

A Prayer for a Daughter to Know Her Worth

O God, we thank You for the gift
And the privilege of raising a daughter,
And we ask for Your help
As we walk with her
As she grows
And learns what it is
To become more the person
You made her to be.

Lord, we know our world
Does not give girls and women
The same kind of access
And opportunity
As their brothers,
Seeing a woman's worth
As pennies on the dollar.
We lament the years of oppression
And glass ceilings women have faced,
The weight of expectations placed
Like pearls around their necks.

But we know that You have
Given us imagination
To see Your Kingdom here,
To see our daughter as You
Have created her to be—
All the brilliance of humanity,
The swirls of strength and gentleness,

The brilliance of power and kindness,
The vast array of the fruit of Your Spirit
On full display.

Our daughter is watching, Lord,
What we say
And what we do.

Give us speech that is empowering and
honoring.
Give us fathers tenderness to listen,
To fully hear what our daughter is saying.
Give us mothers confidence to talk about
beauty and bodies
Without an ounce of shame.

Help us not cave under culture's crass
expectations
Of filters and fillers.

Help our daughter resist the pressure
To measure her worth
By numbers on a scale.

Help her not be weighed down
By the lies of the serpent
Who whispers that she's not enough
And never will be.

Help her never feel the need
To shrink the body or gifts You have
given her

To fit the pressures of someone else.

Help our daughter know her worth.
Ignite in her passions.

Empower her to use her mind and heart
To make this world a more compassionate
place

For all people.
 Breathe in her ways to love with creativity
 And imagination for what could be.
 Help her dance on top of injustice
 And crush the serpent with her heel.

Give her purpose; give her peace.
 Help her choose the way of love.
 Help her be brave.
 Help her dare to begin again.
 Help her never apologize when others say
 She's too much or not enough.

Help us not lock her into cells of our
 expectations,
 But help us nurture and nourish her to
 be exactly who
 You've created her to be.

Thank You for wildflowers and train sets.
 Thank You for long division and poetry.
 Thank You for tangly tresses and
 glitter glue.

God, in Your Kingdom,
 The princess doesn't need rescuing,
 Except by Your merciful hand.
 Help us surround her with empowerment.
 Help us cheer her on and make a safe place
 For her to land when she's tired.
 God, help her slay dragons
 And stand up when something's wrong.
 Help her know that the ways of Your
 Kingdom

Mean down is up
 And the way out is in.
 Tune her heart to You,
 And whisper into the quiet places of her
 heart that
 While there are a million paths she
 can take,
 Her worth doesn't lie in productivity—
 In what she can or can't do—
 But in her value as a beloved daughter
 Of the Holy One.
 And what a gift it is to love her into this
 knowledge.

When the hardships come,
 May she hold on to You.
 When the doubts rise,
 May she be buoyed by Your love.

Help her stand and shout
 As she advocates for others
 And for herself, too.
 Help her rest,
 For that, too, is holy.
 Help us encourage her
 And show her women who have walked
 Your ways of peace and power.

We pray for the daughters
 Around the world
 And in our own community
 Who enter a culture that teaches lies
 And demeans and demoralizes Your
 daughters, Lord.

We weep for all that is lost when half
Your Kingdom
Is told the light inside them is worth less
Than the lights of others.

Lord, let our daughter shine,
And illuminate the darkness
Of every lie told,
Even the lies in Your name,
For the gospel is one of freedom,
And You have set us free.

We lament the ways we have perpetuated
an unjust world
For our daughter.
We cry out for the ways we have turned
our face
From Your image in our daughter.
Help us know it's never too early
And never too late
To raise an empowered daughter
Who walks in the Spirit.

Ruth 1-4; Esther 1-10

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