

**Pastor Mark Mikels - May 10, 2020**  
**DISCOVERING HOPE IN THE REVELATIONS OF**  
**SCRIPTURE**

**"THE REVELATION OF THE PRAYER-FILLED GOLDEN CENSER"**  
(Revelation 8:1-4)

**Intro ...** What a special day to seek out another 'Hope-Generating Revelation. **Today's** Mother's Day Revelation is ...

**HOPE GENERATING REVELATION NINE ...**  
**"THE REVELATION OF THE PRAYER-FILLED GOLDEN**  
**CENSER"**

Here's ...

**TODAY'S KEY IMAGE ...**



That image arises from ...

**TODAY'S KEY SCRIPTURE ... Revelation 8:1-4**

*When he (the Lamb) opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

*And **another angel** came and stood at the altar, having **a golden censer**; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with **the prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was the throne.*

*And the smoke of the incense, which came with **the prayers of the saints**, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

What a vivid image!

From that Scriptural Image is fashioned ...

**TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...**

The **PRAYERS** of the **SAINTS** bring a pleasing **AROMA** to the Courts of Heaven! They come up before our Father's **THRONE**.

Never say: "*All I can do is pray*" as though that doesn't amount to very much. Your Heavenly Father might well reply:

*"I've been waiting for this day when all you can do is provide a sweet fragrance for me to enjoy."*

The Prayers of God's Born-Again People provide a great blessing to Him and enhance the Courts of Heaven with their aroma. Prayer is precious to the Heavenly Father and should be a priority to His Born-Again Saints. That's true of all saints regardless of age or life condition.

Allow this image of the '*Prayer-Filled Golden Censer*' to **generate** some real Hope in your heart - Hope that your prayers really do have an impact in heaven and that they really do matter to your Heavenly Father.

And the truth is, all the prayers from all the saints (all born-again people) have this affect in heaven. So, all of us need to pray and keep praying. For Heaven's Sake!

Consider with me now ...

**TODAY'S SPECIFIC MOTHER'S DAY FOCUS ...**

All the **PRAYERS** that saintly mothers have ever **PRAYED** for their **CHILDREN** are contained in that Golden Censer. They are never **FORGOTTEN** nor do they lose their **SIGNIFICANCE**.

The courts of heaven are forever scented with prayers like **Hannah's**, the mother of Samuel who prayed that she might have a son, and prayers like **Haggar's**, the mother of Ishmael, who cried out to God in her distress over the dreadful circumstance she and her son were in, and prayers like those of the **Canaanite** mother who begged Jesus to come and heal her demon-possessed daughter as well as the prayers of all the **Saintly Moms** over the years ...

Perhaps your own mom's prayers add to the fragrance.  
I am convinced that my mom's do.

However, that Golden Censer is not yet full -  
It has room for many more Aromatic Offerings ...

Every Born-Again Mom in the sound of my voice today can add to its contents for you (by the power of the Holy Spirit) possess the ability to offer up just such '*Abba-Pleasing*' prayers.

I'm sure every one of you wants to do so ...

So, here then is ...

**TODAY'S KEY MOTHER'S DAY QUESTION ...**  
**HOW DOES A SAINTLY MOTHER** (A Christian Mother)  
**PRAY?**

**FOUR KEY ANSWERS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ...**

**1. A SAINTLY MOTHER PRAYS PROMPTED BY LOVE FOR HER CHILD**  
...

*- Greater love has no one (no mother) than this:  
that she lays down (totally gives) her life for her children."  
(John 15:13)*

A sincere prayer prompted by genuine love brings great honor and blessing to her Heavenly Father for '**He is Love.**'

Love for her children - born and unborn - links her to her Heavenly Father's heart and prayer prompted by such love rises to him as a sweet aroma ...

It's a prayer that testifies of her relationship with Him.  
It communicates that His Love has truly taken root in her heart.

Love always wants the very best for its object.

A saintly mother's love has no hidden agenda, no desire to rise higher by standing on the shoulders (as it were) of her children's achievements. She rejoices in those accomplishments but does not act as though they are her own.

That which will best benefit her children is the focus of such a saintly mother's **love-prompted prayer**.

## **2. A SAINTLY MOTHER PRAYS DESIRING GOD'S PERFECT WILL FOR HER CHILD ...**

*"But Mary treasured all these things in her heart"*  
(Luke 2: 19, 51)

Mary never stopped treasuring and pondering  
*"The plan of God for her Son."*

That Plan had been revealed successively by the Angel who announced the miracle of his conception and by Elizabeth, who would be the mother of John the Baptist, and the Shepherds, the night of his birth, and by Simeon and Anna in the temple on the Day of His Dedication, and by the Wise Men when they arrived some two years later and then by Jesus himself who at the age of 12 expected his mother to know that *'He must be about His Father's Business.'*

That those *'ponderings'* and *'treasurings'* did not regularly stir her to pray for the fulfillment of all God's Plan is unthinkable.  
Of course, they did.

Mary, surely, serves as a marvelous example for every *'Saintly Mother'* to pray desiring God's **Perfect Will** for her child.

A sincere prayer desiring God's Perfect Will for her child shows a saintly mother's complete trust in her Heavenly Father and thus brings honor and blessing to Him.

We all know that trusting completely in another person is a most unnatural thing for a human being to do - especially a mother.

'Resisting the plotting out of her children's lives' is a most difficult battle for a mother to win for it can seem like 'plotting out her children's lives' is actually her primary responsibility.

To pray that something completely unknown to her will take place in her children's lives truly takes great faith.

Any mother who possesses that kind of faith is truly **a saintly woman**.

That's the kind of faith that pleases her Heavenly Father greatly and the prayers that spring from that faith - the prayers that embody a genuine desire for God's Will to be done in her children's lives - drift up before the Father's Throne bearing a most beautiful **fragrance**.

**Desiring God's Perfect Will** for her children is the motivating thrust behind the Prayers of a Saintly Mother.

### **3. A SAINTLY MOTHER PRAYS IN A SPIRIT OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE TO GOD.**

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..."*  
(Luke 1:46-47)

That was Mary's testimony the Day Elizabeth honored her and identified her as '*The Mother of my Lord.*'

A most beautiful thing about a saintly mother's prayer is that even her prayers for her children come to the Father wrapped up (as it were) in worship and praise.

Greater even than her love for her child is her own Child-like adoration of her Heavenly Abba.

One of her truest and most satisfying blessings will be to introduce her children to the '*Daddy God*' whom she knows loves and watches over her.

She is thrilled with her Heavenly Abba and her children know it!

She yearns for the day when her children will come to her the way Jesus' disciples came to him and say ...

*'Mommy, show us (help us know) the Father.'*

And on that day, the courts of heaven will need no other prayers than her prayers of praise to completely fill the place with beautiful fragrance!

### **4. A SAINTLY MOTHER PRAYS ACKNOWLEDGING THE GOODNESS**

## **AND GREATNESS OF GOD ...**

*"His mercy extends to those who fear (revere) Him ...  
He has performed mighty deeds with His arm ...  
He has filled the hungry with good things ...  
He has helped his servant Israel ..."*  
(Luke 1:50-54)

A Sainly mom never falls into a '*What has he done for me lately*' kind of perspective ...

She knows that her intensely personal, continually available, lavishly loving Abba Father has been on the job for a long, long time.

His resume covers thousands of years and contains innumerable acts of mercy and power and kindness and faithfulness to his people.

Her prayers do not seek to inform Him on ways to enhance that resume.

Her prayers declare the things that are already in it.

Her prayers acknowledge that Her Abba Father is the same '*yesterday and today and forever*' and thus those prayers of hers bring that testimony and that aroma before the Throne of God itself.

They are truly prayers of a ***Sainly Mom!***

And now, consider with me our rather comprehensive ...

### ***Final Thot ...***

Prayers of **ANGUISH**, prayers of **JOY**, prayers of **PETITION**,  
prayers of **SURRENDER**, prayers of **CONFESSION**,  
prayers of **ADORATION** ...

What saintly **MOM** has not **PRAYED** them all?

**BLENDED** skillfully together by the **SPIRIT** Himself,  
they produce a **PLEASING AROMA** before  
the **FATHER'S** Heavenly **THRONE**.