

Specialized Ministry — January 2009

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Single Parenting: One Tough Job

I believe that the toughest job on earth is being a single parent. Believe me, I should know. I have had this job for 29 years and it does not get any easier as the years go by. Along the way, I have picked up a few pointers that may help some of you out there who are just starting your long journey of single parenting. Just know that it may seem like there is no light at the end of the dark tunnel, and that there are more downs than ups, and that there are more storms than calm seas, well you get the picture. Just know you are never alone—there is a wonderful Companion that goes with you thru all the storms, tunnels, and ups and downs, and that is Jesus Christ. He is with you every step of the way.



First point: *Make sure you have family and friends that are there to support you.*

I was very fortunate to have family members that were there to give me great support in raising my son. Of course, I had to work, so they were there to babysit my son when needed and give him much love in my absence. I did not worry about who was taking care of him. My family and friends were also a great support financially. They might have given me some monetary gifts, however those free dinners at their homes or Sunday lunches or a bag of groceries that they bought extra always came at the right time.

Second: *Make sure you find a good church family that supports you also.*

When I became a single parent, my son was four. I gave my life to the Lord that year, it was 1983. The church I became a member of was a small Hispanic Church of God in San Antonio, Texas. I remember the women of the church all gave me advice and were so helpful, not only in my Christian walk, but in my walk as a single parent. I grew spiritually in the Lord and the more I fell in love with my God, who became my husband and father to my son, the more I started liking who I was. You see I was broken when I became a single mom, but when I became an heir to the Kingdom, the King made me whole in His mercy and grace and I was able to love again. I was able to love my son and myself with true unconditional love that I received from my heavenly Father.

The last point is: *Make sure you go to God first.*

That was and still is the hardest point to keep—going to God first with all your needs. I had to learn the hard way many times when I did not seek the wisdom of the Lord first. It is hard when you see that there is no food on the table, the car is broken down, the rent is due and there is only \$5.00 in the bank. Your first instinct is to go to a family member or friend for help, sell something, or try to solve the dilemma yourself. Well, let me tell you—it does not work that way. The first thing to do is get on your knees and ask your heavenly Husband what to do. Let Him know your needs, let Him know your concerns and after you have done that, wait. Now that is the hardest part! I have learned that if I did this God would always come through somehow. It may not have been as quickly as I wanted or as much as I wanted, but it was always on time and just enough.

These are a few of the pointers I learned along the way, there are a lot more and I know I will still be learning until the day I die. I hope this blesses someone who is going through their

journey of single parenting. May your journey be peaceful, diligent, joyful, and exciting. Be strong and know that you are not alone.