



Issacharian Daughters

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Dear Girls,

TESTIMONY TO A CHANGED HEART

A reader of the Issacharian Daughters newsletter sent me this amazing letter which is a testimony to what can happen when a daughter desires to obey God and honour her parents.

Dear Genevieve,

Happy New Year! I hope that this email finds you very well and finding joy in the Lord. I just wanted to send a note to you to thank you again for running *Issacharian Daughters* and to wish you all the best on your upcoming marriage to Mr Pete de Deugd. I am excited for you and may God greatly show Himself great in your lives and ministry!

Since receiving your first newsletter last year I think the Lord has worked big changes in my heart. Through His faithfulness God has provided divine strength to keep me diligent in taking on housekeeping responsibilities and keeping me from becoming discouraged. His Word is good. I have been reading a number of other books about God's glory, and He has provided me with wonderful mercy because I now approach my quiet-time with a longing to meet and adore Him there.

I have also been more actively pursuing my parents' wisdom and influence in my life. Knowing how right it is before God to pursue sound and loving instruction from the authorities placed in my life (despite the manner it's packaged in) has led me to persevere in faith, and my mother and I have enjoyed many very blessed times together as I have enquired of her wisdom. I reflected the other day, while serving my mother joyfully, that I feel I can say (despite my brief period of experience) that I have merely tasted the way of the Lord, and it is good!

Regarding the calling of a young lady to prepare for a godly ministry in the home, I have found it difficult in times past to convey or defend a point of view unpopular with the majority. But in actively sharing my inadequacies, thoughts, heart burdens and joys with my parents, I have come to receive a love unconditional. Sharing my new findings and what I have learned with my parents has become natural, and it has led me to experience a greater awe than I've felt before for the many admirable qualities of my parents and the mercy of God for blessing me in my situation.

I read a little while back that it is human nature to run to extremes, taking a single motto and holding it as truth as a systematic blueprint for every situation in every life. This of course precludes being needy and asking for wisdom and strength from God. In my situation I struggled heartily with the idea of finishing my degree as were my parents' wishes. I abhorred it as contrary to the practice of the normal home-oriented young lady, convinced of its ability to waste time and youth and ("utterly") conducive to the downfall of any aspiration to womanly excellence or at least proficiency. After struggling a long time in a difficult

situation, God finally convicted me of the idol that I had made this matter of His 'revealed' will for my life (in comparison with his direct and obvious command to honour my parents). Am I so mighty and righteous as no longer to be under the command of God? In his mercy God accepted my repentance. By His grace there was no serious change in my grades, and he turned my heart back to my parents (and theirs to me!). By His grace he spurred me on and encouraged me, with multiple successes, that I could learn and actively seek out new housekeeping skills, without fear of failure, because all failure directs us back to the whole trusting of the heart in Jesus Christ's glory, providence and sacrifice and not ourselves.

God has answered my prayers for the relationships in my family. He has provided me with wisdom (partly through your ministry), patience and grace to encourage and support my father in his stressful work. God has continually convicted me of my pride and disdainful looks, but the superiority of God's wisdom is shown markedly. I am learning to truly respect and admire my parents and make them look good from the outside. When I think of all the good they have done me since I was a baby and the shame I have brought upon them, it fills me with shame to think how ungrateful I have been. Everything I have received from their hand was a merciful and undeserved gift of God. Therefore I am completely indebted to both them and God for their constant love and care and effort in looking after me continually.

Genevieve, thank you so much for the resources that you publish periodically. I just wanted to let you know that God is working dramatic changes in my life and your ministry is having a significant effect.

With much affection and love,
Katherine from New Zealand

Katherine welcomes your emails and is keen to get to know other Issacharian Daughters in New Zealand.

For the Greater Glory of God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Genevieve Smith
Issacharian Daughter

Notes:

I have sent this email to girls who have embraced a vision of victorious daughterhood as well as those who may be thinking about doing so (and even to some girls who may just like some encouragement regarding different areas of home life). Some of the girls are in the USA, UK, Australia and other parts of the world. Most are in New Zealand. You are welcome to forward this email on to others so long as you do so in its entirety. If you do not want to receive these emails please just send a return email to me stating that fact. If you know of other girls who would be encouraged by receiving these emails, feel free to forward the email to them or send me their email address.

The name Issacharian in *Issacharian Daughters* derives from Issachar, the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament the men of Issachar were commended for understanding the times. Because they understood the times, they knew what they should do. One of my aims with the *Issacharian Daughters* newsletter is to equip girls to understand the times we live in so that they will know what to do.