

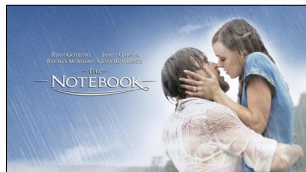
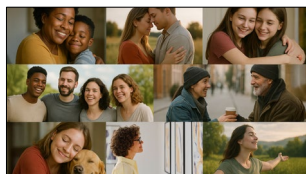


# Mother Nature

## Our Father's Maternal Spirit

May 11, 2025

Today we're examining **what makes a mother's love matter so much!** Cuz, there's a whole lotta love goin' on in *this* life, *but* for some reason God made *motherly* love something *specifically special*. And since the *earthly appearance* of love's *different dimensions* just reflects our *Father's nature*, *motherly love must* be a *critical* component of *His* character – and *therefore*, it *ought* to be an *essential element* of Christian life that we're *all* supposed to *emulate!* So: **Do you love like a mother?**



Now, before we get going, I wanna be clear – we're talking about the love that's *supposed* to come from a mother *in a perfect world*; but as we know, *this place ain't that*. Some of us have *mothers* who *don't act* like mothers, some of us have *mothers* who *overact* as mothers, and some of us *lost* our moms or never even *knew* who they *were*. But **today, we're talking about what a mother is supposed to be** – and the *type* of love that *they* were specifically *supposed* to *model*.

Cuz, as Christians, we *love* to throw the word "love" *around* like we *invented* and *perfected* it even if we've never *inspected* or *dissected* it! And that can be a *problem* since it *can produce* a *one-dimensional* view of our *relationships*, our *God*, and our *calling* – when we're *supposed* to pursue a life with the *maximum* expression of all of love's *dimensions*; cuz *that's* the *consummate* love that leads *everyone* and *everything* into the *perfect* and *purposed* life. Cuz **consummate love is complete in every way**. And only *that* love completes *us*, cuz only *that* love creates the confidence we need to have in our *decisions* and our *destiny* – so we can live like *Jesus*. Like John says:

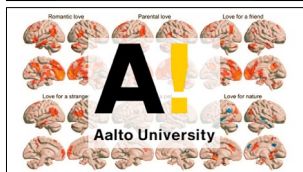
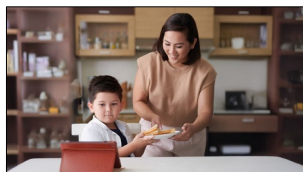
Perfect love drives out fear – 1 John 4:18 NIV

But, to *have* perfect love, we need to *understand* perfect love and all of the components that *make* it *consummate*. We gotta go *beyond romance!*

And that's *hard* for *our culture* – cuz when we hear the word *love*, we've been conditioned to assume *romantic* relationships are the *most important*; which is why most of our *magazine* covers say something like; **"You'll never guess which celebrity was caught canoodling with this NFL 'bad boy!'"** but you *never* see one with that says, **"Shocking photos of Julia Roberts pushing her twins on a swingset!"** And it's why there's a lot more pop songs about *hooking up* than *changing diapers!*

But, *beyond romantic* love, there's *friendly* love, *family* love, and *self-love*. There's the love of *nature*, the love of *neighbors*, and everything *in-between*. And although *each* love is an *essential* experience in our quest to *understand* and *emulate* God's *consummate* love, some *forms* are just more *foundational* – and it's *no coincidence* that **we're born to with a need to know parental love first!**

In fact, it's *unavoidable* – we were created weak so we would have to learn that **without parental care, we wouldn't last a week!** So, *why* does *romantic* love get all the *attention* when *parents* do all the *heavy lifting*? Well, in a *nutshell*, it's just more exciting. Cuz *romantic* love is *elective* and *elusive* – so **it's an adventure to attain it and an achievement to retain it.** Whereas *parental* love is something you're born *with* and *sticks around* whether you *want it* or *not* – which unfortunately means **it's easy to ignore and hard to lose.** And let's face it, the *squeaky wheel* gets the *grease* – so the *patient* love of a *parent* is often *overlooked* or *taken for granted*. But if there's *one thing* we *all* learn from our *relationship* with *God*, it's **a lack of appreciation does not mean a lack of power!**



And there's no better *illustration* than the *legend* of a mom's love being so *strong*, that it allowed her to summon the *supernatural strength* to *lift a car* to *save her son*. Cuz it's *not* just a nice *idea*, according to the Associated Press, it's a *true story!* The woman's name was *Angela Cavallo*, and she *still* lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia, where the incident *happened* on April 9, 1982. Her son *Tony* had removed a *rear tire* of a '64 Impala to work on the suspension – and while *adjusting*, he *rocked* it off the *jacks* and it *fell* on him. But when a neighbor kid *ran in* to *tell* her, she *rushed out* and *lifted* the car off her son. And although *Angela* doesn't *remember* much about the rescue, the AP reported that *two neighbors* said they *reinserted* the jack and dragged the boy *out* – all while mom just *held it up!* And *now*, this *phenomenon* has a *name*; it's called **"Hysterical Strength."** But maybe we should call it, **"Lovin' like a mother!"** Cuz *mom*s are often *defined* by the *overpowering*, *unstoppable*, *determined* and *dependable* love that puts *us* at ease when we feel *crushed* by the *worries* of *this world*. And that *innate instinct* is an *intentional illustration* of the part of *God's* love that *drives out fear*. Cuz *He* promised:

As a *mother* comforts *her child*, so will I comfort you; – Isaiah 66:13 NIV

Which means *God* created *mothers* to be *the* trusted example of how *His* supernatural love *soothes*, *reassures*, *encourages*, and *empowers* us; **Mom love illustrates how the power of God's love can create confidence.**

**[So, like Paul, we can say]** I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God – Romans 8:38-39 NIV

And *that's* one of the most *important* verses in the *entire Bible* because **faith is fragile without reliability, but strong belief is built on strong evidence.** And all our *best evidence* comes from our *earthly experience*; it's the *data* that *convinces* us. And *God* designed our lives to begin with an *experience* of *dependence* on *mom*s– so on *some level*, we'd recognize the *power* of *trustworthy* love.

And just *last year*, **science confirmed the superiority of our first love**, when researchers at Aalto University in *Finland* used an MRI to measure how *intensely* six *different* types of love *activated* specific regions of our *brains*. And of all the types of love *measured*, they found that **parental love generated the biggest and strongest activity**; with *mothers'* brains activating even more *intensely* and *automatically* than *fathers'* – indicating a uniquely *constant* connection to their *children*.

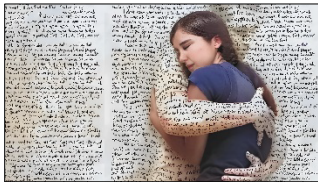


But I can hear you now, “**Sure Noah, that’s cute and all, but aren’t you just stretching things to make it a better Mother’s Day message?**” And I’d say “**Well, yeah, that’s how it started – but when I began my deeper Scriptural study, our Father’s motherly love just leapt of the page!**” Like the weird Psalms about God being like a mother hen:

He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. – Psalms 91:4 NIV

And even though there’s plenty of *masculine* metaphors, not only does God the *Father* stick with a *motherly* analogy, Jesus, the *Son*, keeps the confusing comparison *going* when *He, Himself* said:

How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. – Matthew 23:37 NIV



Which begs the question, **how can the Father and the Son love like a mother?** Well, *with their Spirit!* Because, the Trinity includes *Father*, *Son*, and *Spirit* and through *each*, God expresses His love *differently*. **The Father is the source and strength** of love, **the Son is the image and act** of love, and **the Spirit is the experience and explanation** of love.

God is love. – 1 John 4:8 NIV

The Son is the image of the invisible God – Colossians 1:15 NIV

And it is the *Spirit* who *testifies*, because the Spirit is the truth. – 1 John 5:6 NIV

The *Holy Spirit* takes the *truth* of *who God is* and *what He did* through Jesus– and *unpacks* what that means *for us*. And since the Spirit makes us *feel* the reality of *why* Jesus died for you and me,

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except *by the Holy Spirit*. – 1 Corinthians 12:3 NIV

Because **it’s only when we understand the Father’s love saved us through the Son’s sacrifice – that God’s consummate love hits home as His Spirit unfolds it from within our heart!** Confusing?



Imagine you’re an *orphan* in a *cold* and *broken* boarding house. Well, the Father *signs* the adoption papers *out of sheer love*. Then, the Son gives His *life savings* to *cover* all the *legal costs* to bring you *home*. But when you *arrive* at the house, it’s the *Spirit* who *kneels down*, *hugs* you, and *whispers*, “**Welcome home, you’re family now and we love you.**”

It’s not *until that motherly hug* that *God’s love feels real* and the *reality* of your *new life* starts to *change* how you *think*. You won’t be *hungry* any more, you won’t feel *cold* any more, and even though life *won’t* be *perfect*, you won’t be *scared* now that you know someone *stronger* is looking out for you. Well, in the same way, **it wasn’t until God’s Spirit that His love felt real and changed us:**

[Because] God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [who Jesus even called the “*Comforter*” (Jn 14:16)] You see, at just the right time, when we were *still powerless*, Christ died for the ungodly. – Romans 5:5-6 NIV



And when the Son *died*, the *Spirit* could *finally* lead us *all* to *understand* and *experience* what the *Father* has been *doing* with all of human history – **God’s been working to bring His kids home!**

**[Cuz]** The Spirit you received brought about your *adoption*. – Romans 8:15 NIV

**[Since]** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. – John 3:6 NIV

So, I’m not trying to make a big *theological* point or *rock* any *doctrinal boats*, but – if *something protects* like a mother, *comforts* like a mother, and gives *birth* like a mother – I think it’s safe to say, it *loves* like a mother! Which means **the Holy Spirit is the instrument of the Father’s motherly love!**

Because each one of us was born to *some* earthly *mother* who was *designed* to provide our first *experience* and *explanation* of love. Someone stepped in when *we* were *powerless* and gave us a *tangible* taste of powerful *protection*, calming *comfort*, and an inspiring *identity*. And *likewise*,



The *Spirit* helps us in our weakness ... because the *Spirit intercedes* for God's people in *accordance* with the will of *God*. – Romans 8:26-27 NIV

Cuz just as we *all* received some sort of *mother* as the *foundation* for us to learn about all the *other* forms of love we’ll find in the *future* –



[God] put His *Spirit* in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. **[And like a mother’s unconditional love]** – 2 Corinthians 1:22 NIV

[God] saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit – Titus 3:5-6 NIV



Because above all, we need to know that **only God’s love conquers all**. Cuz only *God’s* love is *consummate* enough to give us the *confidence* to say:

If God is *for* us, who can be *against* us? – Romans 8:31 NIV

And yet, before *any* of us were ever spiritually *mature* enough to *believe* that – *every* one of us was once young enough to *believe* that, **“If mom is for us, who can be against us?”** But as powerful as a *mother’s* love *can be*, remember, **Mother’s Day only exists because a mother’s love is so easy to ignore**. It’s actually *because* her fierce protection is so *faithfully present* that we *stop* noticing it and *start* taking it for granted. And just as God gave us *mothers* to *remind* us what makes the *Spirit’s* love so special, *forgetting* to appreciate *mom* means *forgetting* to appreciate *God*. So happy Mother’s Day moms – *that guilt trip is on me!*

However, **when we do stop to honor the often overlooked power of our mothers’ love, we’re simultaneously celebrating the selfless strength of God’s Holy Spirit**. Cuz a *mother’s* love may be *proven* to be the most *powerful* love we can produce – but it’s *still* just a shadow of the power that *God* pours out on all *His children* through *His Spirit*. So, remember, Mother’s Day is all about *loving like a mom* and whether you *are* a mom, *had* a mom, *lost* a mom, or *longed* for one – *everyone* in *this room* has been *called* to *celebrate* the *Spirit* by *loving* like a mom – cuz *God* wants every earthly *kid* to have a taste of that *special* love that can *lift cars*, *save lives*, and *lead us home!*