

Dear Reader;

Enclosed is a letter I wrote my daughter, Wendy, for her baby shower years ago. I share it with you now as an older mother to a new mother. Although you are not our daughter, you are family, and we love you dearly. Our desires, hopes, and prayers for you are the same. The apron is one of mine. It was not new when I got it, but had obviously been worn by moms in seasons past. I loved the fact that it was homemade and decorated with hand stitching that took much time and love. I even loved the faintly stained "tummy" section. I could visualize a mom from the 1940's or 50's getting cookie or cake dough on her apron. Now you can add your own history to it and pass it down to your daughter when she has her first baby.

Wear it with pride. Wear it with humility. Wear it with praise and thanksgiving to God who has chosen you for such a noble task. Wear it with the fear and awe of God in your heart and a prayer on your lips. It comes already embedded with my prayers for you and your baby. God bless your days together as you walk with Jesus.

Love,

Paralee Eadie

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Paralee J. Eadie
1675 Pine Grove Road
Rogue River, OR 97537
www.applecreekpoetry.com

Dearest Wendy,

You are soon to begin the most important and most far reaching ministry of your life. I have done what I could, though not perfectly, to prepare you for this ministry.

When I was a young mom and very much concerned about making mistakes in raising my children, our pastor's wife, Lois Lindly, shared this piece of godly wisdom with me. She told me that God looks at and knows our heart's desire. So the one thing we needed to continually check on was our desire--is it to do things God's way? If the answer is yes, God will take care of the rest.

It's true that if I could go back and do it again, there are things I would do differently. Anyone who's ever been a parent would say the same thing, as you will also.

God knew He was putting His Spirit in "earthen vessels". There will be mistakes. But when our lives are truly yielded to Him, He covers our mistakes with His grace and love and will even use them for His good and the good of our children.

Yes, I have made mistakes. Yes, you will make mistakes. The one mistake you need to concern yourself with is the mistake of a wrong heart's desire. If it is truly your heart's desire to do it God's way, you will not fail as a parent.

The gift I give you now is symbolic of the story of Elijah and Elisha. It is my way of casting my mantle upon you--the mantle of motherhood. (I Kings 19:19)

Elisha watched Elijah, and because he did, Elijah's mantle and a double portion of his spirit was given to Elisha when Elijah was taken up to heaven.

You have watched me. If you saw nothing else, I pray you saw that it was my heart's desire to do it God's way. And I pray it will be doubly so for you.

The times you didn't see were the times I spent alone with God each day, getting instruction, correction, and strength. This is the secret to keeping your heart's desire correct. It doesn't come any other way.

This "mantle of motherhood" I cast upon you today is an apron. It was my favorite. It was handmade. It was old and faded when I got it. That was one of the things I loved about it; there was a mother or mothers who wore it often. Often it was covered with flour. Often it was used to dry a child's tear.

Grandma Stonequist told me of a mother who had a tiny apartment and many children. When she needed to spend some time with God, she would throw her apron up over her head, enabling her to spend time with the Lord and still keep an ear tuned to her children.

Margaret Jensen in her book, "First We Have Coffee" tells of how her mother did the same thing when a difficult situation came her way. She would throw her apron over her head, talk to the Lord, dry her own tears so that when she uncovered her head, her children saw only the peace of God upon her face.

So this "mantle of motherhood" I now cast upon you, Sweetie Pie. May it remind you always of your most important ministry to the Lord and Who is the source of your strength and wisdom.

Love,

Your Mother

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