



“MAMAS PUT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND”

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Proverbs 22:6

We, as African Christian people, have come a long way in a foreign land. Our ancestors were brought to America and stripped of their freedom, language, religion and culture. They learned to adapt to a completely new and different way of life. The slave owners would deny them the right to assemble in order to organize their future goals and plans. They could not worship their God and had to learn the ways of the dominant culture. Verbal, physical, and psychological abuse were normal pattern of behavior, which they had to face and endure.

Few had the opportunity to learn how to read or write because of the fear of insurrection among the slaves. During these perilous times and up through these current days of human disenfranchisement there has been one strong common cord, which has enabled African-American people, not only to survive, but to prosper. The wisdom, insight, strength, and power of the Black mother has constituted the bedrock or foundation upon which African-American people have put their skills to understand, combat, compete, and triumph in an unkind, insensitive climate.

Mother, who is affectionately called ‘mama,’ seemed to always know what to do, when to do it, who to do it to, where to do it, and most importantly how to do it. The “it” being how to sanely go from day to day. “Mama would put something on your mind” that was crucial and critical for decision making when the time arose. Mama understood and taught what was written in Deuteronomy 6:6, 7. “Memorize God’s laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you are at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning.” Mama would tell you something that maybe at the time made no sense, but she would put a thought in your mind. She knew and understood what Proverbs 22:6 meant when it said, “Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right.”

Mamas had their own basic child rearing virtues based on their spiritual awareness of God, Bible teaching, common sense, and wisdom. They consulted God for advice on raising children and were unafraid to apply what they learned. They understood:

To Teach – Deuteronomy 6:7

To Nurture – Ephesians 6:4

To Train – Proverbs 22:6

To Control – 1 Timothy 3:4, 12

To Provide for – 2 Corinthians 12:14

They knew that if they wanted their children to be their best they had to discipline them. They “leaned not unto their own understanding,” but on the Word of God. They believed in discipline (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13, 14; 26:3; 29:15)

Mama would take all she had learned and put it on your mind so that when you were alone or had left home her words of council governed your life.

Church, if we are to re-establish morals, principles, and values in our community we to must remember what the Bible taught and what mama told us. Mama knows, or knew, something we do not know, but if we are attentive to her love and wisdom and ask God’s guidance, we will be a righteous people.

THANK YOU MAMAS FOR NEVER GIVING UP ON US when we gave up on ourselves.

Pastor Gerald L. Durley