

"Love is patient, love is kind..." 1 Corinthians 13:4



Be Nice to ME!

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Six and a half years ago, as a brand new mother, like most, I was stunned by how difficult life had become.

It wasn't necessarily that my child was difficult, *although he had his frequent newborn moments;* and it wasn't just the 'baby blues' I had to endure, *although those were quite the experience;* rather, **it was the pressure I'd put on myself to lean on 'mother's intuition' that made things so difficult.**

When I was pregnant, during childbirth classes, the instructors had referred to this thing called 'mother's intuition', assuming I'd **know** what to do and when to do it. But after Zachariah was born, I had **no clue** what they were talking about: I did **not know** which cry was which, I had **no idea** what my newborn was 'telling' me, it was **not clear** what he needed when, and I had **no idea** why he cried all the time. Breastfeeding was overwhelming (despite all the pre-birth classes), hormones were raging, and recovering from a c-section was challenging at best.

'Mother's intuition'? Not this gal!

Time passed, and by the time our son was two years old, I had settled well into the **extreme joy of motherhood**.

In the middle of a calm and quiet day, it suddenly hit me that I actually had a ton of this stuff called mother's intuition--

*but it had taken time and experience
to know what it was and to let it develop.*

Yes, we all have an instinct to protect our children from harm and meet their needs-- that goes without saying-- *but how to do it takes time to learn*. Until we get to know our child and practice some trial and error, we don't know exactly how to meet those needs.

Isn't it like this in all areas of life? Whether we've become a new parent, begun a different job, sparked up a friendship, recently moved, started piano lessons, or undergone a large life-change, it's easy to get frustrated. We can be tempted to give up too early, get mad at others, or **be too hard on ourselves**.

*"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting
patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.*

You also be patient.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

James 5:7-8

Challenge:

Let's stop being so hard on ourselves!

I'm going to be nice to me today. Will you be nice to you?

We can choose obedience to the Lord and still be kind. *In fact, that is one aspect of God's love-- being kind.* Give yourself room for time and experience. God has given us 'muscles' for many things, but it takes time to build up those muscles and strengthen them through practice until we see evidence of progress. Including 'practicing kindness towards ourselves.'

May Jesus find us patient and kind when He comes-- **patient and kind with ourselves, with others, and with His divine plan and timing.**

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