

Give Up Your Burdens

By J.S. in CA

There is no more important, demanding, critical, fulfilling, stressful and rewarding job than the one we homeschool mothers have. The laundry is never done. The house never stays clean. There's always another meal to prepare. There is always something more to teach to our children or learn for ourselves. There's yet another book to be read, a kiss and hug to give, or a drink of water to get at bedtime. Our chosen profession as homeschool mother is never ending. Even when the children are in bed, we are planning, studying or catching up on the work. Some of us even have part time work or a home business to add to our duties. Many of us are also busy with church activities. It all adds up to a big burden. We've chosen it and we love it, but sometimes it is overwhelming. Did we really choose it, or did Jesus choose it for us?

“Many are called. but few are chosen.” Matthew 22: 14. Chosen for homeschooling? Oh yes, most definitely.

We can rejoice in our duties because we were chosen for homeschooling! We are nearly halfway through the school year. Has homeschooling become burdensome to you? Some of us may even be facing “burnout” straight ahead. Jesus said, “Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

We aren't homeschooling alone. God has promised that if we take his yoke, it will be easy and His burden light. “Burnout” won't happen if we have given the burdens and cares of life to Jesus.

What are our burdens? Self, homeschooling, our strong wills, children, spouse, ideas, plans, expectations. Anything not given to us by God can be a burden.

Take all your homeschool plans, your course of study, curriculum, children, spouse, your ideas, yourself and everything else to Jesus. Give all of it to Him and

He will sort it all out and return to you a lighter, easier burden than you have ever carried before.

It isn't easy to give everything to Jesus because it's not our human nature to give up any part of ourselves.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to bold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.” *Steps to Christ*, p. 48.

How do we give up our burdens and our will? By becoming a disciple of Jesus. By spending time with Him every day both in Bible study and prayer. We will find His plan for us in study. We give ourselves to Him and listen for His voice in prayer. “Unless a man take up his cross (sacrifice your self on that cross that you take up) and follow me, (daily and hourly) he can not be one of my disciples.” Matthew 16:24.

By surrendering our self-made burdens to Jesus, we will receive a lighter, God given burden, one that is fitted just for us. Not someone else's idea of what we should do, but God's real plan for us. Then we can praise and thank God for choosing us for the ministry of homeschooling.

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful putting me into the ministry.” 1 Timothy 1:12.

May you receive strength from Christ in this New Year, by giving Him your burdens. And may the burden you receive in turn be truly light because it is received from Jesus.

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