

### 1. *She needs Wisdom.*

The child must receive its first impressions and thoughts from its mother. She needs wisdom when and what and how to teach this or that. She wants to know how to reach the mind, how to impress it, how to guide it, how to discipline it. We call this kind of wisdom *skill*; but it does not come of itself. Nor is it inherent. But it follows in answer to prayer, for God only can impart that wisdom, and the mother who does not seek it of him, may be sure she will never have it. She will not be led to say just the right things, in just the right time and manner.

### 2. *The mother of all other things needs self-discipline.*

Without this how can she forego the pleasures within her reach, if she leave her child in other hands and frees herself from the responsibility? How can she watch over her child day and night, in sickness in health, with a patience that never tires and with a vigilance that never for a moment slumbers? The trials which press upon a mother are constant, unremitted, and except by prayer, unalleviated. Who can at all times, and under all circumstances, command her own temper and feelings, subdue and discipline her own heart unless the grace of God help to subdue and discipline that heart? Oh! mother—you may not chide in anger—you may not speak with impatience, you may not rebuke with angry severity—you may not correct in passion! Your patience must never tire, your passion must never for a moment even seem to be relaxed—self control must never even falter! This severe self discipline you can seek and find only in prayer. Nothing else can give it, nothing else can retain it when given.

### 3. *The Mother must be decided.*

It is not difficult to be decided, were this all; but to be decided and firm while the feelings and the voice are as soft as the notes of the lute, is difficult. Your child has no judgment. Hundreds of times every week, and many times every day, he must be denied and have his wishes and his will submitted to yours. When he is well, you must, of necessity, be constantly thwarting his inclinations, forbidding him, or commanding him: and when he is sick, you must force him, and stand further than ever aloof from indulgence. Even when you feel that he is on the bed of death, you must control him, govern him, and see that he obeys! Your own decision, energy and firmness must never waver for a moment in his presence. While a mother's heart pleads for indulgence, you must have a resolution which will lead you to do your duty, even while the heart bleeds, and the eyes weep. That noble mother—who held her child while its leg was amputated and did it with a firmness that he dared not resist and with a tenderness that made him feel that she did it for his good—who does not admire? These two qualities, decision and mildness, are seldom found in man. He is either too stern, or too lenient. But the mother I shall