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**A Mother's Need**

"WHAT grace do I most need to cultivate in my boy?" asked a young mother of a saintly old lady. "Patience in his mother," was the instant reply. What a world of truth is contained in those four words! Is there anything which so quickly develops stubbornness and ill-temper in a child as impatience in government? And yet how often the mother's patience fails when it is most needed. What can she do? A mother was one day trying to enforce obedience in a headstrong boy. It seemed as if every effort had been made to no avail. Under the strain her patience gave way, and with a torrent of angry words she reproached the boy. Hardly had the words left her lips when she realized what she had done.

Pausing suddenly, she said: "My boy, I ask your pardon; I am very wrong to speak so; I will try to have more patience with you. Shall we both try again?" The boy looked at his mother in amazement, and, as he saw her sad and troubled face, he burst into tears, and said, as he threw his arms about her neck: "Mamma, dear mamma, I will try never to trouble you so again."

Long afterward the boy said: "I never knew till then how I troubled her, and I never felt so mean as when she asked me to forgive her."

The lesson was not lost on either the mother or child. Not only did the mother grow patient, but the boy grew considerate, and the bond between them has grown closer as the years passed.

"But I haven't any patience," said a thoughtless mother. "Things vex me, and I just say what I think." As if that were sufficient excuse for rudeness and often abuse. The one to whom this mother spoke replied quickly, "You are mistaken, my dear; you have patience, but you do not use it toward your own; you keep it for visitors. Yesterday when Mary and her children were here they were a great trial. You remember how the children meddled, and how rude and disobedient they were to you while their mother was lying down? But you never said an impatient word. Was it because you cared more for them than for your own?"

The mother's face crimsoned, and she slowly said: "Indeed, I don't; but it looks that way, doesn't it?"

"Patience in the mother" is a grace pitifully lacking in many a Christian home. How can it be acquired? "Ask and ye shall receive." "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it."

But asking is not all. There must be effort—real hard, earnest effort—to practise this grace of which we read. "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."—Christian Work.

**"How Can You Afford It?"**

A business man celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his business in one of our towns by giving a high-class free entertainment costing about \$150. One of his business neighbours asked him the question, "How can you afford it?" The response was, "How many ten-cent cigars do you smoke a day?" "About six," said the neighbour. "Well, then," said the other, "I can give an entertainment like this every year on your cigar money, and have \$69 left to my credit. Perhaps it is more appropriate for me to ask, How can you afford it?"

The smoking man has since "gone to the wall." The concert man is still doing business and helping the town.

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