**Blessings from my Mom**

*“Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you”*    Ephesians 6:1

Someone once said, "God has a special job for mothers, so He created them angels." If you were blessed to have a godly mother (or other godly women) in your life, you likely have memories similar to mine, of lessons learned and wisdom shared down through the years. Let’s reminisce—

My mom was a single parent, and no doubt, she was the hardest-working woman I have ever known. Through the example of her strong work ethic, she taught me and my three younger brothers to work hard and never depend on anyone for what we could provide ourselves. She taught all of us how to cook so that her sons could prepare their own meals at home. She taught us to be independent.

We learned how to keep a home neat and clean, and to take care of whatever possessions we were blessed to have. She taught us, don't spend every dollar we get; always put something away for a rainy day. Don't buy things you can't afford, and never borrow money for things you don’t need. She taught us how to be good stewards.

We learned about the Golden Rule, to treat others the way we would want to be treated; to do what is right even when it means standing alone. Don't argue. It’s ok for others to have a different opinion; you don't have to compromise to agree. Think for yourself and do the right thing. She taught us to respect ourselves and others and avoid people, places, and things that would give us a bad reputation. She taught us to be leaders.

Most importantly, she took her family to church. We needed to know that we have a God who loves and can take care of us. We learned we should pray about everything, and try not to worry… Do the best you can with what you have, and trust God to do the rest. She taught us to love and have faith in God.

These lessons and words of wisdom have followed us all through our life. And, life's experiences have afforded me many opportunities to be grateful for Mom and the other women who shared. Because of these teachings and many more, we have grown up to be respectable, contributing citizens in our communities and the Kingdom of God.

It brings me joy today when I hear my son, my nieces, and my nephews reciting this same advice, as we have passed it on in their growing-up years.

And how about you? What precious nuggets have you collected from the wise women of your past? Let’s be sure to keep their memories alive by passing these priceless blessings on…