dependent upon "school" or "more education" to prepare them for life...a new job...a new interest??? School is not necessary for you to do ANYTHING! Often, "schooling" does not prepare or equip its students to DO anything! (Think of the teachers graduating every year who do not know HOW to teach any subject. All they learned in the classroom were theories of child development and behavior modification that often do not even work in real life! A simple mother teaching her own children is able to learn much, much more by continuing her education at home.) School keeps the person dependent upon MORE education to continue learning instead of equipping the person with skills to learn independently as a lifestyle and with a love for

learning. Schools do not train the child to think and reason for himself. Schools are actually one of the greatest deterrents of self-motivation, personal industry, and a lifelong pursuit of knowledge!

- ✓ **People to become followers!** Think of the typical graduate from school. They can't lead. They can't learn on their own. They have no individual purpose. They are indifferent to their purpose in life. They look to others for not only their worth but also for direction for what to do with their life.

Truly the home is the best preparation for real life!

One more thing... Has anyone ever questioned you about "sheltering" the children? There is good news! Homeschool children are actually better able to get along with people of ALL ages! They have more understanding and respect of any of the differences in people (socially, religiously, and spiritually). There is no prejudice. They really care about PEOPLE!

Yes, homes prepare children best for real life-because homes ARE real life!

#### **Myth #4...Children need busywork to learn!**

If no other myth hits you, this one is one to watch out for, ESPECIALLY as your children enter into the high school years. We have always been taught that busywork trains our children to do the unpleasant things in life. We constantly hear that busywork teaches skills to our students that are necessary for a good education. Oh, and I love this one—that busywork is the best method for teaching the 3R's??? Am I right?

Actually busywork is responsible for much of the boredom that we are plagued with in our homes. Busywork is often the common denominator in burning the children out from learning. Busywork simply frustrates and keeps children from having meaning in their studies. In fact, busywork is actually for a whole different purpose! Lorraine Curry wrote in *Tips and Topics* (no longer being published)...

*"Thorndike wrote in 1929 that '...the program of the average elementary school is too narrow and academic in character...subjects such as arithmetic, language, and history include content that is intrinsically of little value...' He later revealed his goal of controlling human nature."*

Mrs. Curry also noted that the White House Conference on Education promoted counseling services for all students beginning in 1950. She wrote,

*"In 1961, the report entitled, 'Action for Mental Health,' proposed a curriculum be designed, 'to bend the student to promote mental health...as a means of altering culture.'"*

In a back issue of our magazine, *Time for Tea*, I wrote the following...

*"In our world today, we find that children are seen as no more than animals. Behaviorists have convinced us that children are to be trained, but their plan is much different for the 'training of children' than the plan of our Lord. They see children as no greater than our household pets. They do not take into consideration that God made children different from animals. He made them in HIS image and Personally breathed LIFE into them. This likeness of our Father makes us different from animals. Thus, our needs are much more different. All children come to us curious...in deep need of ideas to feed their heart, soul, and mind... and with abilities to learn. Actually Charlotte Mason said that we find them, 'with intelligence more acute, logic more keen, observing powers more alert, moral sensibilities more quick, love and faith and hope more abounding; in fact, in all points like as we are, only more so; but absolutely ignorant of our world and its belongings, of us and our ways, and, above all, of how to control and direct and manifest the infinite possibilities with which they are born.' Our challenge as parents is to continually supply our children with an abundance of ideas which challenge their minds, help develop their character to become more like Christ, and help them to understand the world about them. So how do we do that? By including the presentation of living ideas into their daily 'diet!'"*

Children need SKILLS to learn NOT busywork. Children need TIME to develop real interests...not busywork. Children need RELATIONSHIPS with a vast number of things and thoughts. For this reason, we have the responsibility to bring them into contact with *"nature lore, handicrafts, science, art, and many living books,"* - *"for we know that our business is not to teach him ALL about anything, but to help him to make valid as many as be of—those first-born affinities."* (Charlotte Mason) Children need IDEAS not busywork. Respect the mind of the child and offer sustenance not merely a passing of time—also during the high school years!

### **Myths #5...Testing denotes success!**

I think of all the myths that I love hitting, this is my favorite. Probably because of all the stressful considerations we face during the high school years, this one is really intensified during this time.

Felt this battle? How much of your time have you sacrificed with your children