

Amazing Mothers

By Darrell Johns

There is nothing like a mother's love. Sweet, tender, kind, patient, gentle, forgiving, and, of course, giving are all terms that describe the nature of a mother.

On Mother's Day, the cards are pink and frilly. The day is celebrated with acts of kindness and expressions of appreciation for mother's love.

I want to point out another side of a good mother. It is the guardian nature.

Typically, we cast fathers in the role of the defender. We see dad as the tough guy who protects his family against the invader or intruder. But fathers are not the only guardians of the home, naturally or spiritually.

There is a marvelous strong side of mothers found in word pictures in the Bible. The verses that describe the protective nature of mothers are found in the animal kingdom.

Solomon wisely observed that, "It is safer to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than to confront a fool caught in foolishness" (Proverbs 17:12, NLT). Notice that the most frightening picture Solomon could paint was not of a male bear, but a she bear.

In a word of warning to Absalom, Hushai described David as a mother bear that had been robbed of her cubs. (See II Samuel 17:8.) Once again, it was not “Papa Bear” who was the most feared.

The Prophet Hosea pictured a vivid scene, no doubt one he had personally witnessed, that makes me shudder when I read it. Speaking of God’s wrath he wrote, “Like a bear whose cubs have been taken away, I will tear out your heart” (Hosea 13:7-8, NLT).

Recently while thumbing through the April 2011 issue of *Field and Stream*, I ran across a two-page aerial photo of three men sprinting across the sandbar of a river in Alaska, fly rods in a hand. They were literally running for their lives, being chased by a huge, agitated, cinnamon-colored grizzly bear and *her* cub.

Please do not think I am speaking disparagingly of mothers. After reading these Scriptures, I would be afraid to do that. Quite the opposite, I am honoring moms who have the courage and tenacity to defend their homes and protect their young. I’ve learned by experience that this tough trait is found in protective in human mothers as well. I am an eyewitness of this amazing phenomenon in action.

I once watched, in stunned silence, as the mother of my sons, who is typically peace-loving and non-confrontational, fearlessly strode across a building in defense of one of her endangered “cubs.” Believe me, there was no need for

backup or reinforcements. It was marvelous to watch! I was proud of my wife!

The following news story was ironic, but convincing to me. “A woman in a northern Quebec, Canada community was shaken and scared, but otherwise safe, after facing down a polar bear to save her children.” A human mother stood between a real bear and her children. If bears could talk, I wonder what the polar bear would have had to say after that encounter!

You might have heard stories of women lifting cars to save their children trapped under them. I actually found two credible stories amid the legends of moms with a moment of incredible strength. I am not advancing the idea that women have superhuman strength, although at times with a frenzied rush of adrenaline, they might.

I would rather suggest the guardian nature God gave mothers is expressed in times of danger to their families and should, by all means, be used constructively. This courage should not just be used against threatening physical attacks, but also against influences that would rob the minds and morals of our children.

I have a word of encouragement for mothers. Do not be inhibited or intimidated to engage in spiritual warfare for your children. Keep praying and fasting for your children. Ask God to help them make wise decisions, to choose godly close

friends, to do their best to achieve excellence in their areas of gifting, and to use their lives for the glory of God.

God has given mothers a spiritual sensitivity to detect danger, often before the man of the house senses it. Do not be timid to stand with your husband against those dangers that would destroy your home. Use your instincts to protect the spiritual lives of your children.