

God Loves Weak Mamas – by Stacy Reaach

After a full day of pulling my inquisitive baby out of cupboards and his beloved dishwasher, meal prep, laundry, piano practice, driving to soccer, math homework, and bedtime stories, I was ready for a good night's sleep. It seems my "down-time" in the evening keeps getting shorter and shorter as the kids get older and have more things to do before the next day. It doesn't help that my energy level starts plummeting at 7 pm. By 9 pm when everyone is in bed I am doing well to stay awake for another 30 minutes. As I was falling into bed beside my husband and just drifting off to sleep, the sound of our baby crying made my heart sink. I was desperate for sleep! But with each cry getting louder, I knew it meant I was destined for the rocking chair. With eyes half open I went to retrieve our blond cherub from his crib and began to sing what has been my life song the past year... "Lord, I need you, oh, I need you. Every hour I need you ..." The lyrics to this popular song had become not only a lullaby for Micah, but the prayer of my heart.

In my journey of motherhood, it seems that God doesn't allow things to be easy for too long. We have 4 children- 11, 9, 6 and 14 mo. For a couple sweet years I was free from diaper duty and potty training school. For 9 amazing months I actually had a couple mornings each week to myself, after I dropped off each child at their particular school/homeschool study center/preschool. Things were getting easier. I was enjoying getting back into shape at the gym and being more involved in ministry with my husband. Though we had been on the fence for quite awhile over having a fourth baby, that positive pregnancy test really changed the course of life... again! Don't get me wrong, we really were excited... and a little apprehensive. How would a newborn fit into the schedule of school, homework, sports, piano, homeschooling, ministry...etc.? It had been 5 years since I had a baby in the house!

Our little Micah has to be one of the most loved babies of all time. His 3 older, doting siblings, are always eager to see him when they get home. They love to cheer him on in all his many firsts- crawling, walking, talking.... I do have some amazing helpers, which has really caused me to wonder how I had 3 children closer together without the help of older siblings?! Yet it hasn't been without challenges as well. The past 14 months I've been running a major sleep deficit. Micah has officially won the worst-sleeper award in our family, and all my strong-opinioned, well-formed convictions of how ALL babies can sleep through the night by 3 months were thrown out the window by this little guy. Parenting really has a way of humbling us.

My prayer during my mornings with bleary eyes and a full to-do list has often been claiming the promise of 2 Cor. 12:9-10.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Despite the lack of sleep and energy, God promises to give me grace for the day. As I claim this amazing promise of His word, I can trust him to cover over my weakness in His all-sufficient grace. I can trust him for grace to give me....

strength... to care for my baby in the middle of the night when I am feeling completely exhausted

patience.... not to snap at my 6-yr. old when the milk spills on the breakfast table, soaking my 9 year old's homework

kindness... to give an encouraging word to my husband before he starts his day

joy...so that in the midst of daily trials I can have purpose in knowing that He is working for my good and His glory.

God showers his love on weak mamas as we humble ourselves to admit our constant need of Him. He delights to give us grace to accomplish all the tasks that mamas are called to do each day... from changing diapers to teaching math to fixing dinner. And when we rely on Christ instead of our own strength, we'll find our hearts lifted and bodies renewed with all we need for each day.

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