

MOPS ~ CHASE JOY!! ~ Sherri Martinelli

Selected Poems from Sherri's book: *"Moms Moments ~ Smiles to Remember"*

C~ Chaos? – Change it!

Morning Motivator

I came up with a new plan.
It's totally changed our morning routine.
It is working well with our 5-year-old,
His older siblings, and even our pre-teen.
It's also helping us at bedtime,
And even when we go to the store.
Now my children aren't always asking me:
"Mommy please buy me this one thing more?"

It's called the *Morning Motivator*,
They love checking-off each thing they daily do.
They are smiling and ready on time for school,
And rewarded for promptness and follow-through.
They each have three containers
To deposit their hard-earned money in.
Managing their funds for: fun, savings and God.
We've all decided this is a Win-Win!
(Sept 14 & 15)

H~ Heart of Thankfulness

I remember a time before kids, when I checked everything off my "list".
I felt good, I was contented knowing there was nothing I had missed.
But now I often get frustrated, so little seems to get done.
My house is a mess, I'm tired all the time: life weighs on me like a ton.
Work also fills up my time, I just want to relax, have fun and enjoy.
Yet my children are my priority; they're my precious gifts, my lifelong joy.
Lord, help me be contented– not be thinking of all I need to do.
Let me show love, set reachable goals, and just keep focusing on You.
(August 22)

No one spilled the milk today,
Nobody cried when they didn't get their way.
No one fought for the same toy,
Nobody got hit by the bully boy.
Now that I think of it,
I did have a great day—
By counting my blessings
In this very strange way.
(December 14)

When God made the motor for toddlers,
There is one thing He forgot, I fear.
Often, the throttle gets stuck on high,
For he forgot to include low gear!
Yet, isn't that what I love the most
Watching my little one laugh and play?
Surely it keeps me in better shape,
Lord, thank you for this blessing today!
(July 29)

A~ Affirm & Appreciate

Balance every "no" with seven "yeses" and you will find,
A more peaceful home and a child who wants to mind.
(May 8)

Thank you for sitting so quietly today.
Thank you for putting all your clothes away.
Thank you for staying so calm when you wanted to yell.
Thank you for not sharing gossip you wanted to tell.
By taking the time and remembering to thank and praise,
It'll bring you two closer and your child's confidence you'll raise.
(March 30)

"Gift of Love" Book

When Daddy is not home, whether at work or play,
I could talk about him in a negative way.
But I need to be positive in the words I say
So their love-bond will strengthen even when he's away.
(August 27)

I might disagree with what my husband might say;
I might handle it differently if I did it my way.
But we must support each other and stand strong as one,
Learning, forgiving, and growing. . .or we will be overrun.
(November 12)

S ~ Serve with a Smile

My children really have challenged my patience today.
My husband and I aren't expressing well what we say.
My aging parents are needing my attention more and more.
Lord, I need your help to renew my joy, and let my heart soar.
In no time at all, He answered my prayerful plea.
He reminded me He's in charge, it's not about me!
He whispered it's all about love and wants to enlarge my heart,
So I can serve with compassion and patience. . .Today I'll start!
(September 6)

"Mom, could you please pick me up from school today?"
"Mom, could you sew this rip in my uniform from yesterday?"
"Mom, can my friend come over for dinner tonight?"
"Mom, what should I do? My friend and I got into a fight!"
Today's one of those days. I need to stop everything and just pray,
Remembering, it's not an obligation, but a chance to serve in this way.
I need to show love, listen and reflect Jesus' servant's heart,
There's no time like right now to change my attitude and just start.
(September 30)

Now that my children are all teens,
There is one privilege I love to do.
It's serving as the mom on mission trips.
I learn, and I am challenged, too!
It is a joy to watch all the teens change
When serving others for a week.
Right before my eyes their hearts grow,
Focused on Jesus, His will they now seek.
(July 19)

E ~ Eye of a child; Excited Expectation for Him to SHOW Himself to you

Sometimes in my hurry with my long list of things to do,
I forget to stop and listen to these important words from you:
"See my picture!" "Smell my flower." "Please read a book to me."
So, I'll slow down, take the time, because you're my priority.
(April 25)

I'm finally driving alone in the car,
It is quiet and sweet, just God and me!
Suddenly, I felt prompted to turn right at the light.
But now I am NOT going where I'm supposed to be.
I am not sure why He nudged me to make that turn,
But I'm watching and alert with a careful eye,
For even when to me, it does not make any sense,
I've learned to do what He says—His voice not deny.
Then on the sidewalk, a skate-boarder with no helmet
Hits a bump and takes a terrible face-plant fall.
I quickly pull my car over, run to his aid,
Grab my cell and 911 I'm able to call.
I'm so thankful Lord, You interrupted my day,
And I listened to and obeyed Your still, small voice. . .
Thank You, Lord, for letting me be your hands and feet.
At least today, Lord, I believe I made the best choice.
(May 24)

J ~ Jesus – Join Him – Just Pray

When I am so frazzled and tired, it is so hard to see
Wisdom in handling Your child whom You've entrusted
to me.

Help me find rest, and a quiet moment or two;
Please direct my thoughts to focus only on You.

(May 16)

I tell my children to patiently wait,
For a treat, their turn, or fun place to go.
They pace and fidget; they whine and plead,
It's not easy to wait, as a mom, I know.
I find I'm often impatient too, Lord,
While I am waiting for my answered prayer.
Sometimes You seem so quiet and silent.
Are You listening? Are You really there?
I am trying to teach my kids patience,
And not give in whenever they cry and plead.
Are You also working on my patience too, Lord?
I'll wait on You! I'll be still and follow Your lead.

(May 10)

O ~ Outrageous Play – 'Outside the box' thinking

Just as I'm ready to make the bed,
My child jumps in and covers her head.
Now there is a big lump that moves, laughs, and giggles.
I might as well join her and hug out those wiggles.

(September 9)

I get on my knees to wipe up a spill,
Then on pops my child for a pony-ride thrill.
I am not too happy about the mess today,
But I can change my mood, take a moment to play.

(April 14)

Y ~ You! You deserve and need a break!

It's been a long day! All the kids are in bed.
Prayers have been prayed, and books have been read.
I now need a moment, just for me,
To put up my feet, and sip my tea.
The moment will be fleeting, for in no time at all,
I will hear the crumpled clean clothes of the laundry
call. *(May 22)*

Give yourself a big pat on your back.
Say, "I am doing my best, no matter what I lack."
Just listen to the Lord, do your best to follow through,
For you're raising His precious gifts He has given to you.
(May 9)

James 1:2,3 – Consider it **pure joy** my brothers whenever (not if) you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with **all joy and peace** as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Love them, pray for them, try your best each day.
Forgive them, play with them, teach them God's Way.
When they get older and ask questions of you,
You can honestly say, "I did the best I could do."

(May 18)

Rocking gently, I sing her a song.
Rocking gently, she'll sleep before long.
This song is the same she hears me sing;
In no time at all, she'll know the same thing.
No matter how tired I am or busy the day,
I repeat this ritual so someday she'll pray,
The Lord's Prayer sung simply from her heart.
What better gift can I give her from the start?

(April 5)

The dishes are piled, the beds aren't made,
But my child really wants me to go out and play.
Lord, remind me gently that dishes and beds can wait,
For in no time at all, my child will be on her way.

(April 20)

Many times, I wish I had more hands
To help me through the day.
Evening is the toughest—
Making dinner, helping with homework,
A toddler who only wants to play.
Some call it crazy or "arsenic hour."
I feel it's my own personal test.
I give it to You, Lord—
I am overwhelmed, please hear my prayer,
I need Your guidance to do my best.

(May 31)